



3 August 2026

Police and Crime Commissioner Response to the HMICFRS Report: ‘An Inspection of the Southern Wales Regional Response to Serious and Organised Crime’

Introduction

I welcome the publication of His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) report into the Southern Wales regional response to serious and organised crime, published in June 2026. The report considers the performance of the Tarian Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU) and the 3 forces in the Southern Wales region, including South Wales Police.

I am pleased that the Inspectorate has assessed both Tarian ROCU and South Wales Police as ‘Good’ at tackling serious and organised crime. I note that no recommendations or ‘Causes of Concern’ are contained in the report. There are two ‘Areas for Improvement’ included for the regional response to serious and organised crime. Pleasingly no ‘Areas for Improvement’ were specifically allocated to South Wales Police, and the report highlights positive activity taking place in the force.

Areas for Improvement

The Areas for Improvement for the Regional Organised Crime Unit are:

- 1: Tarian Regional Organised Crime Unit and its constituent forces should improve how the region procures and uses technical surveillance equipment*
- 2. Tarian Regional Organised Crime Unit and its constituent forces need to improve how serious and organised crime threats are identified and assessed*

Oversight

My [Police, Crime and Justice Plan](#) includes 5 Priority areas, including priorities on ‘Crime Prevention and Violence Reduction’ and on ‘Protecting Vulnerable People and Communities, including Online’. Both Priorities make clear my commitment to the issues covered in this inspection, including my objective to ‘support the targeting and disruption of serious and organised crime’. My Plan has a clear focus on collaboration, acknowledging that South Wales Police can achieve more in partnership with other forces and agencies. I welcome the report’s positive findings in relation to the work of Tarian, noting the areas where improvements need to be made.



My Plan includes an action to support the implementation of the 'Clear, Hold, Build' approach to tackling serious and organised crime, and I was pleased to see that the report references that this approach is working well in South Wales. Our Violence Prevention & Reduction Unit, led by my Office, is also working with the force and multiple partners to tackle and prevent the ongoing and emerging threats of serious and organised crime.

We need to work together to protect the public from the growing harms that exist in our communities. Serious and organised crime is a significant threat to the force, and I am supporting South Wales Police in its efforts to tackle it, whilst holding the Chief Constable to account for delivery.

I will ensure that the Areas for Improvement in the report are discussed with the Chief Constable and his officers, and that I seek assurances that South Wales Police is working to deliver on them in partnership with the other two forces in Tarian. I will do these through my scrutiny and governance programme, and I am already aware of positive activity taking place.

As well as seeking immediate assurances that the Areas for Improvement are being addressed within South Wales, I will be conducting a scrutiny review of South Wales Police 'Science and Technology' early in 2027. This review has been scheduled in my annual scrutiny programme for the year ahead, so I will have the opportunity to include some of the matters in this report, such as the use of technical surveillance equipment to improve crime prevention and detection.

Positive Practice

I am pleased that the report has highlighted the positive and proactive work taking place in South Wales Police, including:

- That the force has a good understanding of serious and organised crime in the area, and that it prioritises it.
- The the force has sufficient capacity and capability to deal with serious and organised crime
- The the force has good analytical capacity and capability in relation to serious and organised crime
- That the force is focused on disrupting serious and organised crime, noting the substantial increase in the number of disruptions over the last two years.
- The the force is actively tackling serious and organised crime in prisons and effectively managing offenders.



I know that the Chief Constable is dedicated to tackling serious and organised crime and shares my commitment to crime prevention. I am confident that he will work to address areas for improvement that are identified and I will continue to oversee this activity.

Emma Wools
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales