

The Nottinghamshire Police and Crime Commissioner's response to the publication of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) - Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) - A review of capability and effectiveness– (Dec 2015).

[The report can be found here](#)

On 1st December 2015, HMIC published the findings of an inspection which examined the capabilities and effectiveness of ROCUs in tackling serious and organised crime. It was intended that findings would contribute towards an important debate about the way in which policing capabilities can best be provided.

In addition, this inspection formed part of HMIC's police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection programme, an annual assessment of how efficiently, effectively, and legitimately police forces serve the public. In 2015/16, the Effectiveness inspection programme includes for the first time an assessment of how effectively police forces tackle serious and organised crime. Many of the specialist functions used to respond to serious and organised crime are provided by regional organised crime units (ROCU) on behalf of police forces. For this reason, HMIC inspected all ten ROCUs in spring 2015, focusing on the capabilities which they provide to their constituent forces, and the effectiveness of those capabilities

ROCU investigate and disrupt organised crime groups operating across police force boundaries, and some provide support to investigations into other types of crime such as homicide and kidnap. ROCU also act as an important point of connection between police forces and the National Crime Agency (NCA). By their nature, many ROCU activities are not carried out in the public eye; they conduct sensitive and sometimes covert operations. Yet their work plays a vital part in protecting the public from serious and organised crime.

ROCU are required to implement as a minimum 13 specialist capabilities by 2013-14 (Phase Two) defined within the HMIC report (Annex A).

Nottinghamshire Police forms part of the East Midlands Special Operations Unit (EMSOU)


I am very pleased to hear that HMIC considers (EMSOU) to be the most advanced and well-established of the ROCUs inspected and that EMSOU is an ambitious model of cross-force collaboration, which means that its constituent forces and regional communities can benefit

from effective and efficient specialist policing services. Furthermore that HMIC considers EMSOU and the South East ROCU (SEROCU) to be the only ROCUs which provide all of the 13 ROCU capabilities to all of their constituent forces quote:

“As well as tackling serious and organised crime, EMSOU also investigates all major crimes which occur in the East Midlands region, such as murder and kidnap. Its size and remit are therefore much larger than any of the other ROCUs, and the EMSOU model is one which other regions can emulate.” (Page 16)

I am aware that there are a further six capabilities to be developed in the future (making 19 in total) and I have every confidence in Deputy Chief Constable Peter Goodman (National ROCU Programme Director) and EMSOU in continuing to deliver best practice nationally.

Yours sincerely



Paddy Tipping
Police and Crime Commissioner