

**Agenda Item 11****JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE**  
**26 June 2025****HMICFRS Update****1. PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 To provide members of the Committee with oversight of HMICFRS Inspection activity and recommendations

**2. BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 WMP continues to operate under the HMICFRS *default phase of monitoring*. We have one remaining Cause of Concern for Investigations with two open recommendations specific to outcomes that we continue to address ahead of any re-inspection during the 25/27 PEEL assessment programme.

Since the last JAC, we have had two inspections take place namely the Youth Out-of-Court Disposals (YOoCD) and the National Child Protection Inspection (NCPI).

The YoOCD was a thematic inspection which took place on 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025. We were 1 of 6 forces inspected which assessed the decision-making process for all out of court disposals and examined in more detail the implementation and management of community resolutions and outcome 22 cases.

Furthermore, the NCPI was a WMP specific inspection which commenced on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 for two weeks. They inspected the child protection work within the force and carried out extensive case file reviews.

**3 RECOMMENDATIONS, CAUSES OF CONCERN and AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

- 3.1 Since the last JAC there has been 3 reports published resulting in recommendations for WMP.
- 3.1.1 An inspection into how effectively the police investigate crime. (Published 27/03/25)

The focus of this report is on volume crime – police forces are expected to have sufficient resources to investigate all volume crime to a standard that they and the public wish to see. The HMICFRS Inspectorate has warned forces undoubtedly need more officers and staff, but with the resources they have, there is much they can do to improve the effectiveness of crime investigations and the service they give to victims.

*11 recommendations were made in total, of which 8 were applicable to Chief Constables.*

**Read the report:** [An inspection into how effectively the police investigate crime - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](https://justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/an-inspection-into-how-effectively-the-police-investigate-crime-his-majestys-inspectorate-of-constabulary-and-fire-rescue-services/)

3.1.2 An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 2  
(Published 07/05/2025)

It has been said the police service needs robust systems to collect, analyse and share intelligence about people who seek to co-ordinate, incite or take part in disorder-related offences. These systems would help the police service to anticipate serious violence and disorder, and to mobilise resources to multiple seats of disorder quickly and efficiently.

*3 recommendations were made in total, of which all were applicable to Chief Constables.*

**Read the report:** <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/police-response-to-public-disorder-in-july-and-august-2024-tranche-2/>

3.1.3 Improving the response to organised immigration crime (Published 16/05/2025)

The inspection was commissioned by the then Home Secretary in January 2024 to assess both how NCA and police forces were tackling OIC in England and Wales. We were not one of the 12 forces/ROCU's that were visited, however, as a thematic inspection the findings and recommendations will apply.

*10 recommendations were made in total, of which 4 were applicable to Chief Constables.*

**Read the report:** <https://s3-eu-west-2.amazonaws.com/assets-hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/uploads/improving-the-response-to-organised-immigration-crime.pdf>

3.2 The force continues to concentrate its efforts upon our cause of concern and outstanding recommendations and AFI's held on the HMICFRS portal under the direction of our DCC through his HMIC Oversight Board which is held on a monthly basis.

Open recommendations / Areas for Improvement:

Report Year	Total Number Open	Due for closure
2022	3	1
2023	31	4
2024	22	5
2025	12	0
Total	68	10

## 4 INSPECTION ACTIVITY

4.1 Since the last JAC report, we have been subject to two inspections:

w/c 10<sup>th</sup> March 2025 – Youth out-of-court disposals (thematic): a joint inspection of the effectiveness of the work to divert children from the criminal justice system. We were 1 of 6 forces inspected with a specific focus on Solihull and Walsall.

w/c 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 – National Child Protection Inspection (WMP specific). We were last inspected under this thematic in 2014. This was a two-week inspection which included interviews, focus groups, reality testing and case file reviews.

#### 4.2 Forthcoming inspection activity

PEEL 2025/27 – PEEL framework has been released. Working on preparations with HMICFRS FLL ahead of estimated inspection to take place in 2026.

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