

Regional Organised Crime Units December 2015

Background

Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU) provide a range of specialist policing capabilities at a regional level, which help forces to tackle serious and organised crime effectively.

This inspection formed part of HMIC's police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL) inspection programme, an annual assessment of how efficiently, effectively, and legitimately police forces serve the public. In 2015/16, the Effectiveness inspection programme includes for the first time an assessment of how effectively police forces tackle serious and organised crime. Many of the specialist functions used to respond to serious and organised crime are provided by regional organised crime units (ROCU) on behalf of police forces. For this reason, HMIC inspected all ten ROCUs in spring 2015, focusing on the capabilities which they provide to their constituent forces, and the effectiveness of those capabilities.

The report highlights real improvements in the ROCUs over the last few years, increasing their capacity and capability to support local forces. However the piecemeal development of each ROCU has led to significant differences between ROCUs in structure and support provided.

The report makes a number of recommendations that seek to both improve the effectiveness of ROCUs and to develop them as optimal models for regionalised service delivery.

Police & Crime Commissioners Response

I welcome the report describing the results of Her Majesty of Inspectorates inspection of Regional Organised Crime Units (ROCU).

I was pleased to read that HMIC recognised the significant developments that have been made to ROCUs in recent years. Together with my fellow Police and Crime Commissioners in the South West region I commit significant resource to supporting the South West ROCU.

I note the areas highlighted for improvement and further development and in particular three capabilities that are not currently delivered by the South West ROCU. I shall discuss the content of this report with my fellow regional commissioners and ensure that the recommendations are considered through our regional management structures.