

## **Response from the Police & Crime Commissioner of Devon and Cornwall to Improving the response to organised immigration crime**

As Chair of the Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit (MSOICU) Strategic Assurance Board, I know the harm caused by organised immigration crime (OIC), which sees vulnerable people placed in the most dangerous situations, frequently resulting in the death of migrants, including children, as a result of attempts to enter the UK by crossing the channel in small boats, and via other similarly perilous routes.

To effectively tackle organised immigration crime, law enforcement agencies need to work together to gather data and intelligence, disrupt illegal activity and enforce the law. The landscape is complex, and this report from HMICFRS lays out the challenges facing policing and government agencies and some key recommendations to drive improvement.

I welcome the inspectorate's recognition of the hard work and impact the MSOICU has had since its inception, including the impact of peer reviews and the value in extending the remit of these. The Hydra training package for immigration crime incidents is also commended and I am pleased to see that recommendation 8 of the report asks that all relevant personnel complete this training package, and that my own force is already meeting this recommendation.

### **Chief Constable's comments**

The publication 'Improving the response to organised immigration crime' findings are fully noted by Devon & Cornwall Police. We accept the four recommendations relating to Chief Constables and will provide support where required with the remaining six recommendations that are for other agencies.

#### **Recommendation 2**

By 30 April 2026, chief constables should make sure that every time a member of their force reports a case to Immigration Enforcement's National Command and Control Unit, the reporting officer completes and submits the required intelligence document.

#### **Action planned/taken:**

Devon and Cornwall Police completed 1752 referrals to the National Command and Control Unit (NCCU) in 2024 and have completed 939 in the first five months of 2025. Continued and refreshed training has given call takers in the control room a good understanding of the requirements of the National Response Plan. On most occasions the intelligence document is completed over the telephone on first report to the NCCU. The force is currently awaiting confirmation from the NCCU to establish if any intelligence documents remain outstanding.

In May 2025 Devon and Cornwall Police launched a requirement for all identified OIC events to have a formalised debrief at the conclusion of the incident which includes a question on submitting the intelligence document. A sergeant hosts the debrief and works through a set of

pre-defined questions. The results from the debriefs are reviewed by the strategic

#### **Recommendation 4**

By 31 December 2025, chief constables should make sure they have clear plans to collect, analyse and share information related to organised immigration crime.

safeguarding hub with thematic updates being provided to the OIC partnership meeting.

#### **Action planned/taken:**

Devon and Cornwall Police have good and well-established plans to collect and share information. The level of OIC intelligence submissions has continued to increase. In 2023, 148 intelligence reports were created, in 2024 the total was 242.

The OIC portfolio has focused significant effort to map intelligence flows, to deconflict intelligence with law enforcement partners and to test inter-operability.

#### **Recommendation 8**

By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the Hydra training package on organised immigration crime.

#### **Action planned/taken:**

Devon and Cornwall Police have delivered four OIC Hydra Courses since 2022. A total of 37 officers have received this training across varying ranks and roles. Attendance has been targeted to ensure a good skillset and experience sits across the following functions: Investigations (14 Detective Inspectors, 6 Detective Sergeants, 2 Detective Constables) Patrol (6 Inspectors) Contact (9 control room supervisors). The 37 officers trained have been selected as they are likely to have a leading role in response to an OIC incident. The force is satisfied that relevant staff have been trained in sufficient number, and considering the relatively low number of OIC incidents, this represents a more than proportionate investment in training, and therefore considers that no further action is necessary.

#### **Recommendation 9**

By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit and the College of Policing, should make sure that relevant personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the four modules of the organised immigration crime e-learning package.

**Action planned/taken:**

Devon and Cornwall Police are currently reviewing how this will be rolled out in force but processes are in place to mandate that the College of Policing learning package is mandatory for all front-line officers and CID Investigators. The target date for completion of the training is April 2026.