NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Inspection title	An inspection of the effectiveness of the Regional Organised Crime Units
Type of inspection	☐ Northumbria-specific ☑ National Thematic
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Deadline for PCC response (56 days)	7 April 2021
Recommendations	☑ National ☐ Local

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I welcome the HMICFRS thematic report focusing on the effectiveness of ROCUs.

I am pleased to note that substantial progress has been made in some areas since the last ROCU inspection in 2015. However, I note too that alongside this good work there are inconsistencies across England and Wales in the resourcing, leadership and operation of ROCUs, as well as a lack of a clear and sustainable funding model to make sure the ROCUs are a central part of achieving the 2018 Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.

I note the recommendations made, in particular the three specifically aimed at police forces. Northumbria Police have updated me on their current position and plans to improve practice in this area where required. For example, with regard to the recommendation that systems should be in place for SIOs and LROs to work effectively together, the force is working towards a much closer alignment of its intelligence resources to the SOC threat areas, including oversight by regional governance groups underpinned by coordinated 4 P plans to ensure local and regional delivery for all OCG disruption(s). This will improve effective working relationships. With my colleagues from Cleveland and Durham we will ensure that we consider the recommendation that a chief officer is appointed with responsibility for each ROCU at out next Joint Committee Meeting.

The force will further be reviewing the sustainability of ROCU funding and leadership responsibilities.

I will continue to monitor progress with my colleagues from Cleveland and Durham at the quarterly NERSOU Joint Committee Meeting. I thank the inspectorate for this invaluable report.

Yours sincerely

Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria