
KATE GREEN
**DEPUTY MAYOR
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER**

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

8th July 2025

Dear Home Secretary,

SUBJECT: HMICFRS Inspection response – *Improving the response to organised immigration crime*

I write in response to the recent publication of the HMICFRS report '*Improving the response to organised immigration crime*'.

I want to start by thanking HMICFRS for this report, which examines how the response to organised immigration crime can be improved. The growth of criminal networks facilitating illegal immigration has been startling, as has the extent to which they prey on some of the most vulnerable people globally. I am proud that Challenger, our partnership response to serious and organised crime, has supported in providing an enabling environment for Greater Manchester to tackle this insidious crime, including a dedicated Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime (MSOIC) investigative team within Greater Manchester Police (GMP).

The importance of the work of this team, and the work being implemented across Greater Manchester, was reinforced just last month (June 10th), when officers from that team, along with Immigration Enforcement, Immigration Criminal and Financial Investigations, HMRC and Trading Standards worked together to arrest nine individuals on suspicion of conspiracy to facilitate a breach of immigration law by assisting illegal entry into the UK; conspiracy to launder money; and participating in the activities of an organised crime group.

The work being undertaken in the city-region is testament to the way in which GMP has invested in improving its response to organised immigration crime. Specifically in relation to the four recommendations included in the HMICFRS report directed to the Chief Constable, I am pleased to report the following summary of GMP's response.

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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 (NCCU), the reporting officer completes and submits the required intelligence document.

Due to significant improvements in the quality of OIC intelligence submissions and compliance rates, GMP is recording more information for sharing with partners than previously. Between 2023 and 2024, there was a 313% increase in intelligence submissions. In addition, GMP’s work to manage criminal finance that stems from OIC, Operation Approach, involves direct sharing of intelligence with the NCCU and was positively referenced in the HMICFRS report.

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.

OIC is included on GMP’s Force Control Strategy and there is an up-to-date OIC intelligence profile, with the Force Intelligence Bureau analysing OIC intelligence to produce meaningful analytical products.

Monthly Challenger Tactical meetings and Force Tactical Tasking and Co-ordination Group meetings enable GMP to monitor both the volume of OIC intelligence and compliance with the mandated national intelligence tag #OIMCR, of which GMP has the highest submissions in the region and nationally.

The dedicated MSOIC team within GMP also contributes to the creation and analysis of intelligence. This is evidenced by the increase in the number of mapped Organised Crime Groups (OCGs) with OIC recorded as a threat, from 8 in 2023 to 17 in 2025. OIC linked Agency and Partner Management Information System (APMIS) disruptions have also increased, from 13 in 2023 to 39 in 2024.

2025 has already seen 59 disruptions, up to June 2025, evidencing the strength of intelligence that is now able to be actioned.

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.

In early 2024, GMP mandated the OIC Hydra programme for all Inspectors who complete a duty officer role. 140 officers have already been trained, with a rolling programme to deliver the training to a further 200 officers. In addition, this will be expanded to other Inspectors, and Chief Inspectors, resulting in this training being delivered to a total of 565 officers by the end of 2025.

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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.

As with Hydra training, GMP mandated the completion of the e-learning packages. At the time of the HMICFRS inspection, 4,000 officers had completed the course. Over 8,000 officers have now been recorded as completing the training in GMP, and the Force continues to advertise the course and track compliance data, with the support of the NW ROCU.

Organised Immigration Crime remains a priority for the Chief Constable and is included as one of the priority SOC threats for GMP's Force Control Strategy in the city region. It is supported by engaged key partners through Programme Challenger, and I am confident that GMP will continue to drive this priority forward.

Yours sincerely



Kate Green
Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester
Safer and Stronger Communities