



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Cc: HMICFRS

Our Ref: JC/jpi

23 April 2021

An inspection of the effectiveness of the Regional Organised Crime Units

I am writing to you in response to the above HMICFRS inspection report which examined how effectively and efficiently the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) tackle the threat from serious and organised crime (SOC).

The major finding from this report is the lack of a clear and sustainable funding model to make sure the ROCUs are a central part of achieving the 2018 Serious and Organised Crime Strategy. Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables in this region have instigated a review of funding arrangements, including the distribution of funds arising from proceeds of crime secured by the ROCU, and I fully support the need for current arrangements to change as it is clear that yearly decisions regarding funding continue to inhibit the ability of ROCU to develop sustainable capabilities.

The West Midlands ROCU has well established governance structures in place with an ACC from the West Midlands force holding responsibility for the ROCU. Senior police leads from each force sit on a ROCU Executive Board and a Regional Joint Operations Board. Overall governance is maintained through a Regional Governance Group (RGG) which the PCCs and Chief Constables attend.

The Executive Board is already responsible to RGG for ensuring systems are in place for senior investigating officers (SIOs) and lead responsible officers (LROs) to work effectively together which is one of the two recommendations for chief officer consideration

The second such recommendation is that a chief officer is appointed with responsibility for each ROCU, as far as practicable working autonomously of force responsibilities.

At present this role is performed by a West Midlands chief officer who is not autonomous of force responsibilities. It will require discussion and agreement by the RGG to determine how this recommendation can be resolved during the next Police and Crime Commissioner term.

Overall, I am supportive of the recommendations held within the report and am confident that for their part West Mercia Police is addressing these Recommendations effectively and efficiently. I expect work to continue to address these issues to ensure the most effective and appropriate response.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Campion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Campion
Police & Crime Commissioner
West Mercia