



Joint Audit and Standards Committee - Force Crime and Incident Registrar (FCIR) Update

Author:	Andrew Shipman
Date:	13 July 2020
Version:	1
GPMS marking:	Official

Summary

This report provides an overview of recent audits undertaken by the Force Crime and Incident Registrar (FCR) and planned future audit activity.

The audits that have been conducted form part of an audit plan that has been approved by the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC).

Completed Audits

Three audits have recently been conducted, the management responses to these audits are currently being completed.

1. Investigation Quality
2. Incident audit – Public Safety Welfare (PSW), Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and recorded Harassment crimes.
3. Modern Slavery – The recording of National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals from the Home Office Single Competent Authority (SCA), recorded crimes of Modern Slavery and intelligence reports relating to Modern Slavery.

Investigation Quality

This audit was commissioned as part of the improvement work being undertaken in force to improve investigative quality.

The audit comprised 4 main elements:

1. The use of initial investigative plans.
2. The documentation of supervisory reviews. An accurate record of reviews demonstrates intrusive supervision, provides accountability and ensures identified risks are managed appropriately.
3. Victim Code compliance and review process prior to finalisation.
4. Compliance with Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR)

This was the second audit conducted using the same methodology the previous audit was completed in September 2019. The audit found that there had been some improvement but made the following recommendations:

- The force provide further guidance for recording the initial supervisor review at the point of allocation of the investigation.
- Supervisors to document their reviews including final outcome requests in sufficient detail in line with the force guidance.
- Officers to provide a rationale why a victim opts out of the Victim Contract.
- Ensure officers/staff record clearly that they have informed the victim when a crime is filed.

Incident audit – Public Safety Welfare (PSW), Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) and recorded Harassment crimes.

This audit will be presented to the Assurance Board on 28 July 2020.

The audit had four elements to address areas where there is a risk notifiable crimes have been reported but not identified:

1. STORM command and control incident logs with certain Public Safety Welfare (PSW) and Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) closure codes were reviewed to understand whether incidents that constitute courses of conduct that amount to harassment are being missed.
2. Incidents opened with a crime code and closed with a non-crime code to identify whether any crimes have been missed.
3. Crime investigations with a harassment classification were reviewed to understand whether the changes to HOCR relating to the recording of harassment and stalking have been implemented. From 1st April 2020 HOCR states a report that constitutes a course of conduct between ex partners must be recorded as stalking rather than harassment unless the evidence indicates the offence is not made out.
4. Where a notifiable offence had been recorded, the audit included a review of:
 - The investigation process, similar to the recent Investigation Quality Audit.
 - Whether investigations were compliant with the Victims Code of Practice. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is required to report on the results of audits that assess compliance with the Victims Code of Practice to the Ministry of Justice.

The following recommendations have been prepared for consideration by the Assurance Board.

- The force provides further advice to call handlers, response officers, SNT officers and their respective supervisors to assist in identifying courses of conduct that amount to stalking and harassment offences. Provide further guidance to assist officers and staff distinguish between harassment and stalking.
- Provide further guidance to officer and staff on the recording of offences that relate to breaches of orders. These need to be recorded in addition to any other disclosed offences.
- The correct recording of victim updates in the appropriate fields in Athena to enable the monitoring of compliance with the Victim's Code.

Modern Slavery

Modern Slavery is a crime that has national prominence and the response of forces to the recording and investigation of these offences is subject to regular scrutiny.

The purpose of the audit was to:

- Review how the force records National Referral Mechanism (NRM) referrals from the Single Competent Authority (SCA) in accordance with Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR). This will include the changes of classification when updates are received from the SCA such as when positive or negative ground decisions are made.
- Review the recording of investigations generated by the force where there have been referrals of victims into the NRM or through the Duty to Notify. In these instances the force is expected to record Modern Slavery notifiable crimes from the outset unless the offence had occurred outside England and Wales in which case the relevant Reported Incident of Modern Slavery (N200) should be submitted.
- To identify force investigations or intelligence submissions that may be unrecorded offences of Modern Slavery.

The following recommendations have been prepared for consideration by the Assurance Board.

- Reinforce National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS) requirements to identify and record an offence at the earliest opportunity.
- The force reinforces the supervisor review of investigations at the finalisation stage, specifically the correct use of outcomes in line with HOCR definitions ensuring that there is a documented rationale for the outcome and documented victim updates.
- Review by the Resolution Centre of the use of Child Sexual Abuse (CSA) Child Sexual Exploitation (CSE), and Online Crime Keywords to ensure offences that are related to this offending are correctly identified and recorded.
- The Force reinforces the requirement for officers and staff to submit a NRM when acting as First Responder to a suspected MS offence

Planned Future Audits

Currently the team are conducting an audit of investigations that have been cancelled to ensure the decision making complies with HOCR and the decisions are properly recorded.

An audit of reported incidents of violence to ensure that all disclosed crimes are correctly recorded.

A repeat of the investigation quality audit to assess the impact of improvement activity.

Governance

The force has been developing its governance map as services and responsibility have migrated across to standalone arrangements. The latest map is attached as a separate attachment (appendix 1).

The map shows the key governance meetings that sit below the Executive Board. These are separated into four main areas:

- People
- Operations and Performance

- Planning and Change
- Organisational Enablers.

The map also includes shared governance arrangements with West Mercia Police as part of the S22 agreement.

From an assurance perspective a key meeting is the Force Assurance Board which is chaired by the DCC and provides oversight and confidence on the efficiency and effectiveness of Warwickshire operations, and the status of its compliance with its obligations.

This is not a delivery board but does have the authority to direct activity to other groups responsible for delivery e.g. workforce management group, investigations and outcomes.