Cumbria Office of Police Fire and Crime Commissioner

**Cumbria Police Fire and Crime Commissioner (PFCC) 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:** | #28325 - An inspection of how effective police forces are in the deployment of firearms. |
| **Date Published:** | 11/07/2023 |
| **Type of Inspection:** | National Inspection |
| **Key Findings** | |
| In this inspection we examined how effective police forces are in the deployment of firearms, including specialist munitions. We did this by answering the following questions:  How well do policies, structures and processes comply with relevant guidance and legislation? How effectively do forces work together operationally across force boundaries? How effective are forces in the selection, training, and deployment of tactical firearms advisors, TFCs and SFCs? We visited nine police forces in England and Wales between November 2022 and January 2023. These included a range of forces from each region in England and Wales. They included metropolitan and rural forces. | |
| **Recommendations:** | |
| 1. #28191 - By 31 July 2024, chief constables should make sure there is access to both specialist strategic firearms commanders and specialist tactical firearms commanders, through a 24-hour rota covering their region. 2. #28234 – By 31 October 2023, all chief constables should make sure armed response vehicle asset tracking equipment, as provided by Counter Terrorism Policing, is available and used in their forces. They should train relevant staff in its use. 3. #28281 – By 31 December 2023, all chief constables should make sure that all strategic and tactical firearms commanders have observed the firearms tactics and the use of specialist munitions they can authorise, before being operationally deployed. 4. #28501 - By 31 December 2023, chief constables should make sure that the annual accreditation process for strategic and tactical firearms commanders includes familiarization with any new weapons systems and observation of any new tactics or specialist munitions the forcer had introduced or is planning to introduce. 5. #28544 - By 31 October 2023, the regional armed policing lead should share armed policing exercises with the National Armed Policing Portfolio. This would allow opportunities for learning to be identified and shared. 6. #28587 - With immediate effect, each assistant chief constable regional firearms lead should attend all National Armed Policing Portfolio meetings. If they are unable to attend, they should make sure another assistant chief constable armed policing lead from a force in their region attends on their behalf. 7. #28632 - With immediate effect, chief constables should improve senior officer oversight of their armories, including an independent annual audit. 8. #28677 - With immediate effect, chief constable, through their armed policing governance structure, should make sure that all armed deployment records are stored and auditable. | |
| **PFCC & Constabulary Response to Report and Recommendation:** | |
| Cumbria’s Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner welcomes the HMICFRS Report - An inspection of how effective police forces are in the deployment of firearms.  “I welcome the recommendations that are highlighted within the report and will continue to seek assurances from the Chief Constable that best practice is followed and maintained in relation to the deployment of firearms across the Force.”  The Constabulary have provided the following response:  “The Constabulary welcomes the publication and recommendations as a measure of expectation surrounding firearms capability; capacity; governance and accreditation requirements. We continue to operate effectively and to a high standard with our regional and national armed policing colleagues, and more locally our Ministry of Defence and Civil Nuclear partners.” | |