

‘Improving the response to organised immigration crime’
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Avon & Somerset PCC response dated 24 June 2025

Tackling organised immigration crime (OIC) is a matter of justice, safety, and compassion. These criminal networks prey on vulnerable people, profiting from desperation and putting lives at risk through dangerous smuggling routes and exploitation. This form of crime is often linked to wider criminal networks involved in human trafficking, exploitation, and modern slavery, which cause immense harm to vulnerable individuals. By disrupting these networks, we not only safeguard those at risk but also reinforce public confidence in a fair and effective immigration system. It is essential that we work closely with law enforcement, international partners, and local communities to dismantle these operations and bring perpetrators to justice.

It should be noted that I have a legal duty to respond to inspection reports within eight weeks of their publication. However, the Constabulary have longer to address these recommendations. Below I set out the recommendations applicable to Chief Constables and the initial response to each of these.

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.

Response

This recommendation is already partially addressed through the procedures officers follow when responding to [Op Innerste](#) incidents (unaccompanied migrant children). However, the Constabulary recognise a broader process needs to be established – including in custody settings – to ensure that all officers consistently submit relevant intelligence when reporting cases to the NCCU. This enhanced process will be developed as part of the ongoing intelligence work outlined in the recommendation below.

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.

Response

The Constabulary are developing an OIC profile, a Strategic Intelligence Requirement and an Intelligence Collection Plan. The Constabulary had already started work to improve in this area following recommendations from a recent Peer Review.

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.

Response

The Constabulary has a dedicated trainer in place who has been delivering OIC Hydra courses for over a year. The course is specifically designed for supervisors at Inspector level, so this is being delivered to colleagues of that rank from the Control Room, Patrol, Neighbourhood Policing, CID and Road Policing.

The Constabulary have also hosted colleagues from neighbouring forces who lack access to Hydra facilities, enabling them to attend this training.

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.

Response

The Constabulary recognise the value in this e-learning package and as there is already a significant amount of mandatory training required for officers across a range of topics this training will need to be incorporated into that training schedule.

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