



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

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Summary

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

Completed Audits

Two audits have recently been completed with the findings presented to the Assurance Board. The management responses to these audits are currently being completed.

Cannabis Warnings

This is an out of court disposal (O OCD) intended to be used for first time offenders found in possession of cannabis for personal use with no aggravating factors.

The force has an area for improvement from the HMICFRS Crime Data Integrity inspection in 2019 to improve the use of O OCDs.

Cannabis is a controlled drug under Class B of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. Cannabis warnings are a non-statutory disposal introduced in 2004 and are part of a three stage escalation procedure for a first-time offence of simple possession of cannabis. An offender will receive a cannabis warning for a first possession offence, a penalty notice for disorder (PND) for a second offence and be arrested for a third offence.

The majority of the investigations audited complied with College of Policing Guidance and force policy. The main area of concern were 4 records where the previous offending history of the suspect meant that another form of disposal should have been used.

The report also identified that aspects of the form used to record the disposal need to be updated to fully meet the requirements of the national guidance.

During the scoping of the audit it was identified that some officers were incorrectly using Community Resolutions for possession of cannabis due to the circulation of guidance that was intended for forces moving to the use of just two out of court disposals. The force has not yet adopted this process, a message has been sent to officers to reinforce that Cannabis Warnings should still be used.

Identity Access Management Audit (IAM)

In 2009 the Home Office established an independent 'accreditation' scheme to underpin membership of the Police's Public Key Infrastructure (PKI). The process is known as tScheme for Police.

Periodically the Home Office appoint a contractor to review how forces manage and audit access to national systems to ensure forces maintain tScheme accreditation. The last review was in October 2016 and Warwickshire Police were informed that the next review would take place in February 2020.

The audit focused on IAM users with Police National Database (PND) access due to the existence of a central user list which was used to gain the audit sample. The audit comprised of 2 components:

1. The physical checking of hard copy forms for new users to ensure the relevant identity documents have been used in the registration process.
2. Checking that officers and staff who leave the organisation, or change roles have the relevant access to national systems removed.

All forms were in order, being endorsed with signatures and having scanned copies of photo ID and utility bills with addresses where relevant to the level of access requested.

Removed Users: All 18 users who had their PND access removed between April and October 2019 were correctly updated on the relevant systems.

The audit did identify the lack of a central register for staff with IAM accounts, but who do not have PND access this is particularly related to the Athena application. Since this issue was raised the Systems Administration Manager has confirmed that a register will be produced.

Planned Future Audits

The FCR audit team have recently finished an audit of reported rape offences to ensure the recording and classification of these investigations comply with Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR).

Currently the team are conducting an audit of investigations to assess the extent to which they are being planned and actively supervised. It will also assess elements of compliance with the Victim's Code.

The next planned audit will be a review of reported incidents finalised on the command and control as anti-social behaviour and public safety welfare. This audit intends to replicate the new methodology being developed by HMICFRS to assess whether instances of harassment are being missed when victims report continued anti-social behaviour.