



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

**Title of inspection:** Improving the response to organised immigration crime

**Published on:** 16<sup>th</sup> May 2025

**Inspection types:** Thematic

**Recommendations:** National

**Cheshire Specific:** No

### **Report summary**

The report, commissioned by the UK Home Secretary in January 2024, evaluates how effectively police forces and the National Crime Agency (NCA) tackle organised immigration crime (OIC). It finds that while progress has been made - particularly since the NCA began directing police responses in 2021 - significant gaps remain. Many police forces still deprioritise OIC, lack intelligence collection plans, and fail to investigate known organised crime groups (OCGs). Intelligence gathering from migrants is inconsistent, and agencies struggle to share data due to incompatible IT systems.

The report highlights the need for better migrant debriefing, legal powers to examine electronic devices, and improved use of the Police National Database. It also notes that most OCGs involved in OIC are not actively investigated, and proactive policing is rare. Training for frontline and specialist personnel is uneven, and uptake of available e-learning is low. The report makes 10 recommendations, including clarifying agency roles, enhancing intelligence processes, mandating training, and expanding peer reviews to all relevant agencies. The creation of the Border Security Command is seen as a positive step, but its role must be clearly defined. According to the authors of the report, implementing these recommendations is essential to reduce OIC and save lives.



## Recommendations from Inspectors and Constabulary response

Recommendation	Constabulary response
<p><b>Recommendation 2</b></p> <p>By 30 April 2026, chief constables should make sure that every time a member of their force reports a case to Immigration Enforcement's National Command and Control Unit, the reporting officer completes and submits the required intelligence document.</p>	<p>Within the Constabulary work in this area is co-ordinated through the Force's Foreign National Offender Team. Work has been undertaken across the Force to develop officer understanding of the requirements including through joint training with Immigration Enforcement Teams. Work is continuing to ensure that compliance with the requirements can be monitored.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 4</b></p> <p>By 31 December 2025, chief constables should make sure they have clear plans to collect, analyse and share information related to organised immigration crime.</p>	<p>This has already been an area of priority for the Constabulary with improved arrangements introduced to encourage and monitor intelligence in relation to organised immigration crime. The Force's Foreign National Offender Team are also able to pro-actively scan for information that has not been already been identified as being related to organised immigration crime.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 8</b></p> <p>By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery &amp; Organised Immigration Crime Unit, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the Hydra training package on organised immigration crime.</p>	<p>Over the last year a variety of training has been undertaken in relation to Organised Immigration Crime including the use of Hydra training. Work is ongoing to identify further training requirements with delivery of the Hydra training being co-ordinated on a regional basis.</p>
<p><b>Recommendation 9</b></p> <p>By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery &amp; Organised Immigration</p>	<p>Work is ongoing to identify the extent of compliance with the training</p>



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Crime Unit and the College of Policing, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the four modules of the organised immigration crime e-learning package.

package in Cheshire and to ensure that all relevant officers have completed it.





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### **Commissioner's Response:**

I welcome the HMICFRS report published in May 2025, which provides a clear and honest assessment of how police forces and the National Crime Agency are tackling organised immigration crime (OIC). The findings are a wake-up call—not just nationally, but for all of us involved in keeping our communities safe.

Organised immigration crime is not just about illegal entry—it's about exploitation, trafficking, and serious harm to vulnerable people. The report highlights that while there's been progress, particularly since the NCA took on a more active role in 2021, too many organised crime groups involved in OIC are still not being properly investigated.

I continue to work closely with the Chief Constable on this matter and fully recognise the significant challenges involved. I remain committed to championing this issue at the highest level, reinforcing its importance, and advancing the locally developed solutions we've been working on. In Cheshire, we have already initiated multi-agency discussions aimed at identifying sustainable, long-term responses. Additionally, my office is actively exploring projects designed to strengthen community cohesion and support lasting positive change

The 10 recommendations in this report give us a clear path forward. I'll be holding Cheshire Constabulary to account to make sure we're playing our full part in delivering them—because getting this right isn't just about enforcement, it's about saving lives.



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