



25th June 2024

POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE HMICFRS REPORT: 'NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY INSPECTION VETTING AND ANTI-CORRUPTION PART 2: HOW EFFECTIVE IS THE NATIONAL CRIME AGENCY AT DEALING WITH CORRUPTION?

This report considers the NCA's effectiveness and efficiency in helping and working with police forces and other law enforcement agencies to identify and tackle corruption involving police officers and staff.

The NCA's anti-corruption unit (ACU) investigates to a good standard and uses covert tactics when necessary. The NCA works well with police forces and other law enforcement agencies to help them identify and investigate corruption.

The Chief Constable and I both take the view that there is no room for complacency where tackling corruption in policing. The damage caused by those who do wrong within the police service is enormous, eroding public trust in the service. As such, weeding out those bad actors already in the organisation and preventing such people from joining in the first place is vital – and that's why the inspection of this work by HMICFRS is enormously helpful.

A report of this sort is valuable for each Police and Crime Commissioner by pointing to areas for improvement and enabling us to work with the Chief Constable, on behalf of the public, to seek continuous improvement towards the highest possible standards.

The Deputy Chief Constable summarises his views on the report as follows:

'South Wales Police fully acknowledges the findings and recommendations made within the National Crime Agency inspection Vetting and anti-corruption part 2: How effective is the National Crime Agency at dealing with corruption? It was reassuring to see that HMICFRS have identified that the NCA works well with police forces to help them identify and investigate corruption. The inspection makes a number of recommendations for the NCA and the organisation acknowledges the recommendation that chief constables should make sure they tell the National Crime Agency the outcome of investigations into suspicious activity reports relating to their force's personnel.'

South Wales Police currently manages returns on investigation outcomes to the NCA via the Anti-Corruption Unit. However, the organisation acknowledges that returns are made on completion of an investigation, which due to the nature and complexity of such investigations can take some time. The organisation will continue to complete returns and provide them to the NCA in line with the recommendation made in this report.'



I am grateful for the Deputy Chief Constable's comments and the commitment to working towards the recommendations in the report. I will use my Scrutiny & Accountability Board to track progress against this matter.

Emma Wools
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales