

## **The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMICFRS) – National Report – Fraud: Time to Choose (Apr 2019).**

[The report can be found here](#)

On 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019, HMICFRS published a national report Fraud: Time to Choose - an inspection of the police response to fraud. There were eleven forces inspected (but not Nottinghamshire Police) and nine regional organised crime units inspected (including the East Midlands Special Operations Unit).

HMICFRS inspected the effectiveness and efficiency of the law enforcement response to fraud, including online fraud. This included fraud against individuals and businesses but not fraud against those public authorities that have responsibility for dealing with fraud against their own organisations.

Since 2014 the City of London Police took responsibility for both Action Fraud and the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau, the force has recognised that the technology that supported both Action Fraud and Know Fraud has not been fit for purpose. As a result, a project to design and implement a new system for both reporting and analysis of reports has been under way. The HMICFRS report identified a number of the findings including:

- The law enforcement response to fraud is disjointed and ineffective
- Roles and responsibilities are not clear
- There are pockets of good prevention work
- Existing organisational structures are not working well
- Vulnerable victims receive a good service but most victims do not

The report identified five areas where HMICFRS considered Chief Constables need to make improvements:

1. Improve the way their force uses the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau monthly victim lists to identify and support vulnerable victims and others who require additional support;
2. Ensure their forces improve the identification and mapping of organised crime groups in which the principal criminality is fraud;
3. Ensure that fraudsters are included among those considered for serious organised crime 'prevent' tactics, including by local strategic partnership boards and through integrated offender management processes;
4. Increase their force's use of ancillary orders against fraudsters; and

5. Ensure that their force complies with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime when investigating fraud.

HMICFRS made sixteen recommendations one of which was for Chief Constables:

**Recommendation 9:** *By 30 September 2019, Chief Constables should publish their force's policy for responding to and investigating allegations of fraud (in relation to both calls for service and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau disseminations for enforcement).*

Since Nottinghamshire Police was not one of the forces inspected it is uncertain whether these issues identified in other forces are wholly applicable to Nottinghamshire; nevertheless, I am satisfied that the Chief Constable will review and respond to them appropriately.

The Force will continue to use its dedicated 4ACTION database for tracking and responding to all HMICFRS recommendations and areas for improvement overseen by the Deputy Chief Constable. The Force also provides regular HMICFRS update reports to my Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel (JASP) who provide additional scrutiny in these important areas.

Yours sincerely



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Police and Crime Commissioner