

**OPCC**Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire**AUTHOR:**
Andy Christopher**SPONSOR:****SUBMITTED TO:** Joint Independent Audit Committee – **DATE:** 11th June 2026**SUBJECT:** Inspections Update**PURPOSE OF REPORT:** To outline progress in relation to inspections and expected upcoming work.**RECOMMENDATION:**

That the Committee note the update.

Updates

HMICFRS PEEL 25/27

- The final 2 week evidence gathering period has now concluded.
- Dates of note are:
 - 06/07/26 – hot debrief and workforce survey shared with Force
 - 03/08/26 - target date for report to be shared, for pre-publication checks
 - 14/09/26 – target date for publication
- PEEL Assessment Framework (PAF) can be found here - [PEEL assessment framework \(PAF\) 2025–2027 - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#)

Policing Performance System (Tiering)

- Decision made based on current Inspection findings and analysis of performance data from the new Police Performance Framework
- HMCI has ultimate responsibility for force levels. Level 1 & 2 delegated to regional HMI
- All forces will have access to the Support Toolkit, which contains a range of self-access resources and allows forces to make requests for more bespoke forms of support
- Forces in Tiers 3 & 4 will be required to create a Performance Improvement Plan (PIP)
- There will be a statutory requirement to conform to recommendations
- Cause of Concern from PEEL will likely result in tier movement, as will enduring AFI
- Current outstanding recommendations etc will also be considered
- Forces notified during July 2026

New Reports

PEEL Spotlight: The policing response to the investigation of online child sexual abuse and the management of registered sex offenders. (Published on 15/04/26) (FMS Section 6)

<https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/policing-online-child-sexual-abuse-and-managing-registered-sex-offenders/>

The main themes are as follows:

Overall judgement

- Policing response is falling short of what the public and children should expect; forces cannot meet demand with current resources.

Scale of the challenge

- Online child sexual abuse referrals to police rose 66% in one year (2023–24).
- Registered sex offenders up 48% over the past decade.

Operational pressures

- Investigators carrying unsustainable caseloads (often 30–54 active cases).
- Digital forensics delays of up to 2 years, leaving children at risk.

Safeguarding concerns

- Children wait too long to be safeguarded during investigations.

- Over-reliance on voluntary interviews means suspects may continue offending without bail conditions.

Capability gaps

- No nationally accredited training or College of Policing APP for online CSA investigators.
- Inconsistent technology, with some forces lacking basic digital triage tools.

Offender management weaknesses

- Sex offender management overstretched; poor compliance with national standards.
- Inconsistent home visits, risk assessments and ViSOR record-keeping.

Key message

- This is a system-wide problem, not isolated force failure.
- Urgent national action required from the Home Office, NPCC and College of Policing (16 recommendations, of which 9 are for police forces)

HMICFRS: THEMATIC INSPECTION OF FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES LICENSING UNIT (FMS Section 5)

- Gloucestershire were inspected as part of a national thematic inspection during January 2026.
- There will be no force specific report however the thematic report is expected to be released imminently.

Future HMICFRS inspections

The following thematic inspections are anticipated within the next four years:

- Integrity (expected 2026)
- The police response to knife-related crime
- The efficiency and effectiveness of current arrangements that provide local, regional and national policing services, including arrangements to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement
- Science and technology
- Economic crime
- Undercover policing
- Counter-terrorism
- Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles, across all JESIP partners
- Data and analytics

We have no further details regarding timeframes for these inspections.

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