

Explanatory Note - 2017-18 Scrutiny Plan Revisions

The HM Inspectorate of Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) Annual Scrutiny Plan for 2017-18 was published in May 2017, setting out how we will meet our statutory purpose to inquire into the state, efficiency and effectiveness of both the Police Service of Scotland ('Police Scotland') and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). It was published in terms of Section 75 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and set out our scrutiny programme from April 2017 until March 2018.

In keeping with our statutory duty, we have kept this plan under review throughout the year in assessing and responding to competing scrutiny priorities. This has resulted in planned scrutiny activity being deferred and new priorities being identified. A summary of the revisions to the 2017-18 plan are set out below.

Deferred scrutiny activity

Cyber – baseline assessment

In our Annual Scrutiny Plan 2017-18 we had set out our intention to carry out a baseline assessment of cyber policing. This work would focus on how Police Scotland is responding to the needs of victims of cybercrime and consider the extent to which the digital technology aspects of crime and policing may require new approaches, resourcing and future investment.

Since that time, the Defence, Security & Cyber Resilience Division of the Scottish Government has prepared a paper for the National Cyber Resilience Leaders' Board (NCRLB) providing an overview of the aims and timescales of all cyber resilience and cybercrime projects that are complete, underway or planned, in order to ensure a clear understanding of any overlaps, gaps, and potential synergies and dependencies.

This work identified dependencies upon which HMICS will undertake a cyber baseline assessment. These are the Scottish Institute of Policing Research (SIPR) "Policing responses to cybercrime: an international evidence review and workshop", which is one of a cohort of projects for Scotland which are funded by the UK's National Cyber Security Strategy 2016-2021 Programme, and a review of cybercrime and its measuring and reporting in Scotland, being undertaken by Scottish Government Justice Analytical Services (JAS). The results of these research projects will inform the scope and direction of the HMICS cyber baseline assessment and form a key evidence source.

Scoping and Piloting Audit of Clear-up Data

The Scoping and Piloting Audit of Clear-up Data would assist HMICS in establishing what resources would be required to carry out a statistically significant, nationwide audit of clear-up data and whether such an audit would be useful, necessary and proportionate. Due to the capacity of our inspection team and our commitment to scrutinising other areas which are deemed to be higher risk and therefore more in need of independent scrutiny, we are now unable to undertake this exercise within the 2017-18 scrutiny year as planned.

HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary (HMCIC) wrote to the Scottish Crime Recording Board in November 2017 to inform them of this decision and, while this work may be included within our future scrutiny plans, suggested that the Board and/or the Scottish Government may wish to consider the possibility of commissioning an audit of clear-up data from another independent source.

Custody thematic

Through ongoing engagement with the Custody Division of Police Scotland we have agreed to defer a thematic inspection of police custody until the next scrutiny year. Instead we will carry out a series of visits to police custody centres across Scotland to identify good practice and areas of improvement. As a member of the UK National Preventive Mechanism,¹ this work contributes to the United Kingdom's response to its international obligations under the OPCAT.

Added scrutiny activity

Strategic Overview of Provision of Forensic Medical Services to Victims of Sexual Crime - Follow Up

In March 2017, HMICS published a Strategic Overview of the Provision of Forensic Medical Services to Victims of Sexual Crime. The aim of this report was to provide a strategic overview of services provided to adult and child victims of sexual crime, and to give a high-level assessment of these services in terms of their current delivery against national policies and standards. It highlighted strategic issues for consideration by key stakeholders, and was intended to inform future scrutiny of this area.

The Chief Medical Officer for Scotland was asked by the Cabinet Secretary for Health and Sport, Shona Robison MSP and the Cabinet Secretary for Justice, Michael Matheson MSP, to chair a new Taskforce to provide the leadership for the improvement of services to children and adults who have experienced rape and sexual assault. One of the drivers for this Taskforce was the HMICS report. The Taskforce has met several times since its inception and in October 2017 published a high level work plan for the next five years.

HMICS will revisit the findings of its strategic overview one year on from the report, namely March 2018. This work will be carried out by an HMICS associate inspector and is likely to include updates on progress against each of the ten recommendations. Every effort will be made to ensure that this review does not divert energy away from achieving the aims of the Taskforce's work plan.

Quarterly review of C3 recommendation 29

A key issue identified through the follow up of the 2015 HMICS Independent Assurance Review of Police Scotland's Call Handling, is the relationship between Contact, Command and Control (C3) and local policing, in particular the Emergency Events Resilience Planning (EERP) teams. Local Policing own the plans and C3 have the responsibility to ensure they are accessible and are effectively co-ordinated when required. A process of review, data management, testing and approval needs to be established between the EERP teams and C3. A series of health checks will be carried out by an HMICS Associate Inspector on a quarterly basis to monitor progress in this area.

Adult Support & Protection

In September 2017, HMICS and The Care Inspectorate published a joint statement announcing the intention to inspect adult support and protection services in a number of partnership areas across Scotland. This work, which includes the involvement of Healthcare Improvement Scotland, is the first time any of the Scottish scrutiny bodies have scrutinised adult support and protection. The adult protection partnerships selected for scrutiny reflect the diverse geography and demography of Scotland are East Dunbartonshire, North Ayrshire, Aberdeenshire, Highland, Dundee and Midlothian.

Scrutiny will focus on outcomes for adults at risk of harm, the partnership's actions to make sure adults at risk of harm are safe, protected, supported, involved, and consulted, as well as leadership for adult support and protection. A report of our findings will be published in early in 2018.

¹ <https://www.nationalpreventivemechanism.org.uk/>



Biometric & Facial Search

In January 2016, HMICS produced an audit and assurance review of the use of the facial search functionality within the UK Police National Database by Police Scotland. An independent advisory group has now been established to take forward the recommendations of that report. HMICS is providing support to this group in the form of an associate inspector with a detailed understanding of the issues relating to the use of biometric data in Scotland. The associate inspector will conduct desktop research, manage stakeholder engagements, and attend meetings of the independent advisory group. The associate will also carry out comparative analysis and potentially draft a sample code of practice for the use of biometric data in Scotland.

Police Scotland Strategic Engagement

It is important that we at HMICS maintain a good understanding of issues affecting policing in order that our scrutiny activity is focused on the right issues in the right areas. We are committed to an improvement agenda, and our inspections aim to help Police Scotland improve the service it delivers to the public. Our priorities are constantly under review, however we are currently considering the remainder of this year as well as looking ahead to our scrutiny plan for 2018-19.

As such, we have embarked on an engagement phase, which will run from November 2017 until January 2018 to achieve an enhanced situational assessment before making decisions about future formal inspections. This will involve one-to-one meetings with key post holders, as well as observation of national, regional and local meetings.

Quarterly recommendations review

It is important that HMICS ensures that our work adds value and assists in driving improvement. Working closely with Police Scotland and the SPA, we have developed a new process for the monitoring and management of HMICS recommendations. This new process provides Police Scotland and the SPA with the ability to submit updates on an ongoing and dynamic basis and affords HMICS the ability to assess the progress made by Police Scotland and the SPA against the recommendations and improvement actions identified from our previous scrutiny activity. It will also provide a means for identifying whether any follow-up inspection may be required to address any residual risk.