

Audit Progress Report and Sector Update

Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable

Year ending 31 March 2019

September 2019



Contents and Introduction



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This paper provides the Independent Audit Committee with a report on progress in delivering our responsibilities as your external auditor.

The paper also includes a summary of emerging national issues and developments that may be relevant to you.

Members of the Independent Audit Committee can find further useful material on our website where we have a section dedicated to our work in the public sector. Here you can download copies of our publications. Click on the following link to be directed to the website <https://www.grantthornton.co.uk/>.

If you would like further information on any items in this briefing, or would like to register with Grant Thornton to receive regular email updates on issues that are of interest to you, please contact either your Engagement Lead or Engagement Manager.

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PSAA Contract Monitoring

The PCC and Chief Constables for Devon and Cornwall and Dorset opted into the Public Sector Audit Appointments (PSAA) Appointing Person scheme which starts with the 2018/19 audit. PSAA appointed Grant Thornton as auditors. PSAA is responsible under the Local Audit (Appointing Person) Regulations 2015 for monitoring compliance with the contract and is committed to ensuring good quality audit services are provided by its suppliers. Details of PSAA's audit quality monitoring arrangements are available from its website, www.psa.co.uk.

Our contract with PSAA contains a method statement which sets out the firm's commitment to deliver quality audit services, our audit approach and what clients can expect from us.

Progress at 20 August 2019

2018/19

Our audit of the 2018/19 financial statements is now complete. Our Joint Audit Findings Reports were discussed with the Independent Audit Committee on 23 July 2019 and we issued our audit opinions on 2 August 2019. We also issued the audit certificates for Dorset PCC and Chief Constable on this date.

We have not yet issued our audit certificates for Devon and Cornwall PCC and Chief Constable due to the requirement to carry out the full Whole of Government Accounts (WGA) procedures on the group's consolidated return to the National Audit Office. We intend to issue our Assurance Statement by the deadline of 13 September 2019.

Overall we issued:

- unqualified opinions on the group, PCC and Chief Constable financial statements for Dorset and Devon and Cornwall; and
- unqualified value for money conclusions for both the PCC and Chief Constable for Dorset and Devon and Cornwall.

We made a number of recommendations to management within our audit findings reports which we will follow up as part of our 2019/20 audit planning.

Our Joint Annual Audit Letters are included as separate agenda items, and these summarise the findings of our audit work in 2018/19.

2019/20

We have begun our planning processes for the 2019/20 financial year audits.

Our formal work and audit visits will begin later in the year and we will discuss the timing of these visits with management. In the meantime we will;

- continue to hold regular discussions with management to inform our risk assessments for the 2019/20 financial statements and value for money audits;
- review minutes and papers from key meetings; and
- continue to review relevant sector updates to ensure that we capture any emerging issues and consider these as part of audit plans.

Other areas

Meetings

We met with Finance Officers in July as part of our regular liaison meetings and continue to be in discussions with finance staff regarding emerging developments and to ensure the audit process is smooth and effective.

We also met with the PCC and Chief Constable for Dorset, and the Chief Constable for Devon and Cornwall, in July to discuss their strategic priorities and plans.

Events/Publications

Further details of the publications that may be of interest to the members of the Committee are set out in our Sector Update section of this report.

Audit Deliverables

| 2018/19 Deliverables | Planned Date | Status |
|--|--------------|----------|
| Accounts Joint Audit Plans We are required to issue detailed accounts joint audit plans to the Independent Audit Committee setting out our proposed approach in order to give a opinions on the Group, Police and Crime Commissioner and Chief Constable 2018/19 financial statements for Dorset and Devon and Cornwall. | March 2019 | Complete |
| Joint Audit Findings Reports The Joint Audit Findings Reports will be reported to the July Independent Audit Committee. | July 2019 | Complete |
| Auditor's Reports These are the opinions on your financial statements, annual governance statements and value for money conclusions. | July 2019 | Complete |
| Joint Annual Audit Letters These letters communicate the key issues arising from our work. | August 2019 | Complete |

Sector Update

Policing services are rapidly changing. Increased demand from the public and more complex crimes require a continuing drive to achieve greater efficiency in the delivery of police services. Public expectations of the service continue to rise in the wake of recent high-profile incidents, and there is an increased drive for greater collaboration between Forces and wider blue-light services.

Our sector update provides you with an up to date summary of emerging national issues and developments to support you. We cover areas which may have an impact on your organisation, the wider Police service and the public sector as a whole. Links are provided to the detailed report/briefing to allow you to delve further and find out more.

Our public sector team at Grant Thornton also undertake research on service and technical issues. We will bring you the latest research publications in this update. We also include areas of potential interest to start conversations within the organisation and with audit committee members, as well as any accounting and regulatory updates.

- [Grant Thornton Publications](#)
- [Insights from sector specialists](#)
- [Accounting and regulatory updates](#)

More information can be found on our dedicated public sector and police sections on the Grant Thornton website by clicking on the logos below:

[Public Sector](#)

[Police](#)

State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2018

HMICFRS have released their report to the Secretary of State under section 54(4A) of the Police Act 1996, containing the assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales based on the inspections carried out between April 2018 and May 2019. This is the fourth complete PEEL assessment of police forces in England and Wales, and is informed by the findings from the first batch of the 2018/19 assessments, and from the 2017 assessments for the remaining 29 forces.

