

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

25 June 2025

Dear Home Secretary

Response to [HMICFRS - Improving the response to organised immigration crime](#)

In line with my statutory responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner and further to above report by HMICFRS which was published on 16 May 2025, I am pleased to provide the following response to the HMICFRS and the Secretary of State for the Home Office.

I have liaised closely with the Chief Constable in submitting this response which addresses in detail those recommendations in the report (numbers 2, 4, 8 and 9) for Chief Constables.

Recommendation 2 – by 30 April 2026, chief constables should make sure that every time a member of their force reports a case to Immigration Enforcement’s National Command and Control Unit, the reporting officer completes and submits the required intelligence document.

DI Rich Winn of our Force Safeguarding Hub, Dorset BCP LPA, is responsible for monitoring progress with this and reports a good level of compliance to date, although the Force acknowledge there is more work to be done to promote this practice more widely, as well as to improve further by means of Continuing Professional Development and upskilling.

Both DI Winn and DCI Andy Bell of Dorset Police attended the National Conference on Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) on 26 and 27 March 2025 and both senior officers will work to update the Force Sharepoint page with clear guidance and best practice for officers, of actions to complete when they encounter MSOIC offences. Work is underway to prepare the SharePoint site which has an anticipated go live date of 4-6 weeks’ time.

Recommendation 4: By 31 December 2025, chief constables should make sure they have clear plans to collect, analyse and share information related to organised immigration crime.

The Force have recently introduced Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) tactical meetings, and these are starting to gain traction. The Force already adhere to #OIMCR for all related intelligence submissions aimed at disrupting organised criminal activity involved in illegal immigration. The hashtag #OIMCR is used for Organised Immigration Crime Intelligence gathering and analysis to denote and categorise information related to the intelligence aspect of organised immigration crime and helps to track information about the criminal networks and activities involved,

The Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB) already process and share relevant intelligence and the hash prefix as in “#OIMCR” is used by the FIB to flag all MSOIC related intelligence which is then disseminated as appropriate to the ROCUs and nationally. In this way, the Force help to build a picture consistent with that of national intelligence.

Recommendation 8: By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the Hydra training package on organised immigration crime.

At the time of writing, the Hydra training is in the process of being formalised (the most recent MSOIC Tactical Meeting was held on 17 June 2025).

Hydra is an immersive training process which forms part of the PIP3 (SOC) accreditation and is used for a variety of areas such as Public Order, Firearms, Leadership etc. A total of 20 officers in Dorset Police have completed this training.

The most recent Hydra training was completed by the Force in January 2025. This was preceded by two training events held in July 2023, attended by six and nine people respectfully. Some challenges around competing demands impacted the roll out of this non-mandatory training, hence its deferral to 2025. The intention is for all Inspectors and Detective Inspectors in Dorset Police to receive this training. At present we currently have 20 people in the Force who have completed this Hydra event. Because the total numbers who have received this training are relatively low across the Force, the strategy is to ensure all the Force's Inspectors and Detective Inspectors are SMEs, thereby meaning that key decision makers are covered and will be those on duty to provide specialist advice should an incident occur. Thus, if all our LPA Inspectors are trained, the Force can be reassured that Dorset Police have the right skills to direct and deploy officers in response to a particular job.

Recommendation 9: By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit and the College of Policing, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the four modules of the organised immigration crime e-learning package.

An Organisational Needs Analysis (ONA) has been submitted to the Force Learning and Development Unit (LDU) who have recently agreed to roll out of the relevant College of Policing

eLearning NCALT packages across the Force, subject to this being scheduled as part of the Force's wider eLearning programme and thus confirmation of the timeframe for this. Sign off by the Force's Joint Working Steering Group is scheduled for the end of July 2025 and the output in terms of numbers completing the training will in due course be reported to the Force Performance Board.

The Chief Constable and I are also supportive of recommendations 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 and 10 in the report for the NCA, Border Security Command, NPCC and changes by the Home Office. For completeness these are set out below:

- recommendation 1 for the NCA to review and reissue its 'Organised Immigration Crime High Level Responsibilities' (OICHLR) document,
- recommendation 3 for Border Security Command to further develop the migrant identification and intelligence-gathering processes, including on site access to the Police National Database (PND) and the routine comparison of migrants with custody and crime scene facial imagery
- recommendation 5 for the NCA to develop the Joint Fusion Cell as set out in the report, to combat organised immigration crime. We would also support the possible automation of processes to link forces intelligence systems involved in tackling organised immigration crime.
- recommendation 6 for the NPCC to introduce a system mandating the use of the correct crime identifier code when submitting intelligence concerning organised immigration crime to the Police National Database (PND),
- recommendation 7 for the NCA to introduce a system to regularly assess the known OCGs recorded on the Police National Database (PND) and serious and organised crime master list and
- recommendation 10 for the proposed changes by the Home Office to the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit peer review process to include other UK forces; the NCA; Immigration Enforcement; Border Force; and the nine ROCUs.

I trust this provides reassurance in response to the recommendations made within the HMICFRS report.

I would point out that the Force could make quicker progress with greater resourcing – which is why the national funding formula needs to be changed, so that Dorset Police receive a fair funding settlement.

For completeness I have copied this letter to both Mr Evans and CI Tamblyn.

This response is published on the OPCC website [HMIC Inspection Reports · Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner](#).

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. Sidwick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Sidwick
Police and Crime Commissioner

cc: CI Danny Tamblyn, Dorset Police
Mark Evans, Force Liaison Lead, HMICFRS