



HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland
Improving Policing across Scotland

Friday, 9th October, 2026

PRESS RELEASE

HMICS launch strategic review of policing violence in Scotland

A new HMICS review is to examine the policing of violence in Scotland.

The strategic review will look at the work being carried by Police Scotland to address, reduce and prevent violence.

It will assess areas including whether Police Scotland's work on violence addresses repeat perpetrators and repeat victims.

It will also consider whether effective early intervention and partnership approaches are in place to reduce violence.

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary in Scotland, Craig Naylor said: "Violence affects all sections of society and has long been an operational priority for Police Scotland.

"The current evidence shows a complex and changing picture of violence in Scotland.

"Whilst overall levels of violence remain below historical peaks, trends vary, and there have been recorded increases in several areas in recent years generating significant public and political concern.

"The overall aim of our strategic review will be to provide an assessment of how efficiently and effectively Police Scotland is policing violence, with an emphasis on work to reduce and prevent violence, including the public health approach."

The HMICS review, which is set to be published in Spring 2027, will provide assurance on whether Police Scotland has the right overarching framework, strategies and policies in place to respond effectively to violence.

Where appropriate, it will identify strengths and make recommendations for improvement.

Mr Naylor added: “If significant issues are identified in the course of this strategic review, we may subsequently undertake more directed scrutiny such as through thematic inspection of one or more areas of violence.”

HMICS have published the terms of reference for their ‘Strategic review of policing violence in Scotland’ on their website.

For details visit www.hmics.scot.

Ends

Notes

HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) is established under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and has wide ranging powers to look into the ‘state, effectiveness and efficiency’ of both the Police Service of Scotland (Police Scotland) and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA).

It has a statutory duty to inquire into the arrangements made by the Chief Constable and the SPA to meet their obligations in terms of best value and continuous improvement. If necessary, it can be directed by Scottish Ministers to look into anything relating to the SPA or Police Scotland as they consider appropriate. They also have an established role in providing professional advice and guidance on policing in Scotland.

Their approach is to support Police Scotland and the SPA to deliver services that are high quality, continually improving, effective and responsive to local needs.

Ends notes

NOTES TO EDITORS

The 'HMICS Strategic review of policing violence in Scotland - terms of reference' is available on the [HMICS website](#).

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