

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

Inspection title	An inspection of how effective police forces are in the deployment of fire arms
Type of inspection	<input type="checkbox"/> Northumbria-specific <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National Thematic
Date inspection published	16 th March 2023
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Recommendations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> National <input type="checkbox"/> Local

NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS

I welcome the report on the effectiveness of police forces in the deployment of firearms. I am aware that this national thematic inspection included Northumbria as one of the forces visited by HMICFRS.

The Chief Constable has provided me with a position statement in respect of Northumbria Police against the six recommendations that are specifically for Chief Constables. I am pleased to note that where NP are not already compliant with the requirements of the recommendations that the report to me outlines the actions that will be taken,

Rec 2 – Whilst the NE is currently understrength in respect of Specialist Strategic and Tactical Firearms commanders, there are insufficient qualified officers to provide a 24-hour rota covering the region and an uplift in trained commanders is required to effectively achieve the recommendation. The CC has assured me that regional forces are examining their own recruitment to try and achieve their profile whilst the development of a regional training program to assist officers applying for the role is being explored.

Rec 3 - The Firearms Support Unit are currently using the equipment recommended for ARV asset tracking (Airbox Mosaic) and have been operating this for the past three years. All relevant staff have access and are trained in it use.

Rec 5 - In Northumbria all commanders are given a live demonstration of Tactics on initial training courses, this includes the use of specialist munitions. Commanders cannot operationally deploy unless they have successfully completed initial courses. Mandated annual command training always includes an input on firearms tactics with a live demonstration given by ARV's, or recordings shown of ARV's carrying out tactics in a controlled environment. Specialist munitions inputs are also delivered annually. All records of attendance to mandatory training are recorded to monitor compliance.

Rec 6: This recommendation will be implemented immediately into command training and included in yearly sign off for commanders.

Weapons capability demonstrations have been carried out with TFCs and SFCs for the weapons we currently hold. Introductions of new weapons systems or specialist munitions will be built into mandated command training, as will any changes to tactics. Records of attendance for mandatory training are recorded which monitors compliance.

Rec 10: Robust armoury procedures are in place which include senior officer oversight. A review of procedures has been conducted. Frequency of checks by C/Insp Specialist operations has now been increased and annual checks by C/Supt Head of Operations have been introduced. Annual audit will be conducted by another force within the North East region, the schedule is currently being developed.

Rec 12 There is a set governance to record all armed deployments using the chronicle system which includes electronic storage of all firearms logs, recorded briefings and associated paperwork. All commanders are aware of the procedure and the requirement to update/store the documentation for each deployment. C/Insp Specialist Operations will conduct a monthly dip sample to ensure quality of the submissions and receipt of the required documentation. This will take place with immediate effect.

I will monitor progress where needed through my Scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely



Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria