

---

<b>Report To:</b>	<b>Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>6 February 2020</b>
<b>Report By:</b>	<b>Corporate Director Education, Communities &amp; Organisational Development</b>	<b>Report No:</b>	<b>P &amp; F/02/20/HS</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	<b>Hugh Scott Service Manager</b>	<b>Contact No:</b>	<b>01475 715459</b>
<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Consultation on Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) Scrutiny Plan 2020-21</b>		

---

## 1.0 PURPOSE

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a consultation response to Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) in respect of its scrutiny planning arrangements for the period 2020-21.
- 1.2 The report provides Members with a background to the requirements regarding the scrutiny of policing activities in Scotland in addition to the response provided by the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee to HMICS.

## 2.0 SUMMARY

- 2.1 HMICS provides independent scrutiny of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). The HMICS approach is to support Police Scotland and the SPA to deliver services that are high quality, continually improving, effective and responsive to local needs.
- 2.2 Each year HMICS sets out its Scrutiny Plan outlining how HMICS will meet its statutory purpose to inquire into the state, efficiency and effectiveness of both the Police Service of Scotland ('Police Scotland') and the Scottish Police Authority.
- 2.3 HMICS has a requirement to consult with relevant stakeholders in preparing the plan and subsequently the Convener of the Committee has been contacted by letter (attached), to submit views and proposals to address any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing which the committee considers beneficial from scrutiny by HMICS during 2020-21.
- 2.4 The consultation survey was open between 12 November 2019 and 17 January 2020. As this date range was outwith the committee cycle, a response was provided on behalf of Elected Members.

## 3.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee approves the consultation response to HMICS for their consideration.

## **4.0 BACKGROUND**

- 4.1 HMICS provides independent scrutiny of both Police Scotland and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA). The HMICS approach is to support Police Scotland and the SPA to deliver services that are high quality, continually improving, effective and responsive to local needs.
- 4.2 HMICS also has a statutory duty to ensure that the Chief Constable and the SPA meet their obligations in terms of best value and continuous improvement. If necessary, HMICS can be directed by Scottish Ministers to look into anything relating to the SPA or Police Scotland as they consider appropriate.
- 4.3 Each year HMICS sets out its Scrutiny Plan outlining how HMICS will meet its statutory purpose to inquire into the state, efficiency and effectiveness of both the Police Service of Scotland ('Police Scotland') and the Scottish Police Authority. This Plan is published in terms of Section 75 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and sets out their inspection plan for the forthcoming year.
- 4.4 The legislation also requires that HMICS must, in preparing a plan (and any revised plan), consider such persons as they consider appropriate. Subsequently, the Convener of the Local Police and Fire Scrutiny Committee has been contacted (via COSLA) for the committee to submit a response to address any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing that the committee believes would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS during 2020/21.
- 4.5 In a change to the consultation process, this year HMICS will utilise an online survey that anyone with an interest in policing in Scotland can contribute to. The aim is to provide HMICS with a thorough insight into the key issues that members of the public, key stakeholders and critically staff members of Police Scotland and the SPA feel strongly about.
- 4.6 The consultation survey was open between 12 November 2019 and 17 January 2020. As this date range was outwith the committee cycle, a response was provided on behalf of Elected Members. Committee members were contacted by council officers and those views have been included to inform the response to HMICS.
- 4.7 The consultation survey sought up to three issues that stakeholders thought appropriate for consideration seeking the following information:
  - What area of policing do you think HMICS should examine?
  - Why should this be inspected?
  - What aspects could be improved?
- 4.8 As the consultation responses were submitted online, the responses are noted in section five through seven of the report.

## **5.0 ISSUE 1**

### **5.1 What area of policing do you think HMICS should examine?**

Roads Policing

### **5.2 Why should this be inspected?**

HMICS previously carried out a thematic inspection of roads policing in 2014. At the time the aim of the inspection was to assess the state, effectiveness and efficiency of roads policing in Scotland. A key finding in the report highlighted "...in relation to road policing is that local services have been protected and are improving. There is evidence of more equal access to specialist support and enhanced national capacity. The new road policing model is strengthening the connection between police services and communities".

The Inverclyde Local Police Plan 2017-20 has contained within its priority outcomes a focus on road safety and road crime. When the plan had been approved by the Inverclyde Local

Police and Fire Scrutiny Sub-Committee in 2018, there was a Divisional Road Policing Unit based within Inverclyde. Subsequently the Unit moved to Renfrewshire before being subsumed within a number of other local authorities in the West of Scotland. Elected members have raised concern about the visibility of a Roads Policing Unit in Inverclyde and sought clarification from the Divisional Commander for K Division. At the Inverclyde Local Police & Fire Scrutiny Committee meeting on 21 November 2019 the Area Commander of Roads Policing West presented to the Committee, outlining performance within the sub-division and a confirmation of the present structure of roads policing across Scotland. Whilst members welcomed the attendance of the Area Commander, concern has been raised regarding this current approach and the impact it can have on local areas as well as delivery within the Local Police Plan.

In addition to this, with the enactment of the Transport (Scotland) Act 2019 and the inclusion of statutory instruments around parking prohibitions as well as continuing work around Scotland's Road Safety Framework to 2020, the Committee believes there is an opportunity to consider these changes as part of an inspection to ensure that roads policing is responsive to local needs.

### **5.3 What aspects could be improved?**

The key consideration is the relevance of priorities contained within a local policing plan that will effectively be delivered by a policing unit out with the divisional area and to the extent in which local scrutiny arrangements can deal with this.

If this is the case the improvement would be around the role that local scrutiny committees can play in respect of local priorities delivered by national departments.

