



Joint Audit and Standards Committee - Service Improvement Team HMICFRS Update

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Date:	13 th July 2020
Version:	1
GPMS marking:	Official

Summary

The report outlines a summary of the HMICFRS position during Covid-19 and the proposed return to inspection activity. It also includes a summary of force readiness for resumed inspection activity.

Covid-19

In March 2020 HMICFRS contacted all forces to inform them that HMICFRS would be suspending all force specific inspection activity with immediate effect. Police officers who were seconded to HMICFRS were returned to force and HMICFRS staff started to support the Home Office response to the pandemic.

In Warwickshire our Force Liaison Lead Supt Gary Ashton was returned to his home force of Northamptonshire. However Gary was more than happy to keep in contact with the force and as such the team have been in regular contact with him throughout this period and have continued to provide him with documentation and information to aid his understanding of the force and improvement activity being undertaken.

Return to Inspection Activity

On the 9th July 2020 the force received a letter from Sir Tom Windsor to inform us of the planned re-commencement of inspection activity by HMICFRS. HMICFRS are recalling their seconded staff back into HMICFRS from the end of July and plan to re-start inspection activity in September/October. It was clear from this letter that it was unlikely that inspection teams would be physically attending in force and they are looking for options to conduct remote inspections. There is also a view that HMICFRS will undertake a national review of the Police response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Re-inspection of Causes for Concern from PEEL 2019

HMICFRS had been due to re-attend the force in April 2020 to review and inspect the force position in relation to both the investigations cause of concern and efficiency cause of concern. Clearly due to a suspension in inspection activity this did not go ahead. This was unfortunate as we felt we were in a much improved position in relation to both areas and would have welcomed HMICFRS input into the work completed to date.

HMICFRS are now indicating that they will conduct remote inspection activity in September/October in relation to these causes of concern.

In relation to the efficiency cause of concern we feel that with the successful transition out of the alliance, the significant financial settlement from West Mercia and the future collaborative plans with West Midlands Police that the cause of concern will no longer be valid.

In relation to the investigations cause of concern we can demonstrate a sustained period of improvement activity and a much improved picture of both understanding and practice in relation to our investigations. Performance data indicates an improved picture in relation to the percentage of crimes with action taken meaning better outcomes for victims. The force can

demonstrate improvement activity in all areas that HMICFRS said that we needed to improve and the force is committed to seeing these changes through.

The force welcomes the re-inspection at the end of the year as we feel that HMICFRS will remove both causes of concern and leave only specific areas for improvement where improvement activity has yet to show the desired results.

Future Inspection activity PEEL 2020/2021

HMICFRS have now sent information in relation to the PEEL 2020/2021 inspection programme. This programme will resume in early 2021 and will start with three pilot forces that have already been identified and notified. As such Warwickshire are not one of these first three forces. HMICFRS will then notify forces in turn as to when they will be inspected under the new regime. The new inspections will rely more heavily on continuous inspection rather than large set piece inspections as previously seen.

We will also be supporting the inspectorate with other more targeted inspection activity in relation to areas such as our Covid-19 response, along with the recently announced IOPC/HMICFRS review into stop and search.

Force Management Statement and Business Planning

HMICFRS has asked forces to produce their force management statement by May 2021. As the force can submit their FMS between now and that time, Warwickshire Police have decided to take this opportunity to align the FMS process with the business planning cycle. As such the FMS process will support business planning rather and help departments to come to a critical understanding of demand and resource allocation. The service improvement team will support this process alongside the wider Analysis and Service Improvement team.