

Committee(s): Strategic Planning and Performance Committee	Dated: 22 February 2024
Subject: Crime Data Integrity Review	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 24-24	For Discussion
Report author: Brett McKenna, Head of Strategy & Planning	

Summary

A review of crime data integrity has found that:

- The crime recording culture in the City of London is generally good amongst supervisors
- Sexual offence recording compliance is high
- The City of London's crime transfer process is robust
- Improvement could be made in recording of anti-social behaviour incidents
- City of London Police needs to review and refresh training and support for frontline staff and supervisors in the recording of crime
- Improvements are required in the recording of violence related offences and consistency of application of Home Office Mandated crime flags.

The review has made 8 recommendations to improve crime data integrity.

Recommendations

It is recommended that Members note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. City of London Police has undertaken a review of its crime data integrity (CDI), against mandated Home Office crime recording standards known as Home Office Counting Rules (HOCR). HOCR provides police forces with a framework to ensure consistent recording standards nationwide. They govern the process for correctly recording crimes for the public at first point of contact and upon receipt of crime reports from third parties. They require all reported crime to be recorded within 24 hours of receipt.
2. The HMICFRS PEEL inspection process considers crime recording standards through a combined CDI and victim services assessment inspection. The former considers compliance with recording processes and timeliness. The latter focuses on victim updates on recorded crime and the services offered to victims.
3. The Force Crime & Incident Registrar (FCIR) undertook a deep dive review of crime data integrity in January 2024. The FCIR is a statutory post responsible for crime data integrity audit and training and communication of crime recording standards. A summary of the findings of the review is set out below.

Summary of findings

4. Overall compliance levels are 90.4% based on a data sample taken from mid-July to end December 2023. Compliance for violent offences is 81.6%. Compliance for sexual offences is 95.3% and 72.7% for N100s¹ (unconfirmed reports of rape). Compliance with timeliness of recording is 92-93%. Further detail can be found at Appendix 1.
5. The review has resulted in 8 recommendations to improve crime data integrity compliance listed at Appendix 2, including timelines for delivery.

What we do well

6. The crime recording culture is generally good amongst supervisors. Supervisors at the rank of sergeant understand the correct recording standards resulting in comparatively few incidents being under recorded.
7. Sexual offence recording compliance is high. This is a critical focus of a CDI inspection by HMICFRS. Internal audits have confirmed no exception reporting.
8. A high rate of compliance for 24 hour recording is maintained, with only two incidents of note for non-compliance in 2023.

¹ N100-A record created to describe why reported incidents of rape, whether from victims, witnesses or 3rd parties, have not been immediately recorded as confirmed crimes.

9. The crime transfer process is robust (a process for when crimes occur outside the jurisdiction of the City). Due to the unique crime and demographic profile of the City, the transfer process to other Home Office police forces is used more frequently.

What we could do better

10. Anti-social behaviour (ASB) is usually recorded correctly and does not appear to be a significant source of missed (unrecorded) crimes. However, ASB records sometimes lack detail which means there is not enough information recorded to judge whether or not a crime has taken place.
11. There are vulnerabilities in crime recording processes, which are open to human error and Niche workflows will be reviewed to close these vulnerabilities.
12. Recording compliance of violence-related offences and N100s (unconfirmed reports of rape) needs to improve. Violence recording compliance is low in comparison to other areas, however more data is needed to better understand the picture. The figures are partially affected by three unrecorded modern slavery crimes noted in Q2.
13. Modern Slavery cases are rare in CoLP, however there are often recording issues when they are disclosed. This will be addressed by reviewing and refreshing training and support for frontline staff and supervisors in the recording of crime.
14. There also does not appear to be much awareness that if a victim discloses a modern slavery crime and discloses other offences as well (e.g. assaults, rape), an additional crime must be raised. This will be addressed by reviewing and refreshing training and support for frontline staff and supervisors in the recording of crime.
15. Audits in May and September, which audit the journey of crimes from the initial contact with police, show a good level of compliance where violence is directly reported. However violence offences are sometimes not recorded when noted in conjunction with other crimes, or during existing investigations. This will be addressed by reviewing and refreshing training and support for frontline staff and supervisors in the recording of crime.
16. Application of the Home Office mandated crime flags need to be applied more consistently.
17. Audits have shown that generally crime cancellations are being completed correctly, however improved access controls and supervision would remove the potential for mistakes to be made.
18. Clearer reporting on crime recording performance through internal governance is required to ensure the position on crime recording is clearly articulated throughout the organisation and performance is being improved.

