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:** | A review of ‘Fraud: Time to choose’ |
| **Date Published:** | 05/08/2021 |
| **Type of Inspection:** | National Inspection |
| **Key Findings** | |
| In 2018, the Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS to carry out a thematic inspection of fraud.  HMICFRS conducted the inspection report between March and July 2018 and published “Fraud: Time to choose – An inspection of Police response to fraud” in April 2019. In the report, HMICFRS made 16 recommendations and identified 5 areas for improvement. (AFIs).  HMICFRS have revisited their previous inspection to see how the Police Service has responded to the recommendations and AFIs made in the report. This report presents the findings on the progress that has been made. | |
| **Recommendations:** | |
| 1. By 30 September 2021, Chief Constables should make sure that their forces are following the guidance issued by the National Police Chiefs’ Council Coordinator for Economic Crime about fraud related calls for service. 2. By 31 October 2021, Chief Constables should adopt the guidance issued in September 2019 by the National Police Chiefs’ Council Coordinator for Economic Crime that was aimed at improving information given to victims when reporting fraud. | |
| **PCC & Chief Constable Response to Report and Recommendation:** | |
| Both the Police & Crime Commissioner welcomes the review by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) *A review of ‘Fraud: Time to Choose’.*  The Police & Crime Commissioner stated: “From my engagement with the public, I know that fraud is an issue which concerns them and with greater use of the internet and social media throughout the pandemic, the risks to local residents have potentially increased.  I am assured that the Constabulary are following the guidance issued by the National Police Chiefs’ Council Coordinator for Economic Crime.  I will continue through my accountability framework to hold the Chief Constable to account against the recommendations identified in this report. | |