



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: PEEL Spotlight: How effectively do the police record crime

Published on: 28th August 2025

Inspection types: Thematic

Recommendations: National

Report summary

The PEEL spotlight report titled "*How effectively do the police record crime?*" (published August 2025) by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) evaluates the accuracy and integrity of crime recording across police forces in England and Wales. Drawing on findings from both the Crime Data Integrity (CDI) inspections (2016–2020) and the broader PEEL inspection programme, the report highlights significant improvements in crime recording practices. The proportion of recorded crimes rose from 80.5% in 2014 to 94.8% in 2025, reflecting better adherence to national standards and more consistent support for victims. However, despite progress, an estimated 285,000 crimes still went unrecorded in 2025, underscoring persistent gaps in data integrity.

The report emphasizes the importance of accurate crime recording for ensuring victims receive appropriate support, enabling the public to understand crime trends, and helping police forces allocate resources effectively. It identifies common challenges such as inconsistent application of recording rules, lack of supervision, and insufficient training. HMICFRS calls for continued efforts to improve data quality, including better oversight, clearer guidance, and stronger accountability mechanisms. The report concludes that while strides have been made, further work is needed to ensure all crimes are properly recorded and victims are not overlooked.



Recommendations from Inspectors and Constabulary response

Recommendation	Constabulary Initial Response
<p>Recommendation 1 - Recording Violent Crime</p> <p>Forces need to improve their recording of all violent crime, in particular conduct crimes such as harassment, stalking and controlling or coercive behaviour and less serious assaults.</p>	<p>The constabulary will monitor compliance with this recommendation through bespoke violent crime and conduct crime audits which have been included in the Force Crime Registrar's annual audit plan. We have bolstered our governance arrangements and the FCR ensures that audit findings are reported to and dealt with via the correct board.</p>
<p>Recommendation 2 - Recording Crimes Related to Domestic Abuse</p> <p>Forces should make sure they quickly and correctly record crimes related to domestic abuse.</p>	<p>This is a key priority for the force. As above, the Force Crime Registrar oversees regular auditing of domestic abuse crimes to ensure that crimes are recorded quickly and accurately.</p>
<p>Recommendation 3 - Training</p> <p>Forces need to make sure all officers and staff involved in crime recording are appropriately trained and understand their role in recording crime. They should also make sure there is effective oversight and scrutiny of crime-recording decisions and accuracy.</p>	<p>The Force Crime Registrar, in conjunction with the Learning and Development department, has completed training needs analysis and has established a training plan to ensure that officers and staff understand their role in crime recording. The Constabulary have bolstered its governance arrangements to ensure that there is oversight and scrutiny of the accuracy of our crime recording decision making. This includes monthly updates at the Force Performance Day meeting chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable as well as a bespoke monthly crime recording meeting.</p>



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Commissioner's Response:

The findings of HMICFRS's spotlight report on crime recording are both encouraging and a timely reminder of the importance of accuracy and integrity in policing. I welcome the significant improvements nationally in crime recording, which reflect a growing commitment to transparency and victim support. However, the fact that nearly 285,000 crimes still went unrecorded last year is a stark reminder that there is more to do. Every unrecorded crime represents a missed opportunity to support a victim and to understand the true picture of crime in our communities.

In Cheshire, we are committed to ensuring that every victim is heard and every crime is properly recorded. This aligns directly with my Police and Crime Plan, which prioritises listening to victims, and improving public confidence, and ensuring accountability across our police service. I will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable to ensure that Cheshire Constabulary builds on national progress and leads the way in delivering accurate, ethical, and victim-centred crime recording practices.

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Cheshire Police and Crime Commissioner

