

**Response to HMICFRS Report on an inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 1**

[An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024: Tranche 1 - His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](https://hmicfrs.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/publications/police-response-to-public-disorder-in-july-and-august-2024-tranche-1/)

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**Executive Summary**

The Thames Valley Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) welcomes the findings and recommendations of the HMICFRS inspection into the national policing response to the widespread disorder in July and August 2024. While Thames Valley Police (TVP) was not one of the eight directly inspected forces, the force provided significant support through the national mobilisation under Operation Navette. This response outlines how the PCC, in partnership with the Chief Constable, will ensure TVP learns from national lessons to enhance preparedness, resilience, and community confidence.

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| **PCC Response**  **TVP’s Role in the Response to National Public Disorder**  Thames Valley Police was indirectly involved through mutual aid contributions under Operation Navette, providing three Police Support Units (PSUs) per day for six consecutive days. TVP’s coordination efforts were managed through the South East Regional Coordination Centre (SERICC). The force’s effective resource mobilisation, despite simultaneous local demands, demonstrates its current strengths but also highlights areas for further development aligned with national recommendations.  **Response to Key Areas and Recommendations**  **1. Strategic Oversight and Assurance of Capacity and Capability**  The HMICFRS inspection emphasised resource shortages, particularly regarding Public Order Public Safety (POPS)-trained officers and specialist units. The PCC will address these issues through the following actions:   * **SPR Compliance Monitoring:** The PCC will seek regular updates from the Chief Constable to ensure that TVP maintains sufficient POPS-trained officers and capabilities to meet local, regional, and national obligations under the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). Given the national decline in POPS-trained officers, TVP’s contribution to mutual aid must be sustainable without compromising local resilience. * **Addressing Resource Shortfalls:** The PCC acknowledges TVP’s successful mobilisation during Operation Navette but will collaborate with the Chief Constable to improve recruitment and retention of Level 2 officers and explore incentives, such as additional training or benefits, to address the national decline.   **Force Contribution:** TVP’s response highlights successful resource mobilisation during Operation Navette but acknowledges the need for continued efforts to maintain an adequate pool of trained officers.  **2. Intelligence and Preparedness**  The inspection revealed critical gaps in intelligence assessments that delayed the activation of the national mobilisation plan. The PCC will ensure that TVP strengthens its intelligence capabilities as follows:   * **Enhanced Risk Assessments:** The PCC will work with the Chief Constable to review TVP’s Strategic Risk Assessments (SRAs) to ensure they incorporate lessons from national incidents. Improvements will focus on better predicting large-scale disorder and factoring in emerging risks, such as the role of social media misinformation. * **Collaboration with Regional and National Bodies:** The PCC will ensure that TVP continues to collaborate with regional information and coordination centres (RICCs) to enhance intelligence-sharing mechanisms and early warning systems.   **Force Contribution:** TVP’s response notes the importance of intelligence improvements, with a commitment to ensuring SRAs reflect both local and national risks.  **3. Officer Well-being and Resilience**  The HMICFRS inspection highlighted significant well-being challenges, including injuries, exhaustion, and inadequate access to food and hydration. The PCC will prioritise officer welfare through:   * **Improved Welfare Planning:** Collaborate with the Chief Constable to ensure that contingency plans during major incidents provide adequate food, hydration, rest breaks, and medical support. The force will work to deploy welfare vans effectively and address logistical challenges identified in the national review. * **Categorising POPS Roles as High Risk:** The PCC will advocate for designating POPS roles as high risk, ensuring that officers deployed in high-intensity situations receive additional support, particularly in forces frequently involved in severe incidents.   **Force Contribution:** TVP’s response acknowledges welfare challenges and highlights the need for robust planning, including the provision of essential resources during prolonged deployments.  **4. Tactical Options and Equipment**  The inspection identified deficiencies in tactical options and PPE availability. The PCC will support improvements as follows:   * **Adequacy of Personal Protective Equipment:** Ensure that TVP reviews its current PPE provisions, including protection for mounted officers and police dogs, to minimise injuries. The PCC will monitor the implementation of national recommendations on this issue. * **Use of Dynamic Tactical Options:** The PCC will review TVP’s readiness to deploy dynamic crowd control options, including drones and Attenuating Energy Projectiles (AEPs). Incorporating these options into local training programmes will ensure operational flexibility.   **Force Contribution:** TVP’s response acknowledges the need for continuous improvement in tactical training and equipment, aligned with national findings.  **5. Community Confidence and Learning from Previous Incidents**  Maintaining public confidence and embedding lessons learned are critical to future readiness.   * **Transparent Communication:** The PCC will ensure that TVP provides timely updates to the public, detailing its readiness and any improvements made. Engaging with local communities will be a priority to maintain trust and address concerns stemming from the national report. * **Structured Debriefs:** The PCC will work with the Chief Constable to ensure that debrief processes are comprehensive and that key findings are incorporated into future planning. This will include participating in multi-agency debriefs to improve collaboration across emergency services.   **Force Contribution:** TVP’s response notes the importance of structured debriefs and multi-agency exercises, emphasising the need for live training simulations rather than paper-based drills.  **Commitment to Continuous Improvement**  The PCC recognises that regional and national coordination are essential to managing future incidents of public disorder. To this end, the PCC will:   * **Support the Chief Constable’s engagement with the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC):** Ensure TVP’s participation in national resource tracking and deployment aligns with operational requirements and that any lessons learned are integrated locally. * **Encourage increased testing of mutual aid and mobilisation through live exercises.** * **Monitor TVP’s progress in implementing national recommendations, particularly those related to welfare, tactical flexibility, and resource resilience.**   **Conclusion**  Thames Valley Police played a critical role in supporting the national response to the 2024 public disorder. While TVP demonstrated significant strengths, this inspection highlights areas where improvements are needed. The PCC will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable to ensure that TVP is fully prepared, well-resourced, and aligned with national standards.  We look forward to the publication of the second tranche of this review in 2025 and will provide further updates on progress. |