

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

Inspection title	Safe to share? Liberty and Southall Black Sisters' super-complaint on policing and immigration status
Type of inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Northumbria-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Thematic
Date inspection published	17 December 2020
Deadline for PCC response (56 days)	11 February 2021
Recommendations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Local

NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS

I welcome the report on the super-complaint put forward by Liberty and Southall Black Sisters regarding the treatment of victims of crime and witnesses with insecure immigration status. This has been an area of concern for many of the victim services that my office commissions for some time. I have previously voiced these concerns in written responses to consultations around the Domestic Abuse Bill and other areas. It is important that Black and minoritised women and those who do not have secure immigration status feel able to approach the police and other agencies for help where needed. Insecure immigration status has been used as a tool by controlling and coercive partners and this is deeply concerning.

I am very pleased to read the report's recommendations to review and clarify law and policy in this area, for officers to stop information sharing in domestic abuse cases, and to prioritise safeguarding of victims and witnesses. The force have updated me on their current position, including confirmation that Northumbria Police do not ordinarily share details of a victim, DA or otherwise in order to ascertain immigration status. I was assured that the only way such victim details would be shared with Immigration is by updates to PNC/PND or via the FNOU who would facilitate contact and confirmed that plans to improve practice in this area where required. I will monitor progress through my Scrutiny process.

I also note that two recommendations are made directly to PCCs – to promote migrant victims' and witnesses' confidence in reporting crimes to the police through safe reporting pathways, without fear of prioritised immigration control, and to conduct an assessment of local access to specialist victim support organisation or networks and take any necessary steps to build up such networks. I have an excellent policy and commissioning team who oversee support for victims in the locality. My office has excellent relationships with local specialist support agencies. We will review our promotion of support pathways in light of this report and continuously monitor this.

I thank the inspectorate for this invaluable report.

Yours sincerely





Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria