

HMICFRS: JASC Update Report November 2021

01.11.2021 – Inspector 1653 Matthews. SPI/2021/256

About HMICFRS:

A summary on HMICFRS was provided in the last update to JASC. This document has been embedded here for reference if required:



HMICFRS Update
for JASC.docx

Within this document an overview was provided of the number of open Causes of Concern, Recommendations and Areas for Improvement for West Mercia; along with comparison to the national position and the position of forces within our most similar group. (Explanations of these terms can again be found in the embedded document).

The updated position as of 01/11/2021 is as follows:

West Mercia

Causes of Concern	5
Recommendations	79
AFIs	19

This can be compared to the averages of the national position and our most similar group (MSG) position.

National:		MSG	
Causes of Concern	6.3	Causes of Concern	5.5
Recommendations	79.9	Recommendations	74.6
AFIs	20.7	AFIs	19.3

As can be seen from the current figures West Mercia have achieved closure of more of each of the respective areas than the national average and this is also the case in two categories for the MSG average. (The MSG averages are disproportionately affected by North Yorkshire who have 0 open causes for concern and only 47 open recommendations).

West Mercia Response:

The West Mercia structure for responding to HMICFRS reports and recommendations remains as outlined in the previous update to JASC with internal tracker documents produced for each report in isolation.

However, there is currently ongoing engagement between Strategy, Planning and Insight and Change Management to explore the possibility of utilising KeyedIn software. Whilst this is in a development/testing phase this software may allow for a West Mercia platform similar to the National Monitoring Portal.

The aims and objectives of this would be to maintain a central digital repository of all causes of concern, recommendations and AFIs. This would hopefully allow the electronic recording and allocation of recommendations/AFIs to strategic and tactical owners; removing much of the administrative burden and unnecessary e-mails between owners and the Force Liaison Officer. This would also provide added benefits in relation to strategic oversight and useful functionality, being able to filter the software based on owner, RAG status etc with data extractable in report forms and in both Excel and PDF. A dashboard facility could also provide a snapshot of the current force position.

Current Activity:

West Mercia has recently seen conclusion of its PEEL 2021/22 inspection process. After a schedule of continuous assessment activity throughout the course of 2021 a period of additional onsite inspection activity followed for 4 weeks commencing 6th September. This was preceded by a Strategic Presentation from Chief Officers.

The final inspection window saw reality testing across all LPAs with the activity concluding with Chief Officer interviews in the final week of inspection.

The final report following this inspection activity has now been delayed and is due to be published in February 2022. This is a delay of a month on the previously circulated timetable. The reason for this is that HMICFRS have paused inspection activity nationally with a view to amending the PEEL Assessment Framework (PAF). This is as a result of feedback and a review of the inspection process for those forces who received inspection in the early stages of the newly developed continuous assessment model.

A summary of the changes was communicated to Chief Constables on 27th October 2021. An abridged version is as follows:

Victim Service Assessment¹ – VSA will continue but will not receive a separate graded judgement. Evidence found during VSA will be used as a narrative in making judgments in other questions, notably Responding to the Public, Investigations and Protecting Vulnerable People. (When CDI is included within VSA every three years the CDI element will continue to receive its own graded judgement).

SOC – To bring this in line with the SOC strategy, the inspection of SOC will move to a regional inspection. The SOC inspection will continue to assess all 43 forces, in addition to inspecting and reporting on ROCUs. Each ROCU and each force will receive a graded judgment. SOC will be reported in regional reports. But the PEEL report will include the reported force grade when available, and continue to contain a section for SOC, with a link to the relevant regional report. If the force has not yet been inspected the report will contain a holding paragraph, which will be updated when the regional report is published. This approach will flatten the demand on forces, by uncoupling the SOC inspections from the PEEL schedule.

¹ The Victim Service Assessment tracks the victim journey from point of report through to crime outcome across six assessment areas: Call Handling, Deployment, Crime Recording, Crime Screening, Investigation, Outcome.

For forces who have already had SOC inspection activity completed (West Mercia fall in this bracket), this evidence will contribute to the new regional reports and continue to inform the force graded judgment.

Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) and Armed Policing - Both the SPR and Armed Policing question areas are currently ungraded questions within PEEL. In future they will be inspected via a thematic approach, and will be removed from the PEEL report.

The information already gathered from forces on these questions in PEEL will be used to inform a thematic inspection next year.

Workforce - In future the Counter Corruption Unit (CCU), Professional Standards Department (PSD) and Vetting elements of the Workforce question will be inspected as a national thematic. Promoting an ethical and inclusive culture, wellbeing, and building and developing a workforce for the future will remain within the PEEL Workforce question.

In this round all 43 forces will be inspected on vetting and some on CCU. These will be reported in a national report, but PEEL force reports will contain a section for CCU/Vetting, with a link to the national report. If the national report is not yet published, the report will contain a holding paragraph which will be updated when it is published.

HMICFRS will also continue to grade those forces inspected but they will separate the CCU/Vetting elements from the overall Workforce question, so it will receive a separate grade.

Again this approach will flatten the demand on forces, by uncoupling the CCU/Vetting/PSD evidence gathering from the PEEL schedule. It is likely that future CCU and SOC inspections will be completed at the same time, with potential efficiencies due to some overlap with evidence gathering.

For forces who have already had PEEL CCU/Vetting inspection activity completed (West Mercia fall in this bracket), this evidence will still be used to inform our graded judgment and contribute to the national report.

Planning, management and value for money - For this question area, there will not be any changes to the inspection methodology. However, HMICFRS will make better use of Force Management Statements and other available information available so they can streamline the document request.

The West Mercia report will be published in line with the new methodology outlined above.

Forthcoming Activity:

As highlighted in the previous update to JASC, West Mercia is likely to receive a Custody inspection in the near future as this rolling programme is intended to ensure that each force receives a Custody inspection at least once every six years. The last West Mercia inspection took place in 2015 thus this is now due and is still yet to have taken place.

News/Publications:

Since the last update to JASC there have been a number of further reports published by HMICFRS. Whilst many of these are specific to forces other than West Mercia there have been national reports as follows:

- [Police response to violence against women and girls - Final inspection report](#)
- [A joint thematic inspection of the police and Crown Prosecution Service's response to rape - Phase one: From report to police or CPS decision to take no further action](#)
- [State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2020](#)
- [Summary of consultation responses: Policing inspection programme and framework 2021/22 \(HTML\)](#)
- [A review of 'Fraud: Time to choose' – A revisit of the 2018 fraud inspection to assess progress of the recommendations and areas for improvement \(HTML\)](#)

Super Complaints:

The previous document for JASC (embedded above) provided an overview of Super-Complaints.

At the time of the previous update there had been five super complaints deemed eligible for investigation, with two subsequent reports having gone to publication. There has since been one further super complaint deemed suitable for investigation, this is:

- Super-complaint made by the Criminal Justice Alliance (CJA) entitled 'More harm than good: A super-complaint on the harms caused by 'suspicion-less' stop and searches and inadequate scrutiny of stop and search powers'. This can be accessed on gov.uk.

A further one of the super complaints has also since gone to report publication:

Centre for Women's Justice – alleged police failure to use protective measures to safeguard women and girls.

A duty to Protect, the third police super-complaint report, was published by HMICFRS, the College of Policing, and the IOPC on August 24 2021. This report relates to a super-complaint submitted by the [Centre for Women's Justice](#) which raised concerns that the police are failing to use protective measures to safeguard women and girls. (The measures include pre-charge bail, Non-Molestation Orders, Domestic Violence Protection Notices and Orders and Restraining Orders).

The super-complaint and report can be accessed on gov.uk.

