



Promoting improvements
in policing and fire & rescue
services to make everyone safer

6th Floor, Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1PN
Direct Line: 020 3513 0647
Fax: 020 3513 0650
Email: Phil.Gormley@hmicfrs.gov.uk

Phil Gormley QPM

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary
Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire and Rescue Services

Chief Constable Stephen Watson
South Yorkshire Police Headquarters
Carbrook House
Carbrook Hall Road
Sheffield S9 2EH

9 March 2020

Dear Steve,

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE CRIME DATA INTEGRITY RE-INSPECTION

I am writing to you regarding our re-inspection of crime data integrity (CDI) in your force.

2. In May 2018, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) conducted a crime data integrity inspection of South Yorkshire Police. We published our [report of this inspection](#) in August 2018 and concluded that the force's crime recording arrangements required improvement. Our 2018 report gave some recommendations and areas for improvement aimed at improving crime recording in South Yorkshire Police. This re-inspection assessed the progress made since that report. Our findings and expectations resulting from this re-inspection are set out below.

3. During January 2020, my inspectors completed an audit of incident records. This audit assessed the extent to which reported crimes were now being recorded, followed by a series of interviews with members of the workforce. I am pleased that the inspectors found clear signs of progress, better oversight and more effective governance, along with a realistic plan to make further improvements. Some progress has also been made towards training frontline officers and staff about the importance of accurate crime recording. The force recognises that it must ensure that all frontline officers and staff, including supervisors, receive this training. And it has plans to undertake this later this year.

4. The 2018 inspection found that the force was failing to ensure it records all crimes reported directly to its public protection departments, and this was a cause of concern. The force has acted to improve crime recording in these departments. However, I am disappointed that my inspectors found that there has been no discernible improvement to the recording of these crimes. In particular, we found significant under-recording of crimes committed against vulnerable children. The under recording of vulnerable victim crimes was identified during both the 2014 and 2018 CDI inspections and remains a cause of concern. Plans for the staff working in these departments to

complete crime recording training should be progressed without delay and supported by effective supervisory oversight.

5. Our re-inspection audit established a statistically significant improvement in the overall crime recording rate. It had improved to 94.1 percent (with a confidence interval of +/-2.26 percent). This compares to a previous rate of 89.5 percent (with a confidence interval of +/-1.64 percent). For violence crimes, we found a recording accuracy of 91.2 percent (with a confidence interval of +/-4.57 percent). This compares to a previous rate of 86.4 percent (with a confidence interval of +/-2.83 percent). For sexual crimes, we found a recording accuracy of 96.8 percent (with a confidence interval of +/-2.74 percent). This compares to a previous rate of 96.7 percent (with a confidence interval of +/-1.78 percent).

6. It must be noted that we applied different target confidence levels for each audit. In 2018/19 this was +/- 3 percent; in our latest audit we worked to within +/- 5 percent. Also, our 2016 audit sample of force crime and incident data was drawn from a six-month period, whereas our latest audit was drawn from a three-month period.

7. The clear improvements that you have made are very encouraging. I very much hope that you can sustain this progress and now fully address the recommendation and areas for improvement we set out in our August 2018 inspection report.

8. A comprehensive debrief was supplied to you immediately after this latest inspection. I would be very pleased if you will continue to work with my Force Liaison Lead Kirsty D'Souza, to keep her apprised of progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phil Gormley', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Phil Gormley

Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary

Her Majesty's Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services