

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

Inspection title	Interim Report: Inspection into how effectively the police engage with women and girls
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I welcome this interim report focussing on how effectively the police respond to VAWG offences. Victim-survivors of these high-harm crimes should be able to expect an excellent response when reporting to the police, both in terms of pursuing the offender and onwards support for victims. Anything less has consequences, not only in terms of the re-traumatisation of victims, but also criminal justice outcomes.

I was pleased to see that the inspection found that police have made vast improvements over the past ten years in how they respond to and investigate VAWG crimes. However, there is more to be done; improving the police approach alone is not enough and significant, system-wide reform to the response to VAWG offences is urgently required. I fully support the recommendations made and agree that there needs to be an immediate and unequivocal commitment to ending VAWG. Through my own responsibilities as PCC I will continue to ensure that the necessary specialist support is available to all victims.

Recommendation 3 specifically asks that forces ensure information on the protected characteristics of victims is accurately and consistently recorded. Northumbria Police presently record information on victim age, gender and ethnicity. It is recognised that while Northumbria can provide overall victim data in terms of volumes, data relating to all nine protected characteristics is not available. Recent work has been conducted via the Northumbria Local Criminal Justice Board and it has been recommended that Northumbria considers the possibility of increasing the recorded data for the protected characteristics of all victims and witnesses as well as for those receiving cope and recovery/Criminal Justice System Support. Northumbria's Diversity Equality and Inclusion Strategy is also aligned to this work. I will continue to monitor progress through my Scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely



Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria