

**The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) - Building the Picture: An Inspection of Police Information Management (July 2015).**

On 12 March 2013, HMIC published the findings of a review into how the Metropolitan Police Service, Surrey Police and Sussex Police dealt with the information and allegations which they received between 1964 and 2008 regarding the criminal sexual conduct of the late Jimmy Savile.

This review considered the way in which these forces applied the Code of Practice on the Management of Police Information 2005, the APP on information management<sup>1</sup> and the former editions of the national guidance in dealing with the information and allegations. It also examined the extent to which those forces made effective use of the Police National Database to aggregate discrete pieces of information (from within and across forces) and so build a picture of the extent and nature of the alleged offending.

HMIC concluded that mistakes had been made in the handling of information and allegations and stated that "we were sufficiently concerned about information management to conduct a further review in this area". This inspection fulfils this commitment and answers the question: "could the same mistakes be made again"?

HMIC argue that compliance with the APP and Code of Practice are crucial to safeguarding and quote Baroness Hale's main theme of her report:

*"We do not need any reminding, since the murder of two little girls by a school caretaker in Soham and the recommendations of the report of the Bichard Inquiry which followed (2004) (HC 653), of the crucial role which piecing together different items of police intelligence can play in preventing as well as detecting crime."*

To check whether the same mistakes could be made again, HMIC analysed the results of a self-assessment survey of information management practices which was completed by all 43

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<sup>1</sup> Authorised Professional Practice (APP) on information management, College of Policing, 2013. Available from [www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/information-management/management-of-police-information/](http://www.app.college.police.uk/app-content/information-management/management-of-police-information/) This is the body of guidance published by the College of Policing to provide the police service in England and Wales with policy and procedures to follow.

forces in England and Wales in 2013 (to give an indication of the national picture), and conducted three days of fieldwork in each of 13 forces **(including Nottinghamshire between the 23 and 25 June 2014)**.

Issues were identified in most of the 13 Forces inspected in respect of lack of compliance with the APP on information management. As a result of their findings, HMIC has made ten recommendations (for the Home Office; the national lead for information management business area; Chief Constables and the College of Policing).

I am aware of the concerns of the Home Secretary who wrote to Mike Barton the Chief Constable of Durham Constabulary, in his capacity as Chairman of the Information Management Committee having received a copy of the letter (sent to all Chief Constables and Police and Crime Commissioner's). I do share the Home Secretary's view that forces must take these requirements seriously, and have adequate procedures in place to meet them. Policing must ensure that information is properly managed and joined-up wherever possible. However, it's equally important to get it right first time.

In this respect, I am also aware that Chief Constable Mike Barton has responded to the Home Secretary's letter to provide assurance of what action is being taken. For example, I understand that a 10 point Action Plan has been developed to address the HMIC recommendations led by Chief Superintendent Neil Jerome of Kent Police (a newly appointed national MOPI lead). A meeting was held in August 2015 and a further meeting is to be held this month (September 2015) to advance the recommendations.

Chief Constable Mike Barton has also written to all Chief Constables advising them on what action is being taken. His view is that the Management of Police Information (MoPI) has been implemented sporadically and this has in part led to the frustrations of the Home Office and the HMIC. He assures us that appropriate guidance and a detailed national plan will be developed to support work undertaken in-force.

I am satisfied that the Force decision to follow the national lead is the right one. All HMIC recommendations are reported on and scrutinised by members of my Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel. These specific recommendations will be scrutinised on 24<sup>th</sup> September 2015.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Paddy Tipping'.

Paddy Tipping  
Police and Crime Commissioner