



**Agenda Item 05**

**JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE  
25<sup>th</sup> September 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 no inspections take place. However, we are preparing for our next round of PEEL which is anticipated to commence in July 2026. The inspection window will open on 8<sup>th</sup> September where activities including collating documents, booking interviews, conducting reality testing etc. will be taking place.

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

- 3.1 Since the last JAC there has been 2 reports published resulting in recommendations for WMP.
- 3.1.1 Joint case building by the police and Crown Prosecution Service: final report (Published 10/07/2025)

The focus of this report is on how the police and the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) work together within the Criminal Justice System. How they work together is crucial as the CJS can only be effective if the constituent parts work together towards clear and shared aims. The purpose of this report is to ensure early collaboration in developing a strong, fair, and legally sound case. By working together, the police and CPS can identify evidential gaps, strengthen the case, and ensure compliance with legal tests. This process improves efficiency, reduces delays, and helps ensure that only appropriate cases proceed to court.

This partnership strengthens case outcomes, provides greater assurance to victims, and supports the force's commitment to delivering fair and effective justice.

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

**Read the report:** <https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/joint-case-building-by-the-police-and-crown-prosecution-service-final-report/>

### 3.1.2 How effectively do the police record crime? (Published 28/08/2025)

This report forms part of the HMICFRS PEEL inspection regime. Its primary purpose is to assess the integrity of crime recording by police forces, ensuring that crimes reported are logged accurately and in line with national standards. This evaluation enables forces to demonstrate compliance, highlights areas needing improvement, and underpins public confidence and transparency in policing procedures.

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

**Read the report:** [How effectively do the police record crime? - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services \(justiceinspectorates.gov.uk\)](#)

### 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 | Previous JAC report | Total Number Open |
|-------------|---------------------|-------------------|
| 2022        | 2                   | 2                 |
| 2023        | 27                  | 17                |
| 2024        | 17                  | 12                |
| 2025        | 12                  | 17                |
|             |                     |                   |
| Total       | 58                  | 48                |

## 4 INSPECTION ACTIVITY

4.1 Since the last JAC report, there has been no inspection activity.

4.2 Forthcoming inspection activity

### PEEL 2025/27

Formal inspection window for PEEL 25/27 begins week commencing 8<sup>th</sup> September whereby any observations, interviews, reality testing, and focus groups taking place after this date will fall within the evidence window.

We are anticipating formal notification of inspection on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The inspection itself will take place in July 2026 for two weeks.

#### CONTACT OFFICER

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