



24/02/21

RESPONSE OF WILTSHIRE POLICE TO THE HMICFRS REPORT

Safe to share? Report on Liberty and Southall Black Sisters' super-complaint on policing and immigration status

Chief Officer comments

The Chief Constable of Wiltshire notes the published report and recommendations made within it and welcomes recommendations to improve systems and processes to support victims of crime.

Portfolio lead comments

The Force works closely with all victims and witnesses of crime in an effort to support them through the process of reporting. Referrals are made to relevant support agencies on behalf of victims and witnesses whenever appropriate. Any recommendations made to the Force will be acknowledged and action will be taken where required.

Recommendations	Wiltshire Police response provided to below email. Agreed and signed off by Supt Mant, portfolio lead.
<p>The report makes 8 'recommendations' 4 specific to Police which are referred to below;</p>	<p>HMICFRS' Monitoring Portal is not currently being used to report on progress on the recommendations from super-complaints. Included in the recommendations is a requirement to all recipients of recommendations from this investigation to provide an update to HMICFRS on progress in implementing these recommendations within six months of the date of publication. This report should be provided to policesupercomplaint@hmicfrs.gov.uk</p> <p>HMICFRS force liaison leads are not required to follow up these recommendations.</p> <p>PCC responses under section 55 of the Police Act 1996 are not required.</p>
<p>Recommendation 1. To chief constables</p> <p>As an interim measure, pending the outcome of recommendation 2, where officers only have concerns or doubts about a victim's immigration status, we recommend that they immediately stop sharing information on domestic</p>	<p>Wiltshire Police notes the recommendation to support victims of domestic abuse and ensures they are provided with opportunity for relevant and supportive advice and guidance.</p>



<p>abuse victims with Immigration Enforcement. Instead, police officers should link the victim to a third party that can provide advice and assistance, as set out in recommendation 4 (on the creation of safe reporting pathways).</p> <p>This applies where police officers have doubts about a victim's immigration status, not where they have evidence that an offence has been committed. The College of Policing will immediately develop guidance for the police service to clarify this aspect of practice (This recommendation to stop information sharing only applies to victims of domestic abuse)</p>	<p>Wiltshire Police will take steps to prevent the routine sharing of information with Immigration Enforcement for complainants of domestic abuse through a change of procedure.</p>
<p>Recommendation 4. To chief constables</p> <p>With reference to recommendation 1, and in consultation/collaboration with local or national specialist organisations, chief constables should take steps to ensure that all migrant victims and witnesses of crime are effectively supported through safe reporting pathways to the police and other statutory agencies.</p> <p>They should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure there is a proper policy and practice framework in place for officers to work within; • develop victim and witness support policies that reflect the characteristics of the safeguarding protocol set out in recommendation 3, and: • draw on all relevant national guidance with reference to the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime and data protection legislation; • are developed in partnership with and include pathways to the relevant specialist organisations for supporting victims and witnesses with insecure immigration status; • are clear about the circumstances in which information will be shared by police with immigration enforcement; • provide clarity about the purpose of sharing information at different points of the pathway; and • explicitly recognise the importance of telling victims, witnesses and supporting agencies whether information will be shared with Immigration Enforcement, and if so, when and in what circumstances. • promote understanding among police officers and staff to differentiate between responses to victims of modern slavery/human trafficking and victims of domestic abuse; • promote awareness within their forces of any existing pathways to specialist organisations for supporting victims with insecure immigration status; • ensure the policy and practice framework is adopted by all officers and staff who come into contact with victims of crime who have insecure immigration status; and 	<p>Wiltshire Police works well with partners having good mechanisms in place to refer victims and witnesses of crime to relevant pathways. The force notes and awaits the creation of a safe reporting pathway process, which will compliment current force practice, working in line with Victims Code of Practice.</p> <p>Any actions that come from this process will be discussed at the relevant Domestic Abuse Subgroup and assigned to the appropriate agency for ownership.</p>



<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • promote police engagement in regular outreach community work, as highlighted as good practice in this report. 	
<p>Recommendation 5. To chief constables and police and crime commissioners (or equivalents)</p> <p>With reference to recommendation 1, pending the developments outlined in other recommendations, and in consultation/collaboration with local or national specialist organisations, chief constables and police and crime commissioners should take steps, through the appropriate channels, to promote migrant victims' and witnesses' confidence in reporting crimes to the police through safe reporting pathways, without fear of prioritised immigration control.</p>	<p>Wiltshire Police recognises the importance of victims and witness having the confidence to report, to this end the force works closely with the community to positively influence reporting and utilises opportunities via social media to influence this. Further, the force's community-based policing teams work to forge good links with the community. The force notes the recommendation which provides a good platform to further influence reports.</p>
<p>Recommendation 8. To all recipients of recommendations from this investigation;</p> <p>Provide an update to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary on progress in implementing these recommendations within six months of the date of publication of this report.</p>	<p>The force notes this recommendation and provides this response in support.</p>

Police and Crime Commissioner's comments

PCC's comments may be returned separately or added to this content post this return.

Michelle Francis
 HMICFRS Liaison Officer,
 Wiltshire Police