

Report to: Audit Committee
Agenda item: 10
Date: 03 June 2015
Subject: HMIC liaison & proposed future inspection
programme
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For: Information and approval

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1. Purpose of paper

- 1.1 To update the Committee on recent discussions with Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) regarding inspection activities for the remainder of 2015/16 and the costs of these inspections.
- 1.2 To invite Members to review, discuss and, as appropriate, support the recommendations emerging set out in section 4 below.

2. Background

- 2.1 HMIC's relationship with British Transport Police Authority (BTPA) and British Transport Police (BTP) is established by section 63 the Railways and Transport Safety Act 2003. The Act identifies HMIC's statutory position as the inspectorate for the Force but does not prescribe the matters on which, nor the frequency with which HMIC, should inspect BTP.
- 2.2 A structured process for agreeing an annual inspection plan was first developed by BTP and BTPA in partnership with HMIC in 2011/12 and this has been revisited annually to enable the Authority identify and formalise costs and seek support from the BTP Chief Officer Group about the prioritisation and sequencing of any proposed inspection activities.
- 2.3 The remainder of this paper sets out the inspection proposals for 2015/16 and captures the recommendations emerging from a series of internal discussions. Members should note that owing to late engagement with HMIC these proposals have not been formally reviewed with the Chief Officer Group but are offered here for early consideration.

3. Inspection costs

- 3.1 A £60k (net) provision for HMIC inspection costs has been made in the Authority budget for 2015/16 and this figure has been communicated to HMIC. This arrangement helps to provide certainty for BTPA around expected costs and will allow us to track the value being delivered. Subject to the agreement of the recommendations at section 5 we will reconvene with HMIC to understand how much of the intended inspection activity can be accommodated within this budget. Costs of individual inspections will vary dependent on the scale of 'in-force' and 'desk-top analytical' activity and the degree to which an inspection has to be 'bespoked' for BTP's purposes.
- 3.2 Once we have agreed with HMIC the activity to be delivered within our budget, if all agreed inspection activity is not delivered the fee will be reduced accordingly and if additional work is required in year this can be commissioned in partnership with HMIC and a cost for each activity calculated. Wherever possible, HMIC helps us to identify ways in which we can engage in the inspection process which minimises additional costs of 'bespoking' inspection activity but which enables us to explore the issues which are most relevant to us.

4. Inspection proposals 2015/16

- 4.1 Following the publication of HMIC's business plan¹ in April 2015, BTP's new HMIC Liaison Officer has been in contact to ascertain whether we would want BTP to participate in a number of the inspections proposed for 2015/16. Following a review of the high level description of the likely scope and purpose of each of a number of inspections, the following topics were identified as of particular interest to the Force and Authority be this in terms of providing assurance around critical compliance matters or providing evidence of specific work which supports delivery of one of our strategic objectives - in particular improving confidence. Those which are recommended for the coming year are emboldened in Table 1 overleaf.
- 4.2 HMIC has also expressed an interest in developing a 'slimmed down' version of the PEEL² inspection and is seeking a host force with which it can develop and pilot such a framework. HMIC would welcome an opportunity to explore this opportunity with BTPA and BTP; this would involve an initial discussion about their emerging thinking but would not constitute a commitment of any kind that we would be the focus of the pilot.

¹ HMIC (2015) Business Plan 2015/16 <https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/hmic-inspection-programme-2015-16.pdf>

² Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy

Not protectively marked

Not protectively marked

Table 1 – Summary of HMIC Inspections 2015/16

Inspection Title	Description	Comments/ recommendations
HMIC led		
PEEL (part)	<p>PEEL is the programme in which HMIC draws together evidence from its annual all-force inspections (which began in 2014/15). The PEEL 2015/16 assessments is again structured around the three themes of effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy:</p> <p>The Effectiveness Inspection is a broad inspection covering much of operational policing. The headline question is ‘How effective is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime?’ The inspection will assess the principal components of operational policing and has four core questions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How effective is the force at preventing crime, anti-social behaviour and keeping people safe? (crime prevention) • How effective is the force at investigating crime and managing offenders? (crime investigation) • How effective is the force at protecting those who are vulnerable from harm and supporting victims? (vulnerability – see below) • How effective is the force at tackling serious and organised crime, and how effective are its arrangements for meeting its national policing responsibilities? (serious and organised – will need to be ‘BTP focused’) <p>Vulnerability: The inspection will cover the broad range of vulnerability, but it will have a specific focus on three areas this year:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Missing and absent children: this aspect of the 	<p>Full engagement in PEEL is not recommended by HMIC at this stage though partial engagement via the effectiveness strand to be completed in September 2015 would be supported.</p> <p>HMIC has committed to provide further details of the effectiveness strand to the Authority in order to inform our decision</p> <p>Provides evidence of the effectiveness of BTP’s activities in relation to strategic objectives to reduce crime and increase confidence but which also contribute to reducing disruption.</p> <p>Recommended subject to further details from HMIC.</p> <p>Relevant to Transport Committee’s inquiry into security on the railway and the recommendations arising around</p>

Inspection Title	Description	Comments/ recommendations
	<p>inspection will also provide the evidence base for a thematic report which is due for publication in the autumn, and which has been commissioned by the Home Secretary.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Domestic abuse: we will follow up on our domestic abuse inspection from March 2014 and assess progress made since then. • Child sexual exploitation: we will undertake an initial assessment of the forces' readiness to tackle CSE. 	<p>runaway children and care of vulnerable children on the railway.</p> <p>Also provides evidence relevant to the strategic objectives to reduce crime and increase confidence.</p> <p>Recommended subject to further details from HMIC.</p>
Digital crime & policing (cyber-crime)	This partial inspection is focused on the service's response to individual (rather than business) victims of cyber-crime and their journey through the criminal justice service. This inspection has been completed in 4 forces and recommendations for the police service will emerge in the final report	BTP/A to review the final report and consider the relevance of recommendations
Child protection	A joint inspection of multiagency child protection arrangements at a local level (e.g. MARACs ³ and MASHs ⁴) so not directly relevant to BTP's functions but could form an element of inspections of other forces.	Suggest the final report is reviewed and lessons learned identified for BTP – engagement with BTP could be explored
So called honour-based violence		Suggest the final report is reviewed and lessons learned identified for BTP

3 Multi-Agency-Risk-Assessment-Conferences

4 Multi-Agency Safeguarding Hub

Inspection Title	Description	Comments/ recommendations
Firearms licensing (issuing of licenses)	This concerns the issuing of firearms licenses to members of the public – not a function fulfilled by BTP	N/A
Police national computer – use by non-police organisations	N/A	N/A
Police National Database audit		Recommended
Joint inspections led by HMIC		
Local criminal justice partnerships	A joint inspection of multiagency arrangements at a local level so not directly relevant to BTP's functions but could form an element of inspections of other forces.	Suggest the final report is reviewed and lessons learned identified for BTP
Identifying vulnerability in police prosecution case files	Inspection complete – looked at systems for identifying vulnerable persons within the files prepared for the criminal justice system	Suggest the final report is reviewed and lessons learned identified for BTP
Joint inspections HMIC will contribute to		
Digitisation in the criminal justice system	Focus is on CPS rather than forces.	Suggest the final report is reviewed and any lessons learned identified for BTP
Rolling national programme of joint inspections, with HMI Prisons of police custody facilities	BTP took part in this inspection in 2014.	Suggest the final report is reviewed and any lessons learned identified for BTP
Disclosure of unused material in criminal cases	N/A	N/A
Effectiveness of criminal justice agencies in dealing with foreign nationals	N/A	Suggest the final report is reviewed and any lessons learned identified for BTP
Composite report on the quality of victims' services	N/A	Suggest the final report is reviewed and any lessons learned identified for BTP
Targeted joint inspections of child	N/A	N/A

Inspection Title	Description	Comments/ recommendations
protection led by Ofsted to evaluate how local agencies work together to protect children focusing on specific areas of concern such as sexual exploitation of children and young people		

5. Recommendations

- 5.1 That Members review, discuss and confirm their support for the the proposals for an annual programme of inspections of BTP by HMIC as set out in section 4 above.
- 5.2 That, subject to the discussion in this meeting, any further work is done out of committee to refine and finalise the plan with the Chief Officer Group. The final plan will be reported to the Committee at its next meeting.