

KATE GREEN
**DEPUTY MAYOR
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Rt Hon Yvette Cooper
Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

Date: Thursday 17th October

Dear Home Secretary,

SUBJECT: HMICFRS Inspection response - *Progress to introduce a national operating model for rape and other serious sexual offences investigations in early adopter police forces*'.

I write in response to the recent publication of the HMICFRS' report '*Progress to introduce a national operating model for rape and other serious sexual offences investigations in early adopter police forces*'.

I welcome the report and note the findings and 14 recommendations identified. Further, I pay specific notice to the five recommendations within the report specifically identified as for the attention of chief constables and forces. I have discussed the report with the Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police (GMP) and also in the context of the national Soteria Joint Unit's feedback on the force's self-assessment of May this year. I set out the action to address HMICFRS's recommendations below.

Since GMP became a second-stage pilot force for the National Operating Model, significant resources and activity have been committed by the force and Greater Manchester's Gender-Based Violence Board to significantly transform the investigation and prosecution of rape, and dramatically improve the outcomes for victims of such horrendous crimes.

It is pleasing to see the report outline some positive findings from the fieldwork undertaken in the pilot force areas, such as the greater fostering of a victim centred focus. However, it is also critical that the areas identified for improvement are scrutinised, understood and considered. Communication with victims as to the progress of cases is an issue seen across the breadth of policing and is something the Mayor and I are committed to see improved within GMP. I know that the force through its strategic performance framework is committed to addressing this.

Response to HMICFRS Report Recommendations

Recommendation 1

By 31 January 2025, all forces should make sure personnel working on rape and other serious sexual offences receive College of Policing approved training on the investigation of word-on-word cases.

I am pleased to state that the RAOSSO Investigative Skills Programme (RISDP) will continue to be delivered week-to-week in GMP until the end of this year, with an increased focus on word-on-word cases. GMP is also awaiting the approved training package from the College of Policing and will

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

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implement this through their RISDP, Specially Trained Officer (STO) training for response officers and Soteria first responder training programmes.

Recommendation 5

By 31 July 2025, chief constables should make sure their forces use the new definition of repeat rape and other serious sexual offences suspects to identify and manage them.

GMP have also committed to ensuring that the new definition of repeat rape and other serious sexual offences is communicated and embedded when it is published.

Recommendation 7

By 31 January 2025, all chief constables should make sure their forces prioritise identifying and disrupting rape and other serious sexual offences (RASSO) suspects. This includes making sure that:

- *forces track, manage and respond effectively to breaches of [bail](#) and protection orders in RASSO cases; and*
- *all relevant personnel complete National Operating Model training on using criminal and civil orders to tackle RASSO.*

Prioritising the identification and disrupting rape and other serious sexual offences (RASSO) suspects will also become further entrenched within GMP's systematic response to such offences. GMP already has RAOSSO as a control strategy priority, with the offence of rape being a priority and performance is heavily scrutinised through its internal frameworks.

Through the Operation Soteria data and performance pillar, GMP will explore and develop, within the capabilities of the Records Management System (RMS), a solution to track, manage and respond to breaches, which are currently managed at a district level through their performance framework.

Training on the potential use of protection orders, criminal and civil orders is included in RISDP training for investigators, and one of the current trainers is a former sex-offender manager with subject matters expert (SME) knowledge in relation to prevention and protection orders.

However, GMP has not currently started training or roll-out of NOM training but I will closely monitor GMP's roll-out of this once the national CPD and NOM documents are developed and issued.

Recommendation 9

By 31 January 2025, chief constables should make sure their forces have good processes in place for applying to retain DNA and fingerprints to improve their use of [section 63G of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984](#).

Since the introduction of the Protection of Freedoms Act 2012, GMP Forensic Services have been actively pursuing opportunities to exploit the use of Section 63G applications to the Biometric Commissioner's Office.

GMP Forensic Services have initiated three successful appeals to the Biometric Commissioner, all of which related to sexual offending of people in positions of authority. . The submission of these applications allowed GMP to understand the level of detail required to secure successful applications.

Further, GMP has committed to increasing the knowledge of the opportunity offered by such Section 63G applications amongst key investigator groups. This has involved multiple briefings to senior investigating

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officers and all ranks of detectives. There have also been targeted briefings with officers from the Online Child Abuse Investigation Team (OCAIT) team, Sex Offender Management Units (SOMUs) and Public Protection Division to show how Section 63G can aid domestic abuse (DA) and Serious Acquisitive Crime (SAC) investigations.

Recommendation 11

All chief constables should make sure that, as part of adopting the National Operating Model, their forces:

- develop a rape and other serious sexual offences problem profile.*
- include the National Operating Model flight deck within their strategic performance monitoring; and*
- adopt any key performance indicators that are agreed and published by the Soteria Joint Unit. GMP response*

GMP does publish and refresh the Problem Profile, however, it is acknowledged that there is opportunity to enhance the product and have, under the Soteria Plan, taken steps to learn from other forces in this regard.

Soteria is already covered in Force Strategic performance for rape and GMP can adopt any key performance indicators (KPI) once they are specified if they are measurable within the systems and align to the performance framework

To conclude, I am committed in supporting the Chief Constable and Greater Manchester Police in all steps to ensure the National Operation Model is fully implemented, once developed, and introduced at a national level. Soteria represents a major opportunity to transform for the better, the way in which those who are subjected to this horrific crime are treated and served by the police and wider agencies. It also offers a potential model to how other offences, such as domestic abuse, stalking and harassment etc., should be tackled. The recommendations from this inspection and the national joint unit feedback forms a specific element of my scrutiny regime as I am determined that through Soteria, GMP will be at the forefront in shaping the model for the benefit of the people of Greater Manchester.

Yours sincerely,



Kate Green
Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester