



## **Norfolk Police and Crime Commissioner (PCO) response to inspections of Norfolk Constabulary published by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)**

Section 55 of the Police Act 1996 (as amended by section 37 of the Policing and Crime Act 2017) requires local policing bodies to respond to recommendations in inspectors reports within 56 days.

### **Inspection Title:**

Counter Terrorism Joint Inspection – National security division and multi-agency arrangements for the management of terrorist offenders in the wake of terrorist attacks.

### **Published on:**

20 July 2023

### **Publication Types:**

Counter-terrorism and joint inspection

### **Police Forces:**

N/A

### **Link to Report:**

[Management of terrorist offenders in the wake of terrorist attacks](#)

### **Section 55 Response Deadline:**

14 September 2023

### **Key Findings**

This counter terrorism (CT) inspection was commissioned by the Criminal Justice Chief Inspectors' Group and published by HM Inspectorate of Probation. It forms part of the current Joint Inspection Business Plan 2021-2023. The inspection examined national security division and multi-agency arrangements for the management of terrorist offenders in the wake of terrorist attacks, and was conducted jointly by HM Inspectorate of Probation, HMICFRS and HM Inspectorate of Prisons.

The purpose of this inspection was to examine the effectiveness of the National Security Division (NSD) and assess whether it is delivering against its objectives to provide enhanced levels of management and interventions for the most high risk, and high profile, offenders in the community, through a dedicated and highly skilled workforce. The scope of the

inspection also included how well prisons, police, and the Joint Extremism Unit (JExU) are working with the NSD to manage the risk of harm posed to the public by terrorist offenders throughout their sentences.

In total, 33 cases were inspected jointly by HM Inspectorate of Probation and HMICFRS. Inspectors visited all five NSD units and nine police counter terrorism units (CTUs). They interviewed 20 probation practitioners/senior operating leads (SOLs) responsible for the cases in their inspection, with HMICFRS speaking with counter terrorism nominal managers for the respective cases. HM Inspectorate of Probation also spoke to five people who had been subject to supervision through the NSD. Inspectors from HM Inspectorate of Prisons reviewed the records of 48 prisoners, 46 of whom had been convicted of terrorist offences, and interviewed 34 prisoners in total. Inspectors held a range of meetings and focus groups across the NSD, CTUs and prisons, with staff with both operational case management responsibilities and strategic managers. Finally, inspectors from all three inspectorates held a range of meetings with national senior leaders from the NSD, JExU and CT Policing (CTP). This joint inspection examines the implementation of these measures across prisons, the NSD, and the Counter Terrorism Nominal Management (CTNM) to effectively manage and mitigate the risk of harm posed by terrorist offenders.

The inspection found that leadership overall was strong across prisons, the NSD and CTNM. Furthermore, it established that CT staffing in prisons, NSD and CTNM were all at sufficient levels, with a good balance of skills across the teams.

The report also found that although IT systems are not in sync, it was encouraging that information was being exchanged between partner agencies, and in a timely way. Relationships between partners were a strength, particularly between the NSD and CTNM, and this was reflected in the sharing of information. In addition to this the inspection found that the arrangements to protect others from harm from terrorist cases in custody were effective overall. There was evidence that management of cases was coordinated on a local, regional, and national level.

The inspection found, that whilst terrorist cases are automatically transferred to NSD management, terrorist risk cases are triaged as to their suitability, based on what additional benefit NSD management would bring to the case that cannot be achieved outside generic Probation Service supervision with probation counter terrorism (PCT) team support. These arrangements are working well and were informed by CT police intelligence. However, there were examples of cases being adopted due to the complexity of the individual's behaviour, rather than evidenced CT risk. In part this is because the scope of the inclusion criteria is too broad. This requires careful management to ensure the NSD does not become overwhelmed with inappropriate cases.

## **Recommendations**

The report puts forward 21 recommendations to the Ministry of Justice, the Home Office, His Majesty's Prison Service, the Joint Extremism Unit, the Probation Service, and Counter Terrorism Policing. Three of these were relevant to policing and are detailed below using the numbering contained within the report itself:

**Recommendation 19:**

The senior national coordinator should review the Registered Terrorism Offender Assessment Framework process to ensure that it is fit for police led cases.

**Recommendation 20:**

The senior national coordinator should work with the National Security Division and Joint Extremism Unit to develop and implement a risk assessment process for those tasked with visiting counter terrorism nominals in the community.

**Recommendation 21:**

The Head of Interventions (Prevent and Nominal Management) should ensure that guidance is issued to regional Counter Terrorism Nominal Management teams that sets out a consistent use of ViSOR to support Counter Terrorism Nominal Management in the period before MAPPS is implemented and in any transition that may follow.

**Areas for Improvement**

There are no areas for improvement made.

## **PCC response to report and any Recommendations/Areas for Improvement**

I note the joint HMI Probation, HMICFRS and HMIP report on Counter Terrorism published on 20 July 2023.

There were three recommendations applicable to policing: Recommendations 19, 20 and 21. None were directly applicable to Norfolk, hence there is no comment from my Chief Constable. Therefore, I will wait to see any guidance that might be issued to forces in response to the report by either or both the Senior National Coordinator re Recommendations 19 and 20 and the Head of Interventions re Recommendation 21.

### **For Office Use Only:**

- Response forwarded to HMICFRS Section 55 Responses and submitted onto the HMICFRS portal
- Response forwarded to Chief Constable
- Response forwarded to Police and Crime Panel
- Response published on the OPCCN website