



Dan Price
Cheshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner

Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner's response to His Majesty's Inspectorate of Police and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Inspections

Title of inspection: An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024
Tranche 2

Published on: 7th May 2025

Inspection types: Thematic Inspection

Recommendations: National

Report summary

Following the tragic murder of three girls in Southport in July 2024, widespread unrest erupted across the UK. This report (Tranche 2) evaluates the police response, focusing on intelligence use, online content management, and crime investigations. It found that police intelligence systems were fragmented and failed to anticipate the scale of disorder. Forces lacked cohesive strategies to monitor and act on community tensions and online threats. Social media misinformation significantly fueled unrest, yet police capabilities to counter harmful content were limited. Investigations were generally swift and effective, with over 1,800 arrests and 1,071 charges by January 2025, but some forces were overwhelmed, affecting other policing duties. The report highlights the need for better national coordination, improved intelligence classification, enhanced online monitoring, and structured investigative support. It criticizes delays in learning lessons and urges immediate reforms, including updating the Strategic Policing Requirement and strengthening partnerships with online platforms and government bodies to manage digital threats in real time.



Recommendations from Inspectors and Constabulary response

| Recommendation |
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| <p>Recommendation 1</p> <p>With immediate effect, the National Police Chiefs' Council and chief constables should create a plan and begin work to improve how the police service collects, analyses and communicates intelligence about disorder.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 2</p> <p>With immediate effect, the National Police Chiefs' Council and chief constables, working with the Home Office, should create a plan and begin work to better understand and respond to the risk associated with online content.</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 3</p> <p>With immediate effect, the National Police Chiefs' Council and chief constables, working with the College of Policing, should create a plan and begin work to improve how the police service investigates offences associated with large-scale disorder.</p> |
| <p>Constabulary response:</p> <p>The constabulary is cooperating with the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC), The College of Policing and The Home Office to ensure that we comply with the report recommendations relating to collecting, analysing and communicating intelligence about disorder and improving how the police service investigates offences associated with large-scale disorder.</p> <p>In more general terms, the constabulary undertakes an annual review of its ability to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR), including large scale public order events. We will include an assessment against these recommendation in that annual review process.</p> <p>In relation to the recommendation about responding to the risk associated with online content, we note the comments in the statement issued by the NPCC to coincide with the publication of the report and reiterate the point therein about the critical responsibility of platform providers and regulators in this regard.</p> |



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Commissioner's Response:

I've read the latest HMICFRS report on how police forces across the country responded to last summer's public disorder, and I want to share a few thoughts with our communities here in Cheshire.

First off, I want to say a huge thank you to our officers and staff who stepped up during an incredibly tough time. The report rightly praises the courage and commitment shown by police across the country—and I'm proud to say Cheshire was no exception.

That said, the report also makes it clear that there are lessons to be learned—especially when it comes to how we handle fast-moving online threats. Social media played a big role in how the unrest spread, and the police nationally weren't fully prepared for the speed and scale of it. That's something we need to fix, and fast.

I'm also disappointed, like many others, that there still hasn't been a proper national debrief. Nine months on, we should be further along in understanding what went wrong and how we can do better next time. I'll be pushing for that to happen, and I'll make sure Cheshire's voice is heard loud and clear.

The report calls for better intelligence sharing, stronger investigations, and a smarter approach to online risks. I fully support those recommendations, and I'll be working closely with the Chief Constable to make sure we're ahead of the curve here in Cheshire.

But let's not forget—good policing starts with strong relationships in our communities. That's why I'll keep backing neighbourhood policing, making sure our officers are visible, trusted, and connected to the people they serve.

This report is a wake-up call, but it's also a chance to get things right. I'm committed to making sure Cheshire is ready for whatever comes next—and that we keep building a police service that's fair, effective, and rooted in our local values



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