

HIS MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY AND FIRE & RESCUE SERVICES (HMICFRS)

BACKGROUND

HMICFRS has the responsibility for inspecting police forces in England, however it cannot directly inspect Police and Crime Commissioners in relation to policing, but it will comment on PCC's if other inspection activity has raised issues where the PCC may have a responsibility.

Police and Crime Commissioners are expected to respond to HMICFRS inspection reports within a fixed time frame and there is now an 'online recommendations' register enabling PCC's to enter their response directly onto the database.

PCC's may have an interest in the work of other key inspectorates such as His Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons (HMIP), the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) and His Majesty's Inspectorate of Probation, with the latter becoming increasingly relevant as there is a new probation regime in place, giving PCCs greater responsibility for offender management.

INSPECTIONS

Inspections are a good tool in holding Forces to account and challenge other areas of the Criminal Justice System (CJS).

Each Inspectorate within the CJS produces its own Joint Inspection Plan and, a Joint Inspection Plan is published annually covering Joint Inspections conducted by two or more CJS Inspectorates.

Most Inspectorates also publish annual reports setting out the key challenges and successes of the services they inspect.

PCCs have statutory responsibilities to respond to HMICFRS and the Home Office about Inspections of their force, setting out what they will do about any key recommendations or issues raised.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

In relation to forces, HMICFRS broadly conduct two types of inspection:

A standard inspection of key functions of Police force Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (known as a 'PEEL Inspection'); and thematic inspections, which take a detailed look at particular topics or aspects of force activity – these can be inspections of all forces or a representative range of forces.

HMICFRS also has the lead responsibility for 'super complaints', which are complaints about systemic issues, described in more detail in section

[Link to current HMIC report.](#)



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