

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

4 August 2025

Dear Home Secretary

Response to [HMICFRS South West ROCU report](#)

In line with my statutory responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner and further to above report by HMICFRS which was published on 12 June 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.

We note page 23 of the report states: "Dorset Police requires improvement at tackling serious and organised crime" and includes the following comments under this heading:

- The Force is improving strategic governance to manage its response to Serious and Organised Crime (SOC).
- We found that the Force was developing how it managed SOC. But improvements were still needed. The Force had different approaches to SOC management in the different Force areas. These structures were clearer in some areas than others.
- The Force includes SOC in its strategic assessment. It had also developed a new action plan to improve how it tackles SOC.
- The Force had also introduced new tasking and co-ordination meetings to prioritise SOC and other high-harm work. But some personnel we spoke to didn't understand the role of these new meetings. The Force has told us since our inspection that it has improved how it communicates these changes with its personnel.

We are also pleased to note the report identifies a number of positives for Dorset Police:

- The Force intelligence function is well resourced;

- The Force supplies enough resources to effectively manage covert operations;
- The Force works well with partner agencies to prevent SOC;
- The Force uses Clear, Hold, Build in one area.

Please see the responses below provided by the Force in response to the following two AFIs for Dorset Police on pages 24 and 25:

AFI 7 - Dorset Police should allocate enough of its resources to tackle serious and organised crime (SOC).

Response from Dorset Police: At the time of the inspection SOC investigators had commented on high workloads. In their report HMICFRS recommended allocating enough resources to those investigations. Prior to publication of the inspection report, Dorset Police brought two additional members of staff into the SOC investigation team (SOCIT) to provide resilience. The Force team now comprises 5.5 investigators supported by a Detective Sergeant.

AFI 8 - Dorset Police should improve how it manages serious crime prevention orders (SCPO).

Response from Dorset Police: The management of SOC offenders has been brought into the overarching Organised Crime Group (OCG) meeting. With this governance and structure now in place and with the additional resources allocated to SOCIT, the Force have improved capacity to proactively manage and enforce SCPOs.

Under 'Regional findings' on pages 4 and 5 of the report, please see the below the responses from the Force to the SW ROCU AFIs:

AFI 1 - The South West Regional Organised Crime Unit and its constituent forces should improve how they assess threats.

Response from Dorset Police: HMICFRS found a lack of consistency across the South West region in how threats are assessed. In some forces the inspection found that Organised Crime Trigger Forms did not contain enough information for assessment, although this finding was not specific to Dorset. Dorset Police use the Management of Risk in Law Enforcement (MoRiLE) risk assessment to prioritise investigations and the trigger forms the Force submit to the SWROCU have been assessed and accepted. Additionally, Dorset Police will be working with the SWROCU going forwards to support improvement and consistency in how threats are assessed across the region. At a recent regional meeting of the constituent forces' Directors of Intelligence (DoI), it was agreed that a SOC Development Board would be established to address the issues identified in the inspection and to improve SOC development. The Dols across the region will participate in the Development Board to achieve consistency.

AFI 2 - The South West Regional Organised Crime Unit and its constituent forces should improve how they work together to tackle serious and organised crime.

Response from Dorset Police: As noted on page 5 of the report, the inspection identified several themes across the region.

HMICFRS found that all forces should improve SOC local profiles. A Serious and Organised Crime (SOC) local profile document is used to inform and drive a coordinated, multi-agency response to tackle SOC effectively. The document provides a detailed overview of the threat posed by SOC in the area, identifies the types of SOC present, the vulnerabilities that allow it to flourish, and the harm it causes to the local community. In Dorset Police the local profile team has had additional training and going forwards, they will be looking to make the profile document a live document. This means that rather than sharing a static document and then having out of date versions in circulation, the live document will be Cloud based and enable shared access with relevant stakeholders. It will allow real-time updates and more collaborative working.

HMICFRS recommended that forces improve how they use lead responsible officers (LRO). The region has already delivered LRO training. Improvements were recommended in the quality and consistency of 4P plans i.e.

- Pursuing offenders through prosecution and disruption
- Preventing people from engaging in SOC
- Protecting individuals from SOC groups
- Preparing for when SOC occurs and mitigate the impact.

The 4P response runs alongside the Force's SOC management plan.

Since the inspection, additional 4P plans have been published and every OCG now has a 4P plan. Progress to achieve consistency across the region is already in train and will continue going forwards. A new SOC Development Board has been agreed at regional level in which the Force will participate along with the other forces in the region.

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

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', written in a cursive style.

David Sidwick
Police and Crime Commissioner

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