



Police and Crime Commissioner Response to HMICFRS report on:

Shining a light on betrayal: Abuse of position for a sexual purpose

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[Link to report](#)

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Background

The Report details an inspection focusing on how forces are tackling abuse of position for a sexual purpose. This Inspection has been conducted annually since 2015 and the summary notes that in this time, most forces have been slow to root out this type of corruption. The Report details the national picture, drawing on the finalised findings from the twenty-nine forces in the first two tranches of the integrated PEEL assessments, and the early findings from the third and final tranche of forces.

Next Steps for Thames Valley Police

I welcome this report and the opportunity to highlight Thames Valley Police's continuing work to ensure it roots out corruption at the earliest opportunity.

In relation to the three recommendations that apply to Force, Thames Valley Police are currently addressing the vetting issues as cited in response to our PEEL inspection, and considering requirements for the future. The Force also routinely produces an annual strategic threat assessment. Targeted monitoring software has been introduced, and the enterprise-wide version is in the process of being adopted.

The Force has adopted the principles of the National NPCC strategy 2007 into the policy entitled Abuse of Position for Sexual or Emotional Gain and Professional Boundaries. Strategic intentions and options are provided to tackle abuse by officers and staff of their positions for sexual purposes or to pursue improper emotional relationships. This strategy will be owned by the Professional Standards Department and sit within the Counter Corruption Unit. It will be delivered through the Counter Corruption Control Strategy 2019/20 and action plan. The Control Strategy details activities the department will take to Prepare, Protect, Prevent and Pursue any sexual misconduct. This includes developing analytical tools to audit data to identify risks and introduce a passive monitoring tool to audit data across a number of systems, the latter of which is currently underway.

I fully support the work of the Force. It recognises that abuse of position by any member of staff is a form of serious corruption in the police service and will not be tolerated.