

HMIC REPORT: STRATEGIC POLICING REQUIREMENT

PCC Anthony Stansfeld's interim comment on HMIC's Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR) inspection:

"This inspection reports on the arrangements that all police forces should have in place to meet the SPR. Chief Constables must have regard to this and it is the role of PCCs to hold them account for doing so.

The specific national threats set down in the SPR are: terrorism, civil emergencies, organised crime, public order threats and large-scale cyber incidents. The SPR also outlines the national required policing response to counter these threats by ensuring forces have the capacity, capability and collaborative arrangements in place to deliver against these threats.

In their national report, HMIC provides assurance that chief constables are having regard to the SPR, but identifies that much more needs to be done by forces to secure the levels of preparedness that are necessary for them to collectively respond to all of the national threats.

Thames Valley Police were not one of the 18 Forces directly inspected as part of the inspection process, although the Force is cited in various sections of the report:

TVP is one of 14 forces that were found to have at least twice the number of trained Public Support Units (PSU) assessed as necessary to meet their local threat. However, the report is content with TVP's numbers because 'their national requirement for PSUs is greater than their local threat and they have resourced to their national requirement'.

A comparison of Forces that were deemed either Mutual Aid 'recipients or providers' for 2011/12 and 2012/13 were undertaken. Data suggests that TVP are net providers ranking 12th out of 32 Forces (which can be attributed to its resourcing to the national requirement).

HMIC also interviewed National Crime Agency (NCA) regional organised crime co-ordinators and leaders in the Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU). They reported that positive engagement had led to a number of good outcomes. One example was when the South East ROCU had acted on intelligence obtained via the NCA's international connections, disrupting the illicit production of amphetamine in the Thames Valley area.

I have asked the Chief Constable to provide a report that focuses on where Thames Valley sits against the national report, and to present this to my next public-facing meeting on 30th July 2014. I intend to publish my views after consideration of this report."

PCC update (September 2014)

The Chief Constable presented 3 reports to the Policy, Planning & Performance Meeting on 30 July 2014; each report has used the '5C framework' (capacity, contribution, capability, consistency and connectivity) to ascertain its effectiveness in meeting the requirements of the SPR.

After considering these reports, I am satisfied that in overall terms, the Force is well placed to deal with the following:

- o Threats to Public Order - Thames Valley Police has continued to meet its SPR requirements in relation to public order and public safety policing which will be further enhanced in 2014/15 through wider Joint Operations Unit and regional collaboration.

- o Civil Contingencies - The force is well positioned to deal with the identified threats that the Thames Valley faces. It is a key participant of the Local Resilience Forum and has well established and productive partnerships with other key agencies. There are well established processes for the identification and mitigation of risk and capabilities are regularly exercised, tested and the lessons learned.

- o Firearms (Thames Valley Police & Hampshire Constabulary Joint Operations Unit)

The firearms collaboration between Hampshire Constabulary and Thames Valley Police has increased both forces ability to support the response to the challenges presented within the SPR with the concept being proven through recent national deployments. This has been achieved through a focus on interoperability and adopting national standards ensuring capability has been maintained. The overall RAG status is Green.