



# **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.

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

## **Completed Audits**

Two audits have recently been conducted and have recently been presented to Warwickshire Assurance Board. The recommendations have been agreed and a management response is being prepared.

1. Cancelled Crime
2. Investigation Quality

## **Cancelled Crime**

The Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) determine five criteria when a police force may cancel a recorded crime from their records;

- C1: Transfer – crime occurred in another force's area
- C2: Additional Verifiable Information (AVI) determines no crime occurred
- C3: Duplicate – crime already recorded
- C4: Recorded in error
- C5: Self Defence – regarding specified recorded assaults

The first aim of the audit was to review notifiable crime investigations that have been cancelled by Designated Decision Makers (DDMs), to assess compliance with HOCR using the audit tests in the Data Quality Assurance Manual (DQAM).

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) have indicated that they will, in future, seek to audit rejected requests to cancel crimes as a means to assess understanding of HOCR, and whether this impacts on the service provided. Therefore, a further aim of this audit was to examine requests to cancel notifiable crimes which had been rejected by DDMs, to establish whether there are identifiable themes that could be addressed to support the principle of 'right first time', and reduce demand on officers and staff.

The key recommendations from the audit are:

- The need to ensure victims are updated with the decision to cancel the crime and this is fully documented.
- Where an offence is to be cancelled C2 – Additional Verifiable Information determines no crime occurred all relevant documentation should be attached to the investigation and a clear rationale for the decision recorded.

- Supervisors should robustly review requests for cancellation by their officers to ensure the request complies with Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR) before submission to the Designated Decision makers (DDMs).

## **Investigation Quality**

This audit was commissioned to assess the impact of recent changes made to the recording of investigation plans and supervision of investigations. The sample focused on investigations undertaken by patrol officers. It is the third audit using this methodology in support of the force work to improve the standard of investigations.

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)

The key recommendations from the audit are:

- Improve consistency in the recording of investigation plans in line with force guidance.
- Improve the frequency and detail of supervisor review of investigations where appropriate.
- Ensure the victim is updated throughout the investigation and recorded appropriately to demonstrate compliance with the Victim's Code.
- Officers to ensure that all reported offences related to harassment and stalking are correctly recorded in compliance with HOCR.

## **Planned Future Audits**

An audit of reported incidents of violence to ensure that all disclosed crimes are correctly recorded is currently being undertaken and expected to be finalised early October 2020.

A review of the use of Out of Court Disposals (OOCs) focusing on community resolutions and adult and youth cautions.