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HM Inspector of Constabulary, Eastern Region

3 September 2014

Mr Chris Eyre QPM
Chief Constable – Nottinghamshire Police

Dear Chris

Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time

Between January and April 2014, HMIC carried out inspection fieldwork across all 43 forces in England and Wales. This inspection, called 'Making best use of police time' (now known as 'Core business: An inspection of crime prevention, police attendance and use of police time') assessed three areas of police work. These were:

- how well forces are preventing crime and anti-social behaviour;
- how forces respond to reports of crime, including investigating crime and bringing offenders to justice; and
- how well forces are freeing up the time of their staff so they can focus on core policing functions.

Attached is an embargoed copy of the national thematic report for this inspection which will now be published by HMIC on Thursday 4 September 2014 at 00:01. This must not be published until this date and time.

The findings that specifically relate to your force are included in this letter. The initial findings were previously sent to you for factual accuracy checks and, where appropriate, have been amended following your response.

The majority of the inspection findings contained in the national thematic report do not identify individual forces. However electronic versions of the national report will link to the HMIC website where data on each force can be viewed.

We will revisit some of the evidence gathered during the 'Core business' inspection as part of the crime inspection for HMIC's Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy (PEEL) interim assessment.

All forces will be given the opportunity to provide an update. This updated evidence will be considered as part of the PEEL interim crime inspection, which is due to be published at the end of November.

Findings that specifically relate to your force are:

Preventing Crime

- The force has recently enhanced its preventative policing response with the introduction of its prevention demand strategy. This strategy is at an early stage of development and there are governance arrangements in place led at chief officer level.
- HMIC found some good examples of where the force has undertaken long-term crime prevention initiatives. HMIC found that the daily management meetings in the force are being used to focus staff on crime prevention activity.
- At the time of inspection, there was no single central problem solving database or repository which could be used or accessed by all officers and staff, including those working on the frontline.
- Although the force has trained new officers and staff on crime prevention, on-going formal crime prevention training has not been delivered to staff who frequently deal with victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.

Attendance at crimes and incidents

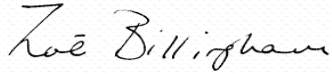
- The force's attendance policy requires officers to attend all reports of crimes and incidents. The threat, risk and harm to the victim, caller or community are considered in order to ensure that the closest, most appropriate police resource is despatched in a timely manner.
- The force has clear policies and procedures to enable it to consistently identify vulnerable and repeat victims of crime and anti-social behaviour.
- During the inspection, HMIC reviewed a number of crime investigations, including reports of crimes that were not attended. There was evidence on all files showing that relevant enquiries had been completed with the majority also having adequately recorded investigation plans and supervision arrangements in place.
- HMIC examined the arrangements for the Integrated Offender Management scheme, which are in place to manage those offenders likely to cause most harm to the communities. These were found to be effective and well co-ordinated with partner agencies.
- The force was able to provide the number of named suspects that are yet to be arrested or interviewed. However, the force was unable to provide HMIC with the number of suspects who had failed to answer their police bail. Without this information, the force may be unable to ensure that it has effective arrangements to manage outstanding named suspects and offenders.
- A small sample of named suspect files, including those circulated as wanted on the police national computer, provided limited evidence that activity had been documented and properly supervised.

Freeing up time

- HMIC identified that the force has a relatively good understanding of demand, and is taking steps to build up a more detailed picture of demand and how its resources are deployed. This includes analysis of different types of incidents and policing activity.
- The force has carried out work with other agencies to identify and address those tasks that are not the sole responsibility of the police.
- The inspection found that there is a clear structure to assist supervisors in assessing the workload and performance of front-line officers and staff.

- The force has some understanding of the amount of savings in staff time that have been made as a result of changes introduced or as a result of new technology it has implemented.
- The force has invested in mobile technology and is introducing new devices, such as tablets, to enable officers to access force systems whilst on patrol. However, in some instances, when the new devices were rolled out to frontline officers it was identified that that the devices needed to be modified in order for them to be used more effectively.

Yours sincerely



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Copied to Julie Mair
HMIC Liaison Officer