

RESPONSE DATED 6TH APRIL 2021 TO ‘AN INSPECTION OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE REGIONAL ORGANISED CRIME UNITS’ PUBLISHED ON 10TH FEBRUARY 2021

This report contains two recommendations for the Chief Constable which are set out below with the responses to each.

“By February 2022, chief officers responsible for SOC in each region, with the chief officers of the affected forces, should make sure that systems are in place for senior investigating officers (SIOs) and lead responsible officers (LROs) to work effectively together.”

In Avon and Somerset there is already a well embedded system for SIOs and LROs to work effectively together. There is a regional tasking meeting every month in which Organised Crime Group (OCG) tasking is discussed. OCGs are reviewed and prioritised with the SIO and LRO assigned on the crime records management system (Niche). The Regional Organised Crime Threat Assessment (ROCTA) team ratify OCGs and where appropriate Capabilities meetings are held to discuss regional support. The LRO and SIO have responsibilities and ownership for various parts of the 4P plan (pursue, prevent, prepare, protect) which is recorded and tracked on Niche. Serious Organised Crime (SOC) system tasking is now in place as well as MoRiLE2020 for scoring and mapping OCGs as well as SOC threats.

“By February 2022, the chief constable with the lead for SOC in each region, with the chief officers of the affected forces, should ensure that a chief officer is appointed with responsibility for each ROCU, as far as practicable working autonomously of force responsibilities.”

Avon and Somerset Police are part of the South West ROCU. SW ROCU already has a specific chief officer post as per the above recommendation. This post is held by an Assistant Chief Constable (ACC), who originates from one of the regional forces but works autonomously in the role of Regional ACC for SW ROCU. This role has responsibility for the SW ROCU, Counter Terrorism Policing South West and South West Forensics.

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