

**NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS
INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE**

Inspection title	Pre-Charge Bail and Released Under Investigation: Striking a Balance
Type of inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Northumbria-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Thematic (joint inspection)
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I welcome HMICFRS and HMCPSI's joint report into the use of pre-charge bail and RUI. I thank the inspectors for giving voice to concerns that have been expressed by many in the policing and victim support worlds for some years now: the changes to bail legislation in 2017 increased risk for victims and uncertainty for suspects.

I take note of the recommendations within the report, particularly the two aimed at forces. I have consulted with Northumbria police who have briefed me on their current practice, as well as improvements that must be made in order to satisfy the inspectorates' recommendations. For example, the force currently gathers data about suspects on bail and RUI and their systems differentiate between the two. This is managed centrally within criminal justice and collated by the Bail Sergeant. The force currently produce a higher level data document that allows monitoring of trends and risk. However, they do not currently capture bail where CPS advice is requested, and this will be reviewed.

In addition, the force inform me that they currently record bail details on their computerised MG3 forms, however these computer screens do not ask for RUI details, relying instead on individual officers to record these details.

The force will review their current processes in light of the report and I will monitor progress through my Scrutiny programme.

Yours sincerely



Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria