Cumbria Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

**Cumbria Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) response to inspections of Cumbria Constabulary published by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS)**

*Section 33 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.*

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| **Inspection Title:**  | Roads Policing: Not optional – An inspection of roads policing in England and Wales  |
| **Date Published:** | July 2020 |
| **Type of Inspection:** | National Inspection  |
| **Key Findings**  |
| This inspection has made 13 recommendations, to the police and other bodies, which are intended to:* give clarity and guidance to the police and other bodies about their collective responsibilities;
* improve forces’ understanding of the risks faced by road users in their areas;
* make sure forces and road safety partners work together effectively;
* bring about compliance with national guidance on the use of speed and red-light cameras; and
* provide greater support and training to officers who investigate road deaths.
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| **Recommendations and Areas for Improvement:** |
| **Recommendations*** With immediate effect, chief constables should make sure that roads policing is included in their force’s strategic threat and risk assessments, which should identify the areas of highest harm and risk and the appropriate responses.
* With immediate effect, chief constables should make sure:
* their force has enough analytical capability (including that provided by road safety partnerships) to identify risks and threats on the road network within their force area;
* that information shared by partners relating to road safety is used effectively to reduce those risks and threats; and
* there is evaluation of road safety initiatives to establish their effectiveness.
* With immediate effect, chief constables should make sure that their force (or where applicable road safety partnerships of which their force is a member), comply with (the current version of) Department for Transport Circular 1/2007 in relation to the use of speed and red-light camera.
* With immediate effect, in forces where Operation Snap (the provision of digital video footage by the public) has been adopted, chief constables should make sure that it has enough resources and process to support its efficient and effective use.
* With immediate effect, chief constables should satisfy themselves that the resources allocated to policing the strategic road network within their force areas are sufficient. As part of that process they should make sure that their force has effective partnership arrangements including appropriate intelligence sharing agreements with relevant highways agencies.
* By 1 August 2021, the College of Policing should include a serious collision investigation module for completion along with the Professionalising Investigation Programme. This should include: minimum national training standards; and certification of all serious collision investigators. Chief constables should make sure that all serious collision investigators in their force are then trained to those standards.
* With immediate effect, chief constables should make sure that appropriate welfare support is provided to specialist investigators and family liaison officers involved in the investigation of fatal road traffic collisions.

**Areas for Improvement** * Force-level support to national roads policing operations and intelligence structure is an area for improvement.
* The efficient and effective exchange of all collision data with other relevant bodies is an area for improvement.
* The awareness and understanding of the changes in the Professionalising Investigation Programme within police forces is an area for improvement.
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| **PCC & Chief Constable Response to Report and Recommendation:** |
| The Police & Crime Commissioner for Cumbria fully supports the recommendations in this national report “Cumbria has many rural roads with constant flows of traffic due to the county welcoming visitors nationally and internationally therefore it is essential that the Constabulary is well-equipped to keep everyone as safe as possible.”“Cumbria Constabulary do a fantastic job to deter dangerous driving as best as possible but it is a community effort that is needed to eradicate road accidents and road deaths in the county.“Road safety is one of my main priorities as PCC and I welcome any advice from the Government on how to best protect travellers and pedestrians in the county.”Chief Constable Michelle Sheer also welcomes the findings of this report “Officers work all year round to keep our roads safe. We have introduced a new roads safety team, which brings together the already existing teams that work to make our roads safer, including the Mobile Support Group, Road Safety Cameras and Collision Reduction Officers. The aim of this unit is to reduce anti-social driving, decrease the time taken to complete road collision investigations, gather evidence arising from road accidents in Cumbria to help highlight problem areas, and to educate the public on how to be safe.”The Police & Crime Commissioner will continue to support and hold the Constabulary to account for progress against the national recommendations through his Public Accountability Conferences (PAC) and through his weekly one-to-ones with the Chief Constable. At his PAC meeting on the 6th October, the Chief Constable will provide the Commissioner will a detailed update regarding roads policing in Cumbria and what actions have been taken to address the recommendations.  |