Governance

19. The 8 recommendations will be monitored through the CoLP Crime Standards Board (a tier 3 board) and overseen at CoLP Operational Improvement Board (Tier 2) chaired by the Assistant Commissioner Operations and Security. The Police Authority Director

attends this Board to monitor progress on behalf of the Police Authority. This is assessed as sufficient governance to ensure the improvements are delivered.

HMICFRS Inspection Preparation

20. Forces that perform well in HMICFRS inspections of crime recording feature good supervision and leadership and are good at recording crimes against vulnerable victims, with domestic-related offences often featuring prominently in reports.
21. The Force Crime & Incident Registrar (FCIR) is communicating with recently inspected forces, to gather information on good practice highlighted by HMICFRS. The FCIR has also been part of the inspection moderation team for Northamptonshire Police which has given some insight into the process.
22. The time period for the inspection data is expected to be close to the start of the inspection. For example Northamptonshire Police were informed of their inspection in April 2023 and asked for data from between 01/01/23 and 31/03/23. Generally the inspection team will not review data exceeding a period of three months unless causes of concern are reported. Inspections do not generally cover periods in changes of calendar year.
23. In most of their reports, HMICFRS has commented on forces needing to improve their recording of equality data. This was also an Area for Improvement (AFI) given to CoLP, after its last CDI inspection in 2019 and a decision was made at that time that CoLP would record victim equality data for gender, age, ethnicity and disability, and would record religion only if it was relevant as an aggravating factor in a hate crime. This was intended to be CoLP's interim position pending national guidance. As of January 2024 no formal national update has been issued (See Recommendation 8).
24. Previous audits have found:
 - Gender and age are generally recorded
 - Ethnicity is recorded in around 60% of records
 - Disability is asked in the template for online reports, but it is not always recorded in a searchable field on the person record on Niche.
 - Religion is not usually recorded unless it is relevant as an aggravating factor for a hate crime.
 - Sexuality is not recorded, as there is not a specific field on Niche which would enable this. (There is an NPCC national working group leading on the changes that would be required to enable this on Niche).

Appendices:

Appendix 1- Crime data recording and integrity overview

Appendix 2 – Recommendations

Brett McKenna

Head of Strategy & Planning

E: brett.mckenna@cityoflondon.police.uk

APPENDIX 1- Crime Data Integrity and Recording Overview

Overall Compliance: (Data sample taken from Mid-July to end December 2023)

90.4%	Crimes Disclosed (Disc)	Crimes Recorded (Rec)
	177	160

Based on findings across all audits. Margin of error is approximately +/- 4%.

Violence:

81.6%	
49	40
Disc	Rec

Sexual Offences:
(not N100s)

95.3%	
85	81
Disc	Rec

N100

72.7%	
22	16
Disc	Rec

Other Crime:

90.7%	
43	39
Disc	Rec

Timeliness (crimes recorded within 24hrs of disclosure)

Q2 – 92.7%

Q3 – 93.4%

Flagging (Q3)

Flag	Required and Added	Wrongly Added	Missed
Hate			
Business	4		7
Metal			
Domestic	8		2
Online	1		2
CSA	1		1
CSE	2		
Alcohol	6	4	4
Corrosive			
HBA	1		
	23	4	16

APPENDIX 2 -Recommendations

	Recommendation	Owner	Timescale
1.	Force to review crime classification access for officers, with access being allocated to FRC sergeants and members of the FCIR team.	Strategy, Planning & Service Improvement - FCIR	February 2024
2.	The force should review the NICHE workflow task from the FRC with the NICHE team to confirm a solution.	Niche Team & FCIR	March 2024
3.	FRC sergeants to review CAD logs attached to NICHE occurrences, to support this the FCIR will be based in the force resolution centre one day a week to train staff. FCIR to develop a training scheme for FRC officers and staff.	Strategy, Planning & Service Improvement - FCIR	February 2024
4.	CAD terminal to be re-installed in the force resolution centre.	FCR Inspector	February 2024
5.	FCIR to review tracking of local fraud cases with the excel data base being reported at crime standards board, this will ensure central governance and provide support to NLF crime registrars.	NFIB & FCIR	February 2024
6.	FCIR to develop a comprehensive training plan to support officers post training school; inclusive of improving standards of ASB Recording, Rape Recording, initial crime reviewing and review transfer and secondary recording responsibilities where crimes may not be apparent in safeguarding incidents such as PPN's or Modern Slavery offences.	Strategy, Planning & Service Improvement - FCIR	February 2024 OIB Review Implementation March 2024
7.	FCIR to implement a training input for force control room dispatchers to ensure that CAD incidents are given appropriate updates.	FRC & Strategy, Planning & Service Improvement - FCIR	March 204
8.	FCIR to confirm national position on the recording of equality data, with reference to recent inspections. Gap report to be completed for the CoLP.	FCIR	February 2024