



**To:** Business Coordination Board

**From:** Chief Constable

**Date:** 25 February 2016

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY – 'REGIONAL ORGANISED CRIME UNITS  
– A REVIEW OF CAPABILITY AND EFFECTIVENESS' REPORT**

**1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this paper is to update the Business Coordination Board ("the Board") with the findings of Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC) Report 'Regional Organised Crime Units – A Review of Capability and Effectiveness'. This report will enable the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Commissioner") to fulfil his statutory duty under Section 55 of the Police Act 1996 to comment on the HMIC report and send published comments to the Home Secretary, with a copy to HMIC.

**2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

**3. Background**

3.1 There are ten Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) set up across England and Wales to provide 13 specialist policing capabilities, including undercover policing, and cyber-crime investigation, to help police forces tackle serious and organised crime effectively.

3.2 The Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU) (the Regional Organised Crime Unit for this region) provides support to Cambridgeshire Constabulary, and in return, is provided with resources by the Constabulary.

- 3.3 HMIC undertook their inspection of Regional Organised Crime Units across England and Wales between April and June 2015, and HMIC's report 'Regional Organised Crime Units – A Review of Capability and Effectiveness' was published on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2015.
- 3.4 The inspection formed part of HMIC's Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) annual inspections and the evidence collected has informed the Effectiveness inspection, the results of which will be published in February 2016.

#### **4. Inspection Findings**

- 4.1 HMIC's inspection found that ROCUs have evolved in a piecemeal way and continue to develop inconsistently and range from highly ambitious and effective cross-force collaborative units to smaller and less effective units. This inconsistency can compromise effectiveness or duplicate capabilities unnecessarily. As a result, opportunities to build and strengthen a consistent national approach to tackling serious and organised crime are being missed.
- 4.2 Additionally the HMIC inspection found:
- Some ROCUs have not yet implemented all of the 13 specialist capabilities which are the minimum expectation;
  - Some forces have been slow or unwilling to commit fully to the regional provision of specialist capabilities, especially in undercover policing and specialist surveillance;
  - ROCUs need to be more fully integrated with the National Crime Agency (NCA) and the national counter-terrorist policing network; and
  - Whilst ROCUs have a good level of intelligence capability, their capability around new and emerging threats such as child sexual exploitation, cyber-crime, modern slavery and human trafficking is still incomplete
- 4.3 HMIC did comment that it was notable that "the staff and detectives in ROCUs are capable and motivated and generally conduct high quality investigations. Whilst much of their work necessarily takes place outside of public scrutiny, they are beginning to communicate with the public, notably through social media, and this has enabled them to publicise successful operations and offer advice on how best individuals or companies can protect themselves from serious and organised crime."

#### **5. HMIC Recommendations**

- 5.1 HMIC makes 11 recommendations for ROCUs, as well as police forces, the NCA and the Home Office, focused on increasing consistency and exploiting capabilities.
- 5.2 The one force level recommendation in the report is that:
- By 30 June 2016, every police force in England and Wales should publish an action plan that sets out in detail what steps it will take to make maximum use of the ROCU capabilities, minimise duplication at force level, and ensure that the use of shared ROCU resources are prioritised between regional forces. This action plan should be developed:

- in consultation with police and crime commissioners, ROCUs and the ROCU executive board;
- with regard to both local force priorities (in particular, as specified in the relevant police and crime plan) and NCA priorities; and
- with regard to the other recommendations contained in this report.

## 6. Response to the HMIC Report

- 6.1 The report, and the force level recommendation within the report, has been noted by the Constabulary.
- 6.2 An action plan in line with the HMIC recommendation will be progressed by the Constabulary through the Head of the Central Intelligence Bureau, and developed in consultation with the Police and Crime Commissioner and ERSOU.

## 7. Recommendation

- 7.1 The Board is invited to note the contents of the report.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

<b>Source Document</b>	HMIC Report ' <i>Regional Organised Crime Units – A Review of Capability and Effectiveness</i> ' <a href="https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/regional-organised-crime-units.pdf">https://www.justiceinspectrates.gov.uk/hmic/wp-content/uploads/regional-organised-crime-units.pdf</a>
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