

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE AUTHORITY



Meeting POLICE AUTHORITY
Date 27TH JANUARY 2009
Report of CHIEF CONSTABLE
Subject CRIME RECORDING STANDARDS – FLANAGAN PILOT IMPLICATIONS

Purpose of the report

1. This report provides members with information about the current position of the Leicestershire Constabulary concerning Crime Recording, the measures implemented since the last Audit Commission external audit and any identified vulnerabilities for the force following internal Audits.

Background

2. The audit commission carried out an external audit in December 2006. The report was finalised and circulated in April/May 2007. Within this report the force received a grading of 'Good', an improvement on the previous year's 'Fair' grading. In an audit of the data from OIS and CIS, the force achieved an Excellent grading for data quality.
3. Since this report, internal audits have concentrated on the same areas examined by the Audit Commission.
4. The current audit looked at data taken from 1st September 08 – 31st September 08. Due to the complexity of the audit it takes a considerable time to complete the audit and then to go through the moderation process before the final report is completed.
5. Our internal audit process usually concentrates on the weaker areas as identified by the audit commission, i.e. those with previously a fair or good grading. In addition, perceived areas of vulnerability for the force are also examined. Within this audit I wanted to carry out a reality check to ensure that our perceived good and excellent areas remain constant.

The audit looked at the following areas;

Burglary
Firearms
Theft
Vehicle

6. Within each of these areas we check to ensure compliance with National Standards for Incident Recording (NSIR) and National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS).
 - i) That if the call requires a crime report being created that this is completed within 72 hours;
 - ii) If a crime report is not required, that sufficient information is recorded on the incident prior to closing.

7. On completion of the audit, the results are subject to moderation. A full report is completed including recommendations and actions. The report is forwarded to the Deputy Chief Constable then circulated to key stake holders and placed on the MIG. A structure of bi-monthly meetings with Contact Management Centre Senior Management exists to discuss this report. The report is also taken to the crime standards meeting. The audit department also conduct a separate internal daily NSIR audit in order to act on findings in a timely manner.
8. Relevant actions are added to the Performance Improvement Units action matrix, enabling accountability amongst departments and tracking the progress of identified actions.

Findings

9. The table below provides a summary of the results.

Areas Audited	Burglary	Firearms	Theft	Vehicle
Sufficient Info to describe location, nature, date, and time of incident (NSIR minimum data standards)	95%	92.5%	95%	95%
Correct closing code (NSIR)	96.7%	96.7%	95%	93.3%
A qualifier was used and it was the correct qualifier. (NSIR)	93.3%	93.3%	88.3%	90%
Crimed within 72hrs	100%	100%	98.2%	96.4%
If incident closed without creating crime report is there a full explanation of why covering all points in the original message.	100%	100%	100%	100%

- i) Minimum Data Standards are required to ensure that we have the correct contact details of the caller/possible witness/victim/location of the incident. Firearms has the lowest compliance with 92.5%.
- ii) Correct closing code ensures that we have correctly identified the incident. Vehicle crime has the lowest compliance with 93.3%.
- iii) Qualifiers help to tackle local issues and add extra information to incident. This allows for areas to utilise the information to tackle crime and target resources where appropriate. Theft had the lowest compliance level with 88.3%
- iv) If it is clear from the incident that a crime has occurred then it is required to be crimed within 72 hours to comply with the National Crime Recording Standards. Vehicle crime had the lowest compliance rating with 96.4% which equates to an excellent.
- v) There needs to be enough information contained within the body of the text if a crime report is not required. Within this audit the force achieved a compliance of 100%, an excellent result.

Exception reporting

- 10)
 - i) The main focus for the constabulary is to ensure that we meet the minimum data standards; the correct closing code has been used, if a crime has occurred that it is recorded on CIS within 72 hours from the time it was reported and if it is not a crime that enough information has been recorded within the body of the text on OIS to explain why it is not a crime. Performance in these area is either excellent or in two

reported areas they are good. The qualifiers are an area of business that is important for obtaining local data with regards to planning, resources, problem profiles etc but the above mentioned areas are of a higher importance for the force.

- ii) In order to comply with all the minimum data standards there are 13 points to cover, ranging from the full name of the caller to the location of the incident. Missing just one of the components will fail this part of the audit. Three areas achieved an excellent grade with Firearms receiving a good grade, with a compliance rating of 92.5%.
- ii) The closing of incidents and adding of qualifiers is only undertaken by CMC staff. The correct codes are required in order to better interrogate the results and identify neighbourhood issues, together with the appropriate resource levels to tackle problems.
- iii) Compliance for the 72 hr rule has an excellent grading across all four areas audited. This shows that officers and control room staff are aware of the rules that govern our working practice.
- iv) Closing code compliance ranges from good to excellent, an important area of compliance for NSIR.
- v) The daily auditing being undertaken by the PIU looks at these very issues being audited. Daily auditing allows for a dynamic and timely feedback of the results to CMC. The audit results are sent to the C/Insp for him to disseminate to the relevant team leaders to provide training and feedback.
- vi) Supt McKechnie, as the Volume Crime lead, has reorganised the force's crime meetings to ensure that the different strands of crime are covered along with the introduction of APACS. These performance meetings will be the place to discuss the force's internal audit results.

Recommendations

- 11. On completion of each internal audit, the police authority will be sighted on the results.
- 12. This audit will be carried out again in 6 months to monitor performance and to inform the force of its current position.

Implications

Financial: none. Legal: none. Diversity: none. Risk management: none.

Background Papers

Audit Commission report – data quality – circulated April 2007. Previous Crime recording report to the Police Authority.

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