

**KATE GREEN**  
**DEPUTY MAYOR  
OF GREATER  
MANCHESTER**

Rt Hon James Cleverley MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Date: 21<sup>st</sup> December 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

**SUBJECT: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)  
SOC PEEL Inspection Report**

I write in response to the recent HMICFRS Serious Organised Crime (SOC) PEEL Inspection report. I would like to start by saying that serious and organised crime is an important area of focus for us in Greater Manchester, and we have a well-established partnership response, led jointly by Greater Manchester Police and GMCA, in the form of Challenger.

I was pleased that some of the excellent work that GMP is doing to tackle SOC has been recognised, including promising practice regarding the targeting of criminal finance and effectively targeting SOC in high harm locations. Operation Vulcan in the Cheetham Hill area of Manchester is quite rightly highlighted as a success in this area. Vulcan utilised the Challenger model to draw partners together to tackle the range of criminality the area experiences, and we were pleased when this work was accepted as a pilot area for Clear, Hold, Build. As a result of its successes, it has recently been extended to the Piccadilly Gardens area, and we look forward to its continued success.

My office continues to work side by side with GMP to tackle SOC. I have provided a strategic lead and two Senior Policy and Partnership Officers, who are embedded with GMP, to enable a joined-up approach including supporting in the commissioning of services in localities and across Greater Manchester. We welcome the opportunity at the next Inspection to provide a greater understanding of the ways in which the wider partnership tackles SOC, including delivery against the Challenger strategy and the governance in place to support this.

Having spoken with senior leaders at GMP, I can provide the following update in response to the Area for Improvement for GMP identified in the report.

**1) AFI 1: Greater Manchester Police needs to improve its capacity to tackle serious and organised crime**

This relates to two key areas:

- Surveillance capability, specifically the lack of on-call surveillance capability and a reliance on other forces if support is needed outside of core hours.

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- Vacant posts on SOC specialist roles, specifically the force intelligence bureau and SOC groups.

Senior leaders have confirmed that GMP will be launching a 24/7 on call surveillance function on 8<sup>th</sup> January and will be one of only two forces in the region with this capability. A Newly created Detective Sergeant post has also been recruited to, which will be responsible for the recruitment, training and retention of staff in the team.

With regard to the Serious and Organised Crime Group (SOCC) syndicates, concern was raised that at the time of the inspection that there was a 28% vacancy rate across the syndicates. I have been informed that the current vacancy rate has already been reduced to 10%.

It has been highlighted to me that SOCC syndicates are just one part of the Force wide response to SOC, which also includes the County Lines team, Force Critical Wanted Unit and the Modern Slavery Unit. The establishment across this teams is 179 and there is a vacancy rate of less than 8% against this.

If there is anything further that I can provide in assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Kate Green  
**Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester**

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