



NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE

Inspection title	Improving the response to organised immigration crime
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NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS

I thank HMICFRS for this report examining how the response to organised immigration crime can be improved.

Organised criminals who facilitate illegal immigration take advantage of some of the most vulnerable people across the World with little concern for their safety or well-being. I feel it is right that every opportunity is taken to reduce the opportunities available for these criminals to profit from this practice and to bring offenders to justice.

I recognise the significant harm that OIC has, particularly on those who are trafficked, and have therefore included this within Priority 3 of my police and crime plan, Serious Violence and Organised crime. One of the areas within this identifies that my office will work with the force and partners, creating an Anti-Slavery Partnership to prevent modern slavery and human trafficking, including support for victims.

There are many agencies involved in addressing OIC and as such, I value the recommendation in relation to clarifying each agency's roles and responsibilities to ensure that there is clarity in this area.

The Chief Constable has provided me with a position statement in respect of Northumbria Police (NP) against the 4 recommendations that are specifically for Chief Constables.

Recommendation 2

By 30 April 2026, chief constables should make sure that every time a member of their force reports a case to Immigration Enforcement's National Command and Control Unit, the reporting officer completes and submits the required intelligence document.

Northumbria Police Response

Discussions with our Immigration Embeds, the Joint International Crime Centre and attempts to speak to Immigration's NCCU have failed to clarify the paperwork and exact process required. Efforts to resolve this will continue. However, for context officers from Northumbria Police make contact and discuss every case with NCCU who may send an Intelligence form if not time critical. Northumbria Police Officers use this form when required, especially in custody. This may need further consideration as to capturing all contacts/ jobs.



Recommendation 4

By 31 December 2025, chief constables should make sure they have clear plans to collect, analyse and share information related to organised immigration crime.

Northumbria Police Response

Creation of an Intelligence Collection Plan for OIC was recommended in our Peer Review and is being undertaken in consultation with the MSOIC Coordinator and other regional Forces. Sharing agreements and processes are already embedded and will be written up accordingly to ensure clarity. Collection of OIC Intelligence is undertaken through key word searches and use of #OIMCR within NPICCS.

Recommendation 8

By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the Hydra training package on organised immigration crime.

Northumbria Police Response

Hydra Training has been completed by Force Intelligence Bureau Supervisors in the International Policing Unit and Organised Cannabis Farming & Immigration Team. In addition, a small selection of Force Incident Managers, Detectives Inspectors, Response and Neighbourhood Supervisors have also completed the course. The MSOIC Coordinator has advised that a new OIC Hydra course is near completion and another trainer being identified to deliver further hydra courses for the three Forces. This will ensure continuing the education of supervisors across different disciplines.

Recommendation 9

By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit and the College of Policing, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the four modules of the organised immigration crime e-learning package.

Northumbria Police Response

This has been raised with the Learning and Design Manager and can be delivered to wider audiences in Protected Learning Days (PLD) early 2026, following NICHE training. Consideration is being given to creating a Northumbria version to improve the learner experience and improve outcomes. The content is accessible for all front-line roles that may encounter OIC incidents or investigate related crimes.

This update provides me with reassurance that the Chief Constable is ensuring the recommendations are being acted upon however I am frustrated to learn that the force has been unable to clarify the paperwork and exact process required, for recommendation 2, despite efforts to do so.

I will monitor progress where further action is required to ensure that NP are compliant through my regular Scrutiny process.

Yours sincerely,



NORTHUMBRIA
**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**

violence
reduction
unit

S. E. D.

Susan Dungworth

Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria