



**POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER**  
for Leicester,  
Leicestershire & Rutland  
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Date: 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2023

His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary  
His Majesty's Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services  
6th Floor Globe House  
89 Eccleston Square London  
SW1V 1PN

Dear Mr Wilsher,

I write to you on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner, in response to your inspection of how well the police and National Crime Agency tackle online sexual abuse and exploitation of children, published on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2023.

Firstly, I can assure you that all recommendations have been acknowledged and accepted. These will be appropriately presented to the Chief Constable in our governance structure.

Upon initial conversations with officers dedicated to this area, I have received detailed feedback on progress made since the initial thematic inspection in March 2022.

As with all HMICFRS publications, an action plan was created which identified the workstreams efficiently. These workstreams, including both short-term and long-term resolutions commenced promptly, including immediate actions to rectify issues at the earliest opportunities. Since the release of your report in April 2023, I am confident that any further areas identified for improvement will be incorporated into the action plan and monitored in relevant boards across the force.

I can report that the following has been achieved in Leicestershire following the initial inspection:

- An additional Detective Sergeant with responsibility for the Intelligence Development Officers has been added to the Artemis Team – previously known as POLIT (paedophile online investigation team). This has enabled increased scrutiny and oversight within the initial intelligence development and enforcement phase.
  - *(The re-brand of POLIT to Artemis as of May 2023 will ensure a more child-centred approach of the department and its cultural situation both internally and externally.)*
- All staff in Artemis are KIRAT (Kent International Risk Assessment Tool) trained & training is part of the induction for new staff into the department.
- The use of the KIRAT is being scoped to consider the use of the Serious Sexual Risk Pathway within Artemis as used in Management of Sexual Offenders and Violent Offenders Team (MOSOVO) and trialled in Signal.
- All referrals to the department are recorded on the Force Crime Recording System to enable a strategic overview and accessibility.



- An options paper and further meetings have been completed with senior officers detailing options to manage current and future demand. Many of these utilise more holistic options:
  - Potential introduction of shift patterns to the Artemis Team;
  - Strengthening of Covert Authorities Bureau (CAB) service through engagement with Force Intelligence Bureau (FIB), including assessing whether a dedicated CAB Single Point of Contact within Artemis is a viable and effective option to reduce backlog;
  - Evaluating and managing the hidden demand placed upon investigators, including the support provided to victims, secondary victims and suspects to ensure that the most appropriate agency is providing effective support through a multi-agency approach and better use of Public Protection Notice's (PPNs)
- Information sharing with partners takes place with good working relationships established. Further discussions are to take place between partner agencies to ensure that the timeliness of this information sharing is optimum for the safeguarding of victims, children and other members of the household, as well as supporting the investigation.
- Leicestershire Police have been an active part of a regional collaboration to design and launch a bespoke regional training course which will now become a mandatory requirement for all new and existing Artemis officers and staff. This course, launching in June 2023, will cover everything from operational enforcement to grading of Indecent Images of Children, with a focus on the voice of the child and multi-agency working (with the course containing several modules from the Specialist Child Abuse Investigators Programme). Leicestershire is also contributing trainers in respect of the Indecent Images of Children grading element.
- Artemis has a dedicated Protect/Prevent Officer in place developing the role working alongside Victim Identification officer.

Further to this, the dedicated Detective Superintendent to this area is progressing the following: demand management and the management of resources available within the team, the timeliness of information sharing with partners, possible strategic realignment of Artemis and importantly, increasing hearing the voice of the child through victim support and safeguarding.

I am encouraged by the Force's prompt and rigorous response demonstrated above. I continue to be confident in their continued efforts to not only rectify areas for improvement but proactively take steps to further enhance their approach and ultimately protect more people in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland.

I further acknowledge that two of the 17 recommendations made are for consideration of our office, and I accept these fully; I reassure you that myself and the Commissioner will uphold our own office to the same scrutiny put to the Force.

I am proud of the work we are already achieving in providing funding to improve the lives of young people such as our People Zones project, and the funding of the Warning Zone organisation. However, I assure you that our Commissioning team will review our commissioned services at the earliest opportunity to ensure that recommendation 9 is achieved and that our



commissioned services are available for children affected by online sexual abuse and exploitation.

For our monitoring of the Force, as with previous publications I will ensure that this item is discussed in our Corporate Governance Board which we hold monthly, details of which will be provided to the Police and Crime Panel and subsequently released to the public.

Yours sincerely,

**Rani Mahal**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rani Mahal', written in a cursive style.

**Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland**