



NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Inspection title	State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2022
Type of inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Northumbria-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Thematic
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Recommendations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Local (No direct recommendations)

NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS

I welcome the State of Policing report 2022, which provides an assessment of the effectiveness and efficiency of policing in England and Wales based on inspections carried out between December 2021 and March 2023.

The report highlights various areas of policing that are in vital need of improvement. Such as the very basics of policing, which includes responding to the public and investigating crime, the all-time-low level of public confidence, prolonged issues with data collection and the dysfunctional criminal justice system, as well as other pressing challenges.

It is reassuring that the Inspectorate recognise the financial pressures forces are facing and that some factors effecting policing are beyond police control. Northumbria Police is one of the forces hardest hit by the effects of Government austerity and on-going financial cost pressures, while having one of the lowest precept rates in the country. The force has lost more than 1,100 officers and £148m from its budget in the years since 2010. As the Inspectorate recognise, the current national funding formula is not fit for purpose and urgently needs to be reviewed.

I'm pleased to share that Northumbria Police have developed a new force operating model which will gradually be rolled out from April 2024 onwards. These changes aim to address many of the challenges facing policing that are highlighted in the report with the strive to deliver the best service we can to our communities with the resources we have. Changes hope to:

- Improve the response to immediate and priority calls and vulnerable victims.
- Improving the quality of crime investigations.
- Promote staff wellbeing through fair distribution of allocated crime enquires across the force.
- Provide more time to officers dealing with the public through more efficient working practices.
- Provide force resilience to respond to force-wide events.

I will continue to monitor Northumbria Police regarding these key national policing challenges through my regular scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely,

Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria