

**The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMICFRS) - Nottinghamshire Police – Joint inspection of police custody (Mar 2019).**

[The report can be found here](#)

On 26<sup>th</sup> March 2019, HMICFRS published a joint inspection report of its unannounced inspection visit to the police custody suites in Nottinghamshire which took place between 1<sup>st</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2018.

I am pleased that Inspectors found that there was a focus on diverting vulnerable people away from custody and there were good partnership arrangements for the provision of support for detainees with mental ill health, and custody was now rarely used as a place of safety under section 136 of the Mental Health Act. However, I am very disappointed and concerned that Inspectors found a “lack of day-to-day leadership and oversight in our custody suites” with key failings in the treatment and conditions of detainees. There were many other areas of concern.

Consequently, I met with the Chief Constable to discuss this report and sought assurances from him on what immediate and subsequent action would be taken to address the issues. As an immediate step he has posted a Chief Inspector in charge of Custody and a comprehensive action plan has been developed to manage all recommendations arising out of the HMICFRS Inspection.

The Chief Inspector actively manages the plan and has held and arranged monthly meetings with all staff involved in its delivery. This plan is overseen by Deputy Chief Constable who holds quarterly oversight meetings with the Assistant Chief Constable and Custody Chief Inspector to ensure evidence offered, supports closure of specific recommendations and longevity of the activity.

In addition, I have made plans to undertake a number of visits to custody suites myself to see first-hand how some of the issues of concern are being addressed. In addition, I have revised the procedures for my independent custody visitors (ICVs) to enable them to focus on some of the issues of concern identified in the report.

Furthermore, I have asked my internal auditors to review the recommendations of this joint HMICFRS report in the autumn of 2019 to help provide me assurance that the necessary changes have taken place. The internal audit report will also be subject to the scrutiny of my Joint Scrutiny and Joint Audit & Scrutiny Panel.

Yours sincerely



Paddy Tipping  
Police and Crime Commissioner