



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

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Date:	15 December 2020
Version:	1
GPMS marking:	Official

## Summary

This report provides an overview of recent audits undertaken by the Force Crime and Incident Registrar (FCIR) 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. Recording of Reported Incidents of Violence
2. Out of Court Disposals

## Recording of Reported Incidents of Violence

This audit was commissioned by the Force Crime and Incident Registrar (FCIR), and approved by the Deputy Chief Constable (DCC), as part of the Audit and Assurance Schedule 2020-2021. Previous similar audits, including the HMICFRS Crime Data Integrity (CDI) inspection, have identified some risks to HOCR compliance including;

- failure to identify and record notifiable crimes;
- failure to record notifiable crimes in a timely manner.

A sample of 254 incidents taken from the force command and control system that had been opened with codes relating to violence were audited to assess the following:

- Whether a notifiable crime was required to be recorded;
- Whether the notifiable crime was recorded in a timely manner;
- Whether the notifiable crime was correctly classified at the point of recording;
- If there were multiple offences reported, were the correct number recorded.

The audit found a level of compliance comparable to that achieved during the HMICFRS CDI Inspection in 2019 where the force was graded 'Good'.

The key recommendations from the audit were:

- OICs to ensure reported notifiable crimes are recorded correctly and in compliance with HOCR at point of first recording
- OIC to ensure all notifiable crimes disclosed in a DASH are recorded appropriately and in compliance with HOCR at point of first recording 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).

- OICs to ensure victim is updated throughout investigation, and particularly at time finalisation, and to ensure updates recorded on ATHENA Victim Contact tab

## **Out of Court Disposals (OOCs)**

This audit reported on the use of community resolutions, adult and youth cautions. It comprised the following elements:

1. A review of Out of Court Disposals (OOCs) referred to the Force Crime Registrar (FCIR) by the Designated Decision Makers (DDMs).
2. A weekly review of community resolutions for offences related to hate and domestic abuse.
3. An audit of a sample of community resolutions, adult and youth cautions.

Overall the findings indicated that there was an appropriate use of these disposals but with some areas of improvement required around the clear documentation of admissions and rationale for decision making. Some clarity on the force position on the use of OOCs for knife and weapon related offences was recommended to support decision making.

The key recommendations from the audit are:

- That officers and supervisors are reminded of the need for a suspect to make a clear and reliable admission.
- DDMs do not approve the outcome unless the admission is clearly documented on the Athena Investigation.
- Supervisors are reminded of their responsibility under the force procedure to authorise a community resolution prior to its delivery. The need to record their rationale if the suspect has prior relevant offending.
- The force consider providing clear guidance on the use of OOCs for knife related offences making reference to the relevant national guidance.

## **Planned Future Audits**

An audit of reported incidents of sexual offences has recently been concluded and will be reported to the next Warwickshire Assurance Board.

An audit of alternative routes of reporting crime to the force. While the majority of crime reported to the police is via telephone resulting in an incident being created on the command and control system there are other ways that crime can be reported.

The force now accepts online reports of crime through a national system called Single Online Home. An audit is currently in progress to assess whether disclosed crimes are being correctly recorded. The force Harm Assessment Unit (HAU) also receives reports of crime via the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH), the reports of crime mostly relate to abuse of children or adults with vulnerabilities. An audit is being conducted of email referrals into the HAU.