## **6.0 ISSUE 2**

### **6.1 What area of policing do you think HMICS should examine?**

Serious and Organised Crime - drug supply

### **6.2 Why should this be inspected?**

The Inverclyde Local Police Plan 2017-20 has contained within its priority outcomes a focus on serious and organised crime. The plan states that in Inverclyde the primary threats associated with serious organised crime relate to drug supply, money laundering and SOC-related violence, including concerns relating to the supply and availability of firearms.

The misuse of controlled drugs has a diverse range of negative effects which include the health and wellbeing impact upon the user, the wider economic impact arising from the cost of treating addiction and linked health conditions and also the social impact of violent crime and acquisitive crime linked to drug misuse. Inverclyde has recorded a significant increase in the number of drug supply charges in the recent period as a result of intelligence-led policing activity in the region.

However, Inverclyde has a number of particular challenges related to the misuse of alcohol and drugs. Inverclyde has a long history of people affected by alcohol and drug use and our rates are higher than most of Scotland. Recent drug misuse prevalence data indicates the rate of problem drug misuse in Inverclyde (2.91%) is almost twice that for Scotland (1.62%) as a whole. Inverclyde local authority area has the highest prevalence rate of problematic drug use when compared to all other authorities in Scotland. These issues impact on all communities; from the wellbeing of children to the increased demand on our local services and on the ability for those affected to contribute to the local economy and community. People with alcohol and drug problems are more likely, for example, to have persistent difficulties sustaining their own home and be involved with the criminal justice system.

### **6.3 What aspects could be improved?**

The Committee is keen to ensure that the wider aspect of the delivery around serious and

organised crime to disrupt, deter, detect and divert is still relevant and the impact that this strategy has had on the drug supply in Inverclyde and its impact on problematic drug use across the authority area.

## 7.0 ISSUE 3

### 7.1 What area of policing do you think HMICS should examine?

Violent Crime

### 7.2 Why should this be inspected?

The Inverclyde Local Police Plan 2017-20 has throughout the document actions around violence reduction across Inverclyde. Whilst the local plan indicates that violent crime has continued to fall in Inverclyde and remains well below the preceding five year average, with serious assaults and robberies both following a decreasing trend there are concerns noted by the public and Members that violence is still a significant issue in Inverclyde.

The correlation between alcohol consumption and violence, disorder and anti-social behaviour continues to be well-evidenced in Inverclyde, with nearly half of assaults involving alcohol; the growing issue of home drinking has also contributed to an increasing proportion of violence occurring in private dwellings.

### 7.3 What aspects could be improved?

Members are keen to establish how effective police interventions have been in respect of overall violence reduction.

## 8.0 IMPLICATIONS

### 8.1 Finance

Financial Implications:

One off Costs

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	Budget Years	Proposed Spend this Report	Virement From	Other Comments
N/A					

Annually Recurring Costs/ (Savings)

Cost Centre	Budget Heading	With Effect from	Annual Net Impact	Virement From (If Applicable)	Other Comments
N/A					

### 8.2 Legal

Section 75 of the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 requires the inspectors of constabulary to prepare a plan setting out priorities for inquiries to be carried out by them.

### 8.3 Human Resources

N/A

## 8.4 Equalities

### Equalities

(a) Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES
X	NO – This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a substantive change to an existing policy, function or strategy. Therefore, no Equality Impact Assessment is required

(b) Fairer Scotland Duty

If this report affects or proposes any major strategic decision:-

Has there been active consideration of how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome?

	YES – A written statement showing how this report's recommendations reduce inequalities of outcome caused by socio-economic disadvantage has been completed.
X	NO

(c) Data Protection

Has a Data Protection Impact Assessment been carried out?

	YES – This report involves data processing which may result in a high risk to the rights and freedoms of individuals.
X	NO

## 8.5 Repopulation

This structure is intended to protect and assist the local communities.

## 9.0 CONSULTATIONS

9.1 N/A

## 10.0 BACKGROUND PAPERS

10.1 None



**Mrs Gillian Imery QPM**  
HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

BY EMAIL

15<sup>th</sup> November 2019

Dear Sally,

### **Consultation on HMICS Scrutiny Plan 2018-19**

HM Inspectorate for Constabulary in Scotland (HMICS) is established under the Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 and has wide ranging powers to look into the 'state, effectiveness and efficiency' of both the Police Service of Scotland (Police Scotland) and the Scottish Police Authority (SPA).

We have a statutory duty to inquire into the arrangements made by the Chief Constable and the SPA to meet their obligations in terms of best value and continuous improvement. We have a requirement to prepare a plan setting out our inspection priorities for the year ahead and to consult with relevant stakeholders in preparing our plan.

HMICS is committed to an improvement agenda, and our inspections aim to help Police Scotland and the SPA improve the service it delivers to the public. In planning for the 2020-21 scrutiny year, which begins on 1 April 2020, we wish to extend our consultation exercise across all our communities served by Police Scotland and the SPA, and partners whose work is an integral part of policing. To this end HMICS will utilise online survey to gather views. This will further enhance our understanding of the key issues impacting on policing across the country.

As an important stakeholder in policing, I would welcome your views and proposals to address any topical, high risk or emerging areas in policing which you consider would benefit from scrutiny by HMICS during 2020-21. I encourage you and your staff to take part in the online survey, which can be accessed on the HMICS website via this link:

[https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/hmics\\_scrutiny\\_plan\\_2020-21](https://response.questback.com/scottishgovernment/hmics_scrutiny_plan_2020-21)

### **Closing date for the survey is Friday 17 January 2020**

Your feedback will be collated against the responses from other stakeholders and assessed against our scrutiny risk process to help inform our forthcoming scrutiny plan.

If you have any queries or wish to discuss your response in advance of sending, then please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Gillian Imery**  
HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary

