

**The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMICFRS) - Cyber: Keep the light on - An inspection of the police response to cyber-dependent crime (October 2019).**

[The report can be found here](#)

Between April and June 2019 Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) assessed the effectiveness and efficiency of the police response to cyber-dependent crime inspecting 10 Police forces in addition to 3 law enforcement agencies and 9 regional organised crime units (including the East Midlands Special Operations Unit). Nottinghamshire Police Force was not inspected. HMICFRS assessed whether:

- Law enforcement has a well-designed strategy for tackling cyber-dependent crime;
- Organisational structures provide the necessary capacity, capabilities and partnerships;
- Victims of cyber-dependent crime receive a high-quality response; and
- Staff at local and national levels are provided with appropriate learning opportunities to deal with cyber-dependent crime.

On 24<sup>th</sup> October 2019 HMICFRS published its findings concluding that Police forces and the National Crime Agency are generally effective at tackling cyber-dependent crime, identifying several areas of positive practice, including:

- Efficient working arrangements between law enforcement agencies;
- A well-established national strategy for dealing with the threat from cyber-dependent crime;
- Early identification and response to emerging threats;
- The implementation of minimum standards and recognised performance indicators; and
- The development of local cyber-dependent crime teams.

However, HMICFRS make the point that there are too many local variations in the response to a national threat warning that many of the achievements made are undermined by inconsistencies in the response provided at a local level by forces. Specific issues included:

- Concerns around the financial sustainability of capability and capacity at all levels
- Limited understanding of demand at a local level; and
- Some forces not fully complying with initiatives to coordinate resources

I concur with HMICFRS's assessment that there are few aspects of everyday life that have not been affected by the development of digital technology. It has transformed how we spend our leisure time, socialise with family and friends, and go about our daily lives. Very few businesses, from large multinational organisations to small cottage industries, would be able to function without it.

For this reason I set the Chief Constable a strategic activity in my Police and Crime Delivery Plan (2019-20) to *'Support ongoing development of the Nottinghamshire Cybercrime Strategy and continue to develop the specialist skills and capabilities required to counter this threat'*.

In response, the Chief Constable has established a Cybercrime team which continues to develop through attendance on specialist courses coordinated by the region and regularly access Immersive Labs, the online skills learning platform. In addition, the Cyber Pursue Officers have been awarded Associate Membership of the Institute of Cyber Digital Investigation Portfolios, and other officers from within the Economic and Cyber Crime Unit have attained this status and others are working towards accreditation.

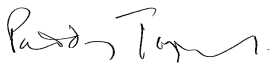
These officers are similarly taking advantage of the benefits of accessing immersive Labs (cyber skill experts) and providing greater resilience in countering this threat.

Furthermore, the Chief Constable has established a dedicated resource within the ROCU structure to tackle higher level cyber threats.

HMICFRS did not make any specific recommendations for Chief Constables although it identified an area for improvement for all Chief Constables to consider.

The Force will continue to use its dedicated 4ACTION database for tracking and responding to the area for improvement made by HMICFRS and this will be overseen by the Deputy Chief Constable. The Force also provides regular HMICFRS update reports to my Joint Audit and Scrutiny Panel (JASP) who provide additional scrutiny in these important areas.

Yours sincerely

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

Paddy Tipping  
Police and Crime Commissioner