

The Rt Hon Shabana Mahood MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London

Our ref:TP/AH10

21 October 2025

Dear Home Secretary

**RE: How effectively do the police record crime?**

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

There were three recommendations which impacted on police forces. Suffolk Constabulary has provided a response to these recommendations which I attach and will publish on my website.

The Constabulary's Crime Audit Team undertakes regular reviews to identify opportunities for improvement and to strengthen the accuracy and timeliness of crime recording. Insights gained from these audits are shared through tailored training packages and published on the force intranet to support continuous learning. I will continue to monitor these measures through my established Accountability and Performance arrangements.

Yours sincerely



Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk



**Response to HMICFRS' report: [How effectively do the police record crime?](#), August 2025**

In August 2025, HMICFRS published the findings from their PEEL Spotlight review on the recording of crime, an assessment of all completed PEEL inspections focusing on crime-recording practices. Crime recording is included under the inspection framework to ensure that forces adhere to national standards set by the Home Office, encompassing:

- Victims of crime receiving appropriate support
- The public having accurate information about crime in their area
- Forces effectively planning and using investigative resources to best effect.

This PEEL Spotlight report brings together the findings from HMICFRS' 2016-2020 Crime Data Integrity Inspections from the PEEL inspection programme.

The report made a total of three recommendations aimed at improving practices for crime recording across police forces in England and Wales.

All three recommendations are for police forces. Suffolk Constabulary accepts these recommendations and the below sets out the constabulary's response to these.

**Recommendation 1**

Forces need to improve their recording of all violent crimes, in particular conduct crimes such as harassment, stalking and controlling or coercive behaviour and less serious assaults.

*The recording of violent crimes in Suffolk Constabulary is subject to routine audit carried out by the constabulary's Crime Audit Team and will continue to be so going forward. The last internal National Crime Recording Standards audit completed in February 2025 showed compliance of violent crime recording at 87%.*

*At present, when a report is received by the control room it is assessed for Threat, Harm and Risk to identify the correct crime type and associated risk. Once an incident is responded to and crime identified and recorded, this is then allocated to the correct department to investigate. All investigations are quality assured by Suffolk's Investigation Management Unit to ensure crime classification is correct. A tasking and finishing group has been set up to review how effective the constabulary is at ensuring crimes are recorded within 24 hours of an incident being reported, where this needs to be balanced with ensuring recorded crime quality is maintained.*

*In addition to this, the force carries out regular focused audits on specific crime types to identify issues and inform learning and practice around performance, including the accuracy of recording.*

## **Recommendation 2**

Forces should make sure they quickly and correctly record crimes related to domestic abuse.

*The recording of crimes related to domestic abuse in Suffolk Constabulary is subject to routine audit carried out by the constabulary's Crime Audit Team and will continue to be so going forward. The last internal National Crime Recording Standards audit completed in April 2025 showed compliance of domestic abuse recording at 85%. Within the control room, Suffolk Constabulary call takers use a specific domestic abuse call script completed for all domestic calls, which is then reviewed by a supervisor to ensure the call is handled appropriately. This ensures risk is identified and incidents allocated appropriately for response and onwards investigation.*

*In Suffolk Constabulary, all domestic abuse related crimes should be promptly reviewed by supervisors and measures are in place to ensure that this is adhered to. Suffolk Constabulary already recognises that there are improvements to be made in the recording of domestic abuse related crimes and training inputs are already in place to address this. Recent training for Response Investigation officers contained an input around domestic abuse and Home Office Counting Rules. Additionally, an upcoming 'DA in a Day' training input is due to be delivered to response officers. This input will be delivered alongside College of Policing approved material focusing on the learning from a recent domestic abuse case and the importance of recognising domestic abuse in relation to crimes.*

## **Recommendation 3**

Forces need to make sure all officers and staff involved in crime recording are appropriately trained and understand their role in recording crime. They should also make sure there is effective oversight and scrutiny of crime-recording decisions and accuracy.

*In Suffolk Constabulary, all officers receive an initial Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR)/National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS) input and are provided with routine feedback in relation to any errors made by the Investigation Management Unit (IMU; who quality assure all investigations) and the Crime Audit Team. There are numerous training packages which have been created and an internal intranet site owned by the Crime Audit Team which contains pertinent information.*

*In addition to this a new PIP 1 Supervisor course is about to be rolled out to acting and new in role Sergeants, which will include a module on the role of an investigative supervisor and another on managing the initial investigation stage, both of which are aimed at ensuring quality investigations. IMU are also in the process of developing bespoke training 'how to' guidance focusing on crime recording.*

*Scrutiny and oversight is completed within the IMU and through an independent audit regime, which is undertaken by the Crime Audit Team. Results from the audit regime are reported to the Crime Data Integrity board, chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable and learning disseminated accordingly. Additionally, Inspectors are expected to carry out a monthly audit of crimes recorded by their teams to ensure accuracy.*