

Please ask for: Arron Cullen
Telephone Number: 0121 626 6060
wmpcc@west-midlands.pnn.police.uk



Vetting and anti-corruption part 2: How effective is the National Crime Agency at dealing with corruption?

Response from Simon Foster, West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner.

The report, published on 30th April 2024, evaluates the National Crime Agency's (NCA) efficiency and effectiveness in assisting and collaborating with police forces and other law enforcement agencies to identify and combat police officer and staff corruption. This report is the second part of an inspection into the NCA's capabilities in addressing corruption.

The inspection found that the NCA's anti-corruption unit conducts investigations to a high standard and has established effective collaboration with police forces and other law enforcement agencies, aiding them in identifying and eradicating police officer corruption. The inspection contained one recommendation for Chief Constables:

'By 30 June 2024, chief constables should make sure they tell the National Crime Agency the outcome of investigations into suspicious activity reports relating to their force's personnel. The National Crime Agency should include a summary of this information in its annual national strategic threat assessment, The Threat to UK Law Enforcement from Corruption'.

Suspicious Activity Reports (SARs) alert law enforcement agencies to potential cases of money laundering or terrorist financing. SARs involving police employees can indicate possible corruption. The NCA's UK Financial Intelligence Unit (UKFIU) does not investigate or act on SARs; it is up to individual police forces to decide on the appropriate action.

The UKFIU requests updates from police forces on the outcomes of each SAR they receive, but often the forces do not respond. This lack of response hinders the UKFIU from determining how many SARs related to police personnel have revealed evidence of actual or potential corruption.

Without these updates, the UKFIU cannot accurately assess the prevalence and patterns of corruption within police forces. Therefore, it is crucial that the Chief Constable of West Midlands Police continues to ensure the NCA receives timely and comprehensive updates on SARs. This will enable the NCA to gain a

clearer understanding of the extent of corruption, identify systemic issues, and develop more effective strategies to combat corruption within police forces.

In summary, I appreciate this report as it provides valuable insights into vetting and anti-corruption measures among law enforcement partners. I will integrate these findings and prioritise them in my continuous efforts to ensure accountability within the West Midlands Police force.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Foster', with a stylized, cursive script.

Simon Foster

West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner