
An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024 Tranche 1: capacity and capability, co-ordination and mobilisation, and well-being. December 2024

Report: [An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July & August 2024: Tranche 1](#)

Response from: Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire and Isle of Wight

I welcome the HMICFRS inspection report into the police response to the unprecedented public disorder during July and August 2024. As Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, ensuring our communities are safe, protected, and resilient during times of crisis is a key priority.

Key Observations and Concerns

The report highlights several critical areas, including:

1. **Resource Deployment:** The effectiveness of resource allocation across affected areas was inconsistent, with some regions facing delays in mobilising adequate personnel and equipment.
2. **Coordination and Communication:** Coordination between local and national agencies showed gaps that hindered a unified response to escalating tensions.
3. **Use of Technology:** While some forces effectively employed modern surveillance and communication tools, others lacked access or expertise, limiting their operational efficiency.
4. **Community Engagement:** A recurring theme was the need for better community engagement both before and during incidents, to build trust and de-escalate tensions.

Recommendations for Improvement

HMICFRS provides clear recommendations aimed at addressing these challenges:

- Enhanced training for officers in managing large-scale public disorder.
- Investment in technology and infrastructure to support rapid response capabilities.
- Strengthening inter-agency collaboration to ensure a cohesive approach to public safety.
- Developing a proactive strategy for community engagement to foster trust and mitigate risks of unrest.

Our Commitment

We recognize the dedication and professionalism of officers who worked tirelessly during this period of unrest. However, the challenges outlined in the report underscore the need for a collective effort to address systemic issues. Moving forward, we are committed to:

- Implementing the recommendations outlined by HMICFRS in a timely and transparent manner.
- Reviewing and updating protocols to enhance preparedness for future incidents.
- Engaging with communities to rebuild trust and ensure their voices are part of the solution.

The HMICFRS report serves as a reminder of the complex and evolving nature of public safety. By acting on its findings, we can strengthen the resilience of our police forces and communities alike. While Hampshire and Isle of Wight officers demonstrated professionalism and resilience, there is always room for improvement. I remain committed to working with my Chief Constable and all relevant partners to ensure we are better prepared for future challenges, uphold public safety, and maintain the trust of our communities.

Donna Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner, Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Response from: Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary

In September 2024, the Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS to carry out a review to the policing response to the violent public disorder that took place in many towns and cities across the United Kingdom (known as Operation Navette). The review did not focus on any specific force, but offered an opportunity to review local practices against national recommendations.

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Constabulary's response was coordinated within the Joint Operations Unit's Operations department. The force was required to provide extra resources as part of the Strategic Policing Requirement which was over and above any local demands from protest threats, existing operations and football, which also required managing throughout this period.

It is worth noting that the force met the considerable short notice demands throughout this period, which is a testament to the planning teams and the officers who had their duties changed to facilitate this request.

The force has conducted its own internal debriefs following the summer disorder, with only a small number of actions identified against the three national recommendations to look at capability and capacity; coordination and mobilisation; and wellbeing of officers.

There are good mechanisms in place to manage requests for short notice mobilisations, with an ambition to further increase the number of 'Level 2' trained officers to manage demand and increase resilience. Mobilisation plans have been reviewed and are managed via tasking and coordination meetings.

Overall, the force resourced, coordinated and mobilised resources to meet the national requirements, which included deployments to other force areas while managing local demands.

We are well placed to implement any national learning identified.

Sam De Reya
Deputy Chief Constable, Hampshire and Isle of Wight

Recommendations:

No force level recommendations were made in this report.