

HMICFRS update

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**Strategy &
Innovation Unit**

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1. Inspections

1.1 PEEL Inspection

The force was subject to a HMICFRS PEEL fieldwork inspection in January 2026.

The inspection took place over several months during which the performance of the force was assessed against 9 core inspection PEEL assessment frameworks (PAF); these are different to the previous PEEL cycle. This PEEL Cycle also includes a Custody Inspection for some forces; Northamptonshire Police was selected for this as part of this cycle.

The force will receive its initial “de-brief” on 19th February with the final report and gradings expected in the Spring.

The force has already implemented changes and initiated work in order to address some of the areas highlighted during the inspection, rather than wait for the final report to arrive.

1.2 Firearms Licensing Inspection

The force was 1 of 6 forces selected to participate in a HMICFRS Thematic Inspection for a Firearms and Explosives Licensing Unit Inspection.

HMICFRS gave notice of the inspection in August 2025, with a requirement for documents, case file reviews, interviews, focus groups and reality testing. The inspection in force took place w/c 15th December for 1 week.

A formal de-brief was provided in January 2026 where no causes of concern were raised. Areas of learning/improvements were identified as well as good practice noted. The force is awaiting a copy of the draft report, to review for factual accuracy.

The final report is due to be published in the summer.

1.3 National Child Protection Inspection

[Northamptonshire Police: National child protection inspection - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#)

This force was subject to a re-visit in November 2026 where progress against AFIs was assessed. As a result of the visit, 3 AFIs were closed down and good progress noted against the remainder. Progress of these is governed through the Child Vulnerability Board, chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable.

2. Continuous Improvement Plan 2024 – 2026

The force delivered a root and branch review of each Peel Assessment Framework (PAF) area, as performed ahead of the inspection, to help leaders get ahead of any internally identified areas for improvement.

The Deputy Chief Constable has strategic oversight and grip of all inspection activity. This is managed through the Continuous Improvement Board, meeting monthly and attended by senior leaders and subject matter experts. This Board considers the forces direction of travel in relation to all HMICFRS Recommendations and AFIs, following all publications. It also ensures the Force Management Statement (FMS), during the creation stages, progresses in a timely manner.

The force Continuous Improvement Plan will be updated post PEEL inspection, in preparation for the next 2 years.

3. Thematic HMICFRS Inspection activity

HMICFRS has commenced a thematic inspection into Safety Advisory Groups (SAGs); Northamptonshire Police has not been selected to participate in this inspection. However, have been asked, along with all

forces, to provide information in terms of the force's use of SAGs. This has been completed and returned.

4. Conclusion

The force is confident it has the appropriate oversight in place to address its areas for improvement, and that Strategy and Improvement have the right structure and governance in place for the Deputy Chief Constable to address concerns through the Continuous Improvement Plan and Board.



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