DORSET POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER DAVID SIDWICK

26 October 2026

Rt Hon Shabana Mahmood MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Dear Home Secretary

HMICFRS Report – An Inspection of the police's role in safety advisory groups: planning for major public events

In line with my statutory responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner, I am pleased to provide the following response to the HMICFRS and the Secretary of State for the Home Office to the above report published on 4 September 2026.

I have liaised closely with the Chief Constable in submitting this response.

The requirements within these recommendations largely align with the current approach in Dorset Police. However, some requirements represent work ahead to achieve.

There is an implied need for greater training for local NPT commanders, a training needs analysis can assess inclusion of the 'Working in Safety Advisory Groups (SAG)' course as part of NPT commander training.

Specialist Operation has an open action to visit all local commanders and brief them on working in SAGs, risk assessment, and event planning, which is timely in light of these recommendations, and upcoming work in collaboration with the two Dorset SAG chairs.

Please see the response below from Dorset Police to the recommendations for forces. These are in respect of the recommendations numbered 8, 9, 12, 14, 19, 20, 22, 24, 27, 31 and 33.

The Chief Constable and I note the remaining recommendations are subject to progress by the UK Resilience Academy, Health and Safety Executive, College of Policing, National Police Chiefs' Council, United Kingdom Football Policing Unit, and the National Police Co-ordination Centre.

Recommendation 8
Training for attendees who are not POPS trained
By 31 August 2027, all chief constables should provide specific safety advisory group training for police safety advisory group attendees who are not public order public safety trained.

Response: All Operational and Contingency Planning Section (OCPS) staff have completed the industry standard "Working in Safety Advisory Groups" course, provided by the UK Resilience Academy. Currently this will not be the case for police officers, such as local Inspectors, which might attend SAG, albeit this is quite rare.

Recommendation 9
Use of crowd and event safety template
With immediate effect, all chief constables should satisfy themselves that their officers always use the crowd and event safety template when they engage with event organisers.

Response: The crowd and event safety template has not been used in Dorset recently. However, it will be adopted and referenced in future planning for major public events.

Recommendation 12
Demands on gold commanders
By 31 March 2027, all chief constables should satisfy themselves that the demands on gold commanders are manageable and support public safety, especially where public safety events and other responsibilities happen concurrently.

Response: OCPS, under direction from Public Order and Public Safety (POPS) Leads, are involved in command band training and will continue to work to ensure that enough strategic commanders are trained, accredited and exercised, according to the POPS strategic risk assessment.

Recommendation 14
Documented handover protocol
By 31 August 2027, all forces should have a documented handover protocol between the police and event organisers for command responsibility for all public events. This should state that forces may need to take command, to meet the core responsibilities of the police under common law (long-standing custom, based on previous legal cases).

Response: This is the case with many of our events and part of the MOU process used for larger public events, with special policing services (SPS) arrangements. In response to this recommendation the need for a documented handover protocol will be written into the new manual of guidance for the OCPS team, so it is clear.

Discussion will be needed as to when and how to extend this MOU provision. For example, there are large events in the county which take place without a police presence, for which it would be a challenge for local NPT policing to take command of. We welcome the timescale this recommendation allows providing opportunity to process this.

Recommendation 19
Comply with guidance on intelligence management and AI
By 31 August 2027, all chief constables should take steps to make all intelligence products and risk assessments for public events, including football fixtures, comply with the refreshed College of Policing guidance for intelligence management. They should have robust quality assurance checks for processes using artificial intelligence technology.

Response: This process has begun with the Europa League planning following the release of the recommendations. This relationship is working well between the Dedicated Football Officer and Force Intelligence Bureau. This will be taken into event planning moving forwards, building upon the progress being made with football. Risk assessments are already informed by intelligence, however, this is being strengthened and aligned more closely when completing the associated risk assessment documents.

Recommendation 20
Intelligence representatives attend SAGs and present risk assessments
By March 2027, all chief constables should make sure a force intelligence representative attends safety advisory groups for those public events where a formal intelligence command structure is in place and shares any risk assessment in line with information sharing protocols.

Response: A formal command structure is applied to only a very few of our public events. However, for those events where a formal structure is in place a force intelligence representative does attend safety advisory groups.

Recommendation 22
Complete appropriate impact assessments
By 31 August 2027, all chief constables should make sure their forces complete community impact assessments, business impact assessments for events on a proportionate basis, in line with College of Policing guidance.

Response: Any operations with a POPS Gold/Silver/Bronze command structure would usually request a community impact assessment and business impact assessment. However, this would not cover all events but may be deemed proportionate as this would relate to events where the risk is assessed as requiring a POPS response. A people impact assessment is being completed currently for Europa League fixtures (with support of our legitimacy lead) and will be something to be considered by Gold and Silver commanders for any POPS events moving forward.

Recommendation 24
Silver commanders to attend SAGs for relevant events
By March 2027, all chief constables should make sure the silver public order public safety commander (or their nominated deputy) attends all safety advisory groups that consider the events they command.

Response: This is not currently in place, with some isolated exceptions, whereby Silver commanders have taken a more hands on approach in SAGs (for example, Camp Bestival 2026). This could be something tasked to OCPS Inspector (who is a Silver Commander) but this is a significant increase in work if every event needed oversight and an associated assessment, as well as attendance at the SAG. Further work is necessary to understand the extra demand this will create for Silver commanders before a response to this recommendation is made.

Recommendation 27
Decline payment from private individuals or companies
With immediate effect, all police forces should decline any payment from private individuals or companies for the provision of police services at public events unless it complies with section 2 of the Police Act 1996.

Response: Dorset Police is compliant with these requirements and uses the SPS system appropriately.

Recommendation 31
Events portal available on force websites
By 31 August 2027, all chief constables should have the events portal available on their force website. They should submit relevant information and intelligence, collected via the portal, to the National Police Co-ordination Centre strategic intelligence and briefing team.

Recommendation 33
Events risk matrix for operational planning
By 31 March 2027, all chief constables should make sure their force uses the new National Police Coordination Centre events risk matrix in operational planning for all public events.

Response: In relation to recommendations 31 and 33, Dorset Police Operational and Contingency Planning Section acknowledge the requirements of these recommendations. Currently the force is not compliant. The date for completion allows the force suitable time to implement the changes needed.

I hope this provides appropriate reassurance in response to the recommendations in the report.

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

This response will be published on the OPCC website HMIC Inspection Reports · Dorset Police & Crime Commissioner.

Yours sincerely



David Sidwick
Police and Crime Commissioner

cc: CI Danny Tamblyn, Dorset Police
Simon Eatwell, Force Liaison Lead, HMICFRS