The report is in three parts, with an overview containing Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary's assessment of the state of policing in England and Wales applicable to the police service as a whole, part two containing an overview of the findings from all the inspections conducted in year and part three setting out the full list of inspections and other work.

In his annual assessment of policing in England and Wales, Sir Thomas Winsor said most police forces were performing well, and praised the police for their integrity and bravery. He also called on leaders in police forces and institutions to make bold and long-term decisions to improve policing, however, and said there was continued controversy about the 43-force structure of policing in England and Wales, with a need for the police service to function as part of a single law enforcement system.

Other areas highlighted for reform included:

- consideration of new mandatory standards to prevent inefficiency and ineffectiveness in policing;
- enactment of proposed legislation to strengthen the role of the Forensic Science Regulator;
- multi-year financial settlements for the most efficient police forces, to provide them with certainty, stability and predictability; and
- longer-term investment in technology, such as body-worn video, fully-functional hand-held mobile devices, facial recognition and artificial intelligence.

The report can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

HMICFRS police inspection programme 2019/20

The Inspection Programme has been released which sets out HMICFRS's police inspection programme and resources for the year ahead.

It covers the areas will be inspected in 2019/20 and provides further details about:

- PEEL assessments;
- national thematic inspections;
- commissions from the Home Secretary and local policing bodies;
- inspections of national agencies and non-Home Office forces;
- counter-terrorism and security related inspections; and
- joint inspections with other inspectorates.

The document can be accessed by [clicking here](#).

Home Office

Policing front line review

The findings from the first Front Line Review have been published by the Home Office. The Review was designed to seek feedback and learn what the front line really think about the job they do and what can improve.

Officers and staff from all 43 forces in England and Wales proactively engaged in the Review, with workshops run independently by The Office for National Statistics which involved members of the front line, including police officers, special constables, staff, police community support officers (PCSOs) and volunteers, seeking insights about their experience of:

- wellbeing
- leadership
- professional development
- change and innovation

This included their views on access to and availability of services. The review has identified opportunities to ensure the policing workforce receive the right level of support and development they need to deliver the best for the public.

The review identified the following recommendations and immediate actions that the Home Office and policing partners will take in response to the Review.

1. The Front Line Innovation Project: creation of a space for the front line to directly influence innovation and improvement.
2. Ensuring the operational system achieves the right balance between meeting demands and supporting the individual: A Ministerial challenge to Chiefs to consider essential time for core activities within working patterns that positively impact on frontline wellbeing and support.
3. Management of External Demand: A Ministerial commitment to provide good practice guidance to enable policing to manage more effectively cases that should not involve the police; commencing with better guidance on 'safe and well checks'.

4. Management of Internal Demand: A Ministerial challenge to Chiefs to identify and address unnecessary internally generated demand within their forces and with national support to tackle systemic issues from the Home Office and other partners.
5. HMICFRS activity on Police Wellbeing: HMICFRS has committed to review the way that it inspects the extent to which wellbeing is embedded within day to day policing.
6. Providing a National Evaluation Mechanism for Wellbeing Provision: A Ministerial commitment to provide the front line with a direct means to evaluate national and local progress on wellbeing working with police staff associations.

A number of separate reports have been issued which set out the findings and recommendations from the Review. These can be accessed by clicking the image below.



Home Office

Police recruitment

As he entered Downing Street at the end of July 2019, the new Prime Minister announced that the recruitment of 20,000 new police officers will start in September with the launch of a national campaign, led by the Home Office. The Prime Minister has said he wants recruitment completed over the next three years.

To support this aim, a new national policing board has created, with the first meeting held 31 July 2019. Chaired by the Home Secretary and bringing together key police leaders, it will hold the police to account for meeting the recruitment target and will aim to drive a national response to issues. At the first meeting of the board, the Prime Minister confirmed a target of recruiting 6,000 officers in the first year.

Police recruitment

The Home Secretary has announced that the Stop and Search pilot has been extended to all 43 Forces in the UK. Designed to make it simpler for all forces in England and Wales to use Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, which empowers officers to stop and search anyone in a designated area without needing reasonable grounds for suspicion if serious violence is anticipated, the rollout will see the Home Secretary lift all conditions in the voluntary Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme over the use of Section 60.

Funding for Violence Reduction Units announced

Eighteen PCCs have been awarded £35 million to set up specialist teams to tackle violent crime in their area. The Violence Reduction Units will bring together different organisations, including the police, local government, health, community leaders and other key partners to tackle violent crime by understanding its root causes. The new units will be responsible for identifying what is driving violent crime in the area and coming up with a co-ordinated response.

The funding is being awarded after PCCs in the 18 areas worst affected by serious violence secured their provisional allocation through successful bids. Each unit will be tasked with delivering both short and long-term strategies to tackle violent crime, involving police, healthcare workers, community leaders and others.

Details of the funding awarded, including the other monies awarded as part of the original surge allocation made in April 2019 and the additional surge allocation in May 2019 can be found by [clicking here](#).

The contents of this report relate only to the matters which have come to our attention, which we believe need to be reported to you as part of our audit process. It is not a comprehensive record of all the relevant matters, which may be subject to change, and in particular we cannot be held responsible to you for reporting all of the risks which may affect your business or any weaknesses in your internal controls. This report has been prepared solely for your benefit and should not be quoted in whole or in part without our prior written consent. We do not accept any responsibility for any loss occasioned to any third party acting, or refraining from acting on the basis of the content of this report, as this report was not prepared for, nor intended for, any other purpose.



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