



# HERTFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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## REPORT ON THE CRIME DATA PUBLISHED BY THE POLICE

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Broxbourne Borough Council

19 June 2014

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### RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 That the report from the Deputy Chief Constable on police crime data is noted.
- 2 The panel considers how it wishes to monitor progress on this topic

### Purpose of report

To allow the panel to monitor work carried out to ensure the public can have assurance in the police crime statistical data that is published.

### Background

The panel considered crime statistics issued by the police service at its meeting in November 2013 and this coincided with issues raised nationally about the reliability of some such statistics. The PCC informed the panel that he had commissioned some work from the constabulary to provide reassurance on this topic. The Temporary Deputy Chief Constable reported to the panel at its February meeting on the outcome of the work carried out for the PCC. It was also reported that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary were going to be carrying out some work on the issue, including Hertfordshire Constabulary in its initial work.

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## **Interim report of HMIC**

The interim report of HMIC can be found here:

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/05/crime-data-integrity-interim-report.pdf>

The report covers approximately 60% of the data that will need to be covered in the final report due in October. However, the initial findings disclose a number of causes for concern and they include those for Hertfordshire. The report also highlights some good practice as well. The figures provided for the incorrect classification of crime as an example show Hertfordshire having a lower proportion of incidents that HMIC assess should have been recorded as crimes actually recorded than most other forces. On the other hand the number of incidents where an incorrect decision of 'no crime' has been made suggests Hertfordshire's performance is better than most others. This set of figures is not complete because it only records decisions made against the primary reporting route and the final report will include the figures from all reporting routes, so they could change. However, given the crime data is very important for public reassurance as well as measuring the effectiveness of the force and the PCC's work it is clearly of interest to the panel.

The Deputy Chief Constable has produced the report at Appendix A and will present it and attend the panel to answer questions on it. The panel may feel it will be helpful to set up a sub-committee of the panel to carry out some work on this topic to allow for regular monitoring in the future. For the panel's information, the previous report presented to the February meeting is at this link:

<http://www.hertspcp.org.uk/Papers/2014-02-13/Item%207%20Appendix%20B%20NCRS%20REPORT%20FINAL.pdf>

### **Financial Legal and Risk implications.**

There are no financial or legal implications. The risks are set out in the report.

Background papers

HMIC interim report available from the link in the report.