Alison Lowe
Deputy Mayor for
Policing & Crime

10th October 2025

Dear Home Secretary,

Re: How effectively do the police record crime?

I welcome the review of how effectively the police record crime, recognising the importance of accurate and prioritised crime recording to ensure appropriate resource allocation and the delivery of effective services to victims.

I am proud to note that West Yorkshire Police has been graded as *Outstanding* in crime data recording by HMICFRS in the PEEL 2023–25 assessment, with chief officers actively monitoring and scrutinising performance in this area. However, the Force remains vigilant and has assured me of its continued commitment to maintaining this high standard, with excellent work ongoing across all areas.

With strong assurance and governance processes in place, characterised by clear leadership, continuous monitoring of crime recording standards, and effective oversight, the force consistently records a very high proportion of the crimes reported to it.

Targeted activity has been undertaken in relation to domestic abuse, with the RAPID methodology implemented for a period to ensure effective crime recording, efficient processing, and the prompt arrest of suspects.

The Stalking Coordination Unit (SCU) remains at full capacity, supporting a sustained focus on improving the force's response to stalking, including recording and responding to what can often be a complex crime. Close working ties between the Combined Authority and Community Safety Partners are also contributing to a greater understanding of harassment and stalking offence types, including crime recording.

I am assured that the appropriate structures are in place which ensure that West Yorkshire Police maintain a sustained focus on upholding this high standard of crime recording, with continuous improvement efforts underway throughout the Force. I also see the development of the Mayor's Serious Violence Strategy as another opportunity to work with the police to further improve the recording of all violent crime as highlighted in the inspectorate report, and continue to work closely to improve outcomes for victims.

Regards,



Alison Lowe,

Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire for Policing and Crime

1). Forces need to improve their recording of all violent crime, in particular conduct crimes such as harassment, stalking and controlling or coercive behaviour and less serious assaults.

West Yorkshire Police (WYP) have made significant progress in accurately recording violent crime. During the most recent PEEL inspection, the inspectorate reported that:

- WYP recorded 96.6% (±1.9%) of all reported crime (excluding fraud).
- The Force recorded 100.0% (±2.8%) of sexual offences.
- The Force recorded 95.7% (±3.3%) of violent offences.

In relation to stalking, the Stalking Coordination Unit (SCU) remains fully resourced. The team has implemented regular stalking clinics across districts and established Stalking Investigation and Orders Panels in both the eastern and western areas of the Force. These initiatives, delivered in collaboration with the Investigations Improvement Team, are designed to enhance focus and the quality of stalking investigations.

The Safeguarding Governance team continues to promote ROCU training on technology-facilitated domestic abuse (DA) and stalking to districts, departments, and partner agencies. This training aims to strengthen awareness of evidential opportunities and improve safety guidance regarding online offending. Work is also underway to develop processes that incorporate technologies such as CSAS, supporting the rapid processing of digital evidence in stalking cases—following the model used by the Metropolitan Police (Operation Atlas).

In addition, the Policing and Crime team at the Combined Authority is providing Community Safety Partnerships (CSPs) with detailed breakdowns of stalking and harassment offence categories. This data enables partners to gain a deeper understanding of the offences and to apply this insight effectively within their local areas.

2). Forces should make sure they quickly and correctly record crimes related to domestic abuse.

The Force adopted the RAPID Don't delay in dealing with DA principles in February 2025. RAPID (Respond, Arrest, Prevent, Investigate, Detain) has mandated the prioritisation of attendance at domestic abuse incidents and prompt arrest of suspects. Performance is continuously being assessed with some improvements being seen in arrest rates and outcomes, whilst repeat victim and suspect rates are both at their lowest rate in two years.

Work is ongoing with the Domestic Abuse Analytic Tool (DAAT), an algorithm designed to predict the risk of future serious harm. A pilot project in Leeds is due to commence shortly to compare DAAT's predictive outputs with real-life DASH assessment outcomes. Together, DAAT and DARA are expected to provide a more comprehensive understanding of risk relating to victims and perpetrators, thereby enhancing future safeguarding measures.

3). Forces need to make sure all officers and staff involved in crime recording are appropriately trained and understand their role in recording crime. They should also make sure there is effective oversight and scrutiny of crime-recording decisions and accuracy.

The PEEL assessment highlighted that the chief officer team provide effective leadership and support to make sure crimes are recorded correctly. It also referenced that chief officers in West Yorkshire Police constantly monitor and scrutinise standards of crime recording, encouraging the whole force to make sure that crimes are recorded correctly.

The force crime registrar carries out extensive quality assurance checks. Chief officers scrutinise crime-recording audit results and hold departments to account. This continuous loop of clear leadership, monitoring of standards of crime recording and effective governance means that the force records a very high proportion of crime reported to it.

Additionally, the Safeguarding Governance Superintendent, in their capacity as Regional Lead for Child Protection, is driving improvements across the safeguarding landscape and contributing as one of three police representatives on a national working group led by the NPCC to develop best practice in the recording and investigation of child neglect.