



Agenda Item 05

**JOINT AUDIT COMMITTEE
26 March 2026**

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 that are specific to outcomes, that we continue to address ahead of our 25/27 PEEL assessment programme.

As part of PEEL 25/27 HMICFRS have observed a number of Strategic and Operational meetings together with some reality testing and interviews as part of their evidence gathering.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS, CAUSES OF CONCERN and AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT

- 3.1 Since the last JAC there has been no reports published resulting in recommendations for WMP.
- 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 their HMICFRS Oversight Board; held on a monthly basis.

Open recommendations / Areas for Improvement:

Report Year	Previous JAC report	Total Number Open
2022	2	2
2023	11	11
2024	13	12
2025	27	25
Total	53	50

4 INSPECTION ACTIVITY

- 4.1 Since the last JAC, we have undergone two pieces of inspection activity –
1. *Inspection of the match assessment and categorisation that West Midlands Police provided to the Birmingham City Council safety advisory group in respect of the Aston Villa v Maccabi Tel Aviv fixture, which took place on 6 November 2025.*
 2. *Inspection commissioned by the Home Secretary: The contributions of police forces in England and Wales to safety advisory groups and other bodies responsible for public safety and licencing in relation to high-profile public events.*

The former resulted in an interim letter presented to the Home Secretary on 14th January. The latter involved WMP together with a further 6 forces subject to the inspection activity. Findings are expected end of March 2026.

4.2 Forthcoming inspection activity

PEEL 2025/27: key dates

Formal inspection window for PEEL 25/27 began week commencing 8th September 2025 whereby any observations, interviews, reality testing, and focus groups taking place post this date fall within the evidence window.

We received formal notification of our inspection on 12th January 2026 which will culminate with two weeks in force during July 2026.

9th March 2026 we received formal notification of our Quality Service Review (QSR) audit.

CONTACT OFFICER
Name: CI Fiona Fletcher
Title: HMICFRS Force Liaison Officer