



Matthew Barber
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

Response to HMICFRS PEEL Spotlight Report: How Effectively Do the Police Record Crime?

[How effectively do the police record crime? - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#)

HMICFRS Report Published: 26.9.25

PCC Response: October 2025

Introduction

I welcome HMICFRS's Spotlight report examining how effectively police forces record crime. While Thames Valley Police was not one of the forces directly inspected, the findings are highly relevant to our local context.

Accurate crime recording is fundamental to public confidence, victim safeguarding, and operational effectiveness. The three recommendations - improving the recording of violent crime, ensuring domestic abuse is recorded correctly, and strengthening training and oversight- align closely with the priorities set out in my Police & Crime Plan and the Force's Strategic Plan. I am reassured by the steps Thames Valley Police is taking to address these areas and remain committed to holding the Chief Constable to account for continued progress.

PCC Response

Assurance Against HMICFRS Recommendations

Thames Valley Police has established clear governance structures to oversee improvements in crime recording. The Crime Data Accuracy Oversight Board is actively progressing work in this area, with assurance routes through the Fighting Crime Board and onward to the Deputy Chief Constable via the Risk, Improvement and Learning Board.

The Force's Strategic Plan sets out a strong commitment to improving outcomes for violence against women and girls, stalking, coercive control, and domestic abuse. Investigations are being strengthened through a suspect-focused, victim-centred approach, supported by improved data, supervisory oversight, and timeliness. This includes efforts to reduce the use of outcome Code 16 and increase positive outcomes for victims.

Training and professional development are embedded within the Force's strategic priorities. Officers and staff involved in crime recording are supported through continuous training structures, leadership standards, and improved use of

organisational data. These measures are designed to ensure consistency, accuracy, and accountability in recording practices.

My public-facing Performance Accountability Meetings (PAM) provide a robust mechanism for scrutiny. These meetings enable the Chief Constable to be held to account for progress against key themes, including crime recording, domestic abuse outcomes, and the quality of investigations. The OPCC will continue to use PAM to monitor delivery and ensure transparency.

In addition, the Police & Crime Plan supports wider system improvements, including investment in Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs), the development of Family Drug & Alcohol Courts (FDACs), and enhanced victim support through the Victims First operating model. These initiatives complement the Force's operational delivery and reinforce the commitment to safeguarding and justice.

Conclusion

I am confident that Thames Valley Police has the right structures, priorities, and oversight mechanisms in place to deliver meaningful change. Progress against HMICFRS's recommendations will continue to be monitored through established governance, including my Performance Accountability Meetings.

Accurate crime recording is not just a technical requirement - it reflects the seriousness with which victims' experiences are treated and the duty to respond effectively.

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