

The Rt Hon Yvette Cooper MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London

Our ref:TP/AH05

03 February 2025

Dear Home Secretary

**RE: 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.**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on Tranche 1 of this National Thematic report.

Although Suffolk did not experience any significant violent disorder resulting from the tragic events in Southport at the end of July 2024, the Constabulary did provide mutual aid in the form of Police Support Units (PSUs) to colleagues in other forces. The force has provided a response to the report which I attach and will publish on my website.

Suffolk Constabulary are already considering elements of the report that can be actioned locally and will work with the NPCC, CoP and Home Office to support consideration and implementation of the wider recommendations.

Yours sincerely



Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk



## **Response to HMICFRS' report: An inspection of the police response to the public disorder in July and August 2024; Tranche 1, December 2024**

In December 2024, HMICFRS released this national thematic report which detailed the findings of its rapid review into the policing response to public disorder following the murders of three young girls in Southport in July 2024. This is the first of two reports following the Home Secretary's commissioning of the review, with the second part of the report due to be published in 2025.

This first tranche focused on the police service's public order public safety (POPS) capacity and capabilities; its ability to mobilise officers across police forces to respond to the disorder; and how well the well-being and resilience of officers might be affected by repeated exposure to incidents of disorder.

The report made three wide-reaching recommendations for the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and chief constables, working the College of Policing (CoP) and the Home Office, to create plans to:

- Improve the police service's capacity and capability to respond to widespread violent disorder
- Improve how the police service mobilises public order public safety (POPS) resources
- Improve the well-being support the police service gives to its officers and staff.

### **Suffolk Constabulary's Response**

Following the tragic events, widespread unrest and violent disorder that broke out in many towns and cities across the UK in August 2024, Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies responded collaboratively and in partnership with our other regional forces to support the national mobilisation of Public Order Level 2 trained officers under Operation Navette. We were jointly asked to mobilise our Strategic Policing reserve of Police Support Unit's (PSU), a group of officers who are trained in enhanced public order tactics who deploy in specialist police carrier vans. Mutual aid provision under Operation Navette was stood-up on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> August. Both Constabularies provided PSUs daily, until 18<sup>th</sup> August as part of the national mobilisation programme.

Following their Tranche 1 rapid review, HMICFRS have made three recommendations. These recommendations require all police forces across England and Wales to work in collaboration with the National Police Chiefs Council (NPCC), the College of Policing, and the Home Office to take them forward.

After the publication of the report in December 2024, and in advance of receiving national direction and guidance, we have already begun to consider and act in response to some of the rapid review findings.

In conjunction with Norfolk Constabulary, we are reviewing the number of officers we train to PSU Level 2 to ensure that we will continue to have sufficient capability to support the Strategic Policing Requirement related to public disorder. We are also considering how public order public safety planning and mobilisation at a force level prioritises the well-being of officers and staff, such as making sure they have access to food and drink, adequate personal protective equipment, and toilet facilities.

The joint Constabulary's Drone Development Team are working with the NPCC to develop digital intelligence within drone technology, which could include facial recognition and number plate recognition. The Constabulary already routinely deploys drones to disorder incidents in the county which can provide live video feed to PSU Commanders on the ground.

In conjunction with Norfolk Constabulary, our joint Protective Services Command will work with the National Police Chiefs' Council, the College of Policing, and the Home Office to consider, and where appropriate implement the report's recommendations on a local or regional basis. We await further national direction on this matter.