

**OPCC**Office of the Police &
Crime Commissioner
for Gloucestershire**AUTHOR:**
Andy Christopher**SPONSOR:****SUBMITTED TO:** Joint Independent Audit Committee – **DATE:** September 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 draft PEEL report has been shared with the force. Factual accuracy has been completed and publication date has been set for week commencing 21/09/26.
- Work has commenced with new governance arrangements in place and a detailed improvement plan in progress.
- Full details of recommendations and gradings will be presented at the meeting for discussion.
- PEEL Assessment Framework (PAF) can be found here - [PEEL assessment framework \(PAF\) 2025–2027 - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#)
- The draft PAF for 2028/30 has been shared for consultation. The main change proposed is that **police powers** will be replaced with **Managing risk related to sexual and violent offending and online child abuse**. The question will focus on managing the risk posed by registered sex offenders and online child abuse, and investment in technology to enable the force to manage the risk

Policing Performance System (Levelling)

- Gloucestershire were placed in Level 2 for the first levelling in July 2026
- A review of all forces is taking place from October 2026
- Forces will be notified of new levels in late November to early December 2026

New Reports

An Inspection of firearms licencing across police forces in England and Wales

<https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/inspection-of-firearms-licensing-across-police-forces-in-england-and-wales/>

There are 22 recommendations of which 7 are for police forces:

Recommendation 12	By 31 March 2027, the Home Office and the National Police Chiefs' Council should review the visitors' permit regime to reduce the inherent risks to public safety. As part of this review, they should consider whether visitors' permits should be restricted to applicants from countries with firearms licensing and safety practices similar to those in Great Britain. In the interim, chief constables should make sure that firearms and explosives licensing units assess visitors' permit applications in line with the Guide on firearms licensing law.
Recommendation 13	By 1 December 2026, chief constables should: • satisfy themselves that their scheme of delegation for firearms licensing is fit for purpose and in line with the firearms licensing authorised professional practice; - and • check that decision-making is in accordance with that scheme.
Recommendation 14	By 1 December 2026, chief constables should make sure that they have audit and dip sampling processes in place to review firearms licensing decisions in line with the firearms licensing authorised professional practice.
Recommendation 18	By 1 December 2026, the National Police Chiefs' Council lead for firearms licensing should specify the financial information that forces need to have a clear understanding of the cost of firearms licensing. Chief constables should

	then record and report this information, including data on actual costs, to the National Police Chiefs' Council lead annually.
Recommendation 20	By 1 December 2026, chief constables should establish or maintain: • a force-level firearms licensing governance structure that is compliant with the firearms licensing authorised professional practice; and • a qualitative and quantitative performance framework that covers both risk and how quickly firearms and explosives licensing units process applications
Recommendation 21	By 1 December 2026, chief constables should make sure they have a documented engagement plan in line with firearms licensing authorised professional practice.
Recommendation 23	With immediate effect, chief constables should satisfy themselves that any firearms and explosives licensing unit practitioners who are responsible for handling and transporting firearms are qualified to handle them safely.

An inspection of the police's role in safety advisory groups: planning for major public events

There are 37 recommendations of which 11 are for police:

Recommendation 8	By 31 August 2027, all chief constables should provide specific safety advisory group training for police safety advisory group attendees who aren't public order public safety trained.
Recommendation 9	With immediate effect, all chief constables should satisfy themselves that their officers always use the crowd and event safety template when they engage with event organisers.
Recommendation 12	By 31 March 2027, all chief constables should satisfy themselves that the demands on gold commanders are manageable and support public safety, especially where public safety events and other responsibilities happen concurrently.
Recommendation 14	By 31 August 2027, all forces should have a documented handover protocol between the police and event organisers for command responsibility for all public events. This should state that forces may need to take command, to meet the core responsibilities of the police under common law (long-standing custom, based on previous legal cases).
Recommendation 19	By 31 August 2027, all chief constables should take steps to make all intelligence products and risk assessments for public events, including football fixtures, comply with the refreshed College of Policing guidance for intelligence management. They should have robust quality assurance checks for processes using artificial intelligence technology
Recommendation 20	By 31 March 2027, all chief constables should make sure a force intelligence representative attends safety advisory groups for those public events where a formal intelligence command structure is in place and shares any risk assessment in line with information sharing protocols.
Recommendation 22	By 31 August 2027, all chief constables should make sure their forces complete community impact assessments, business impact assessments and people impact assessments for events on a proportionate basis, in line with College of Policing guidance.
Recommendation 24	By 31 March 2027, all chief constables should make sure the silver public order public safety commander (or their nominated deputy) attends all safety advisory groups that consider the events they command.
Recommendation 27	With immediate effect, all police forces should decline any payment from private individuals or companies for the provision of police services at public events unless it complies with section 25 of the Police Act 1996.
Recommendation 31	By 31 August 2027, all chief constables should have the events portal available on their force website. They should submit relevant information and intelligence, collected via the portal, to the National Police Coordination Centre strategic intelligence and briefing team.

Recommendation 33	By 31 March 2027, all chief constables should make sure their force uses the new National Police Coordination Centre events risk matrix in operational planning for all public events.
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Future HMICFRS inspections

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

- SOC from September 2026
- Integrity (expected 2026/7)
- 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.