

**Sent by email**

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Chief Executive, Officer College of Policing

**22 November 2024**

**NPCC 56-Day Update**  
**Super-Complaint - The Police Response to Stalking**

Dear all,

We write jointly, further to the publication on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, of the super-complaint report into the policing response to stalking. As requested, we set out below, the 56-day post publication update on the policing response to the complaint.

The letter is structured to provide updates on the progress made to date in relation to:

- 1) Specific recommendations to the NPCC
- 2) Recommendations made jointly to the NPCC and other partner agencies
- 3) Recommendations made to Chief Constables in England and Wales

Overarchingly, the NPCC and Chief Constables welcome the publication of the super-complaint report and are committed to using the recommendations to drive further improvements in the policing response to these life changing crimes. Since the publication of the report, the NPCC chair and NPCC lead have looked to embed the report findings through the following key activities:

- NPCC chair high level briefing to Chief Constables on the findings of the report at Chief Constables Council (September 2024)
- NPCC lead letter to all Chief Constables, setting out the findings of the report, required next steps and sign-posting existing contemporary guidance and practice. (September 2024)
- NPCC lead hosted national stalking Single Point of Contact (SPOC) conference in conjunction with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), which brought together SPOC's from across England and Wales. During the conference the super-complaint investigation team were invited to present to practitioner attendees the findings of the investigation. (October 2024)

- NPCC lead representation at Under-Secretary of State for Safeguarding and Violence Against Women and Girls partnership round-table event to discuss the super-complaint findings and how partners can work together to improve the response to stalking (November 2024)
- Formulation of a NPCC lead led partnership implementation meeting, to coordinate the response of the NPCC, Home Office, College of Policing and CPS to the super-complaint recommendations (Ongoing)
- Attendance by the NPCC lead national staff officer at regional police stalking working groups, to discuss the findings of the super-complaint and provide advice and guidance on addressing the recommendations for forces (Ongoing)

### **Specific Recommendations to the NPCC**

**Recommendation 21: To the NPCC Lead for stalking and harassment. By 27 March 2025, to collate and disseminate information to chief constables on the dedicated stalking co-ordination roles that exist. This information should support chief constables to consider whether and how dedicated stalking officers and staff can be used to support the police response to stalking.**

The national policing lead welcomes the opportunity this recommendation presents to provide Chief Constables with an overview of the current dedicated stalking coordination roles which are in existence across the 43 police forces in England and Wales. Further to the population and receipt of individual force action plans, the NPCC leads Staff Officer will in December 2024, commence a piece of work to bring together an overview of the different models which are in place in respective forces and upon completion, this will be presented to the National Stalking and Harassment Offences Working Group (NSHOWG) in March 2025. Thereafter, the product will be disseminated to all Chief Constables, such that it may assist them in considering resourcing and structural options to further improve their response to stalking offences.

**Recommendation 24: To the NPCC Lead for stalking and harassment. By 27 March 2025, begin working with the NPCC lead for artificial intelligence to explore how artificial intelligence could be used to support the police response to stalking. This should include developing a proof of concept for using artificial intelligence to screen incidents and crimes to help identify stalking and risks associated with stalking.**

The NPCC recognises the opportunities technological advancements such as artificial intelligence can have to further improve the police response to stalking. Initial meetings have taken place with the NPCC AI portfolio and the Vulnerability Knowledge and Practice Programme (VKPP) to identify and understand existing technical solutions where AI is currently being tested within policing through a 'call for practice' exercise. The results of this will then inform the refinement of potential opportunities, relative to this recommendation. In addition, opportunities are also being explored around a potential future application to the Police Science Technology and Research fund, to develop proof of concept pilot initiative for evaluation.

## **Specific recommendations made jointly to the NPCC and other partner agencies.**

**Recommendation 2: To the Home Office. By 27 March 2025, to work with the College of Policing, the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment and the National Stalking Consortium to update information on stalking or harassment in the Home Office crime recording rules for frontline officers and staff. Information on stalking within the rules should align with how stalking is described in the statutory guidance on the Stalking Protection Act for the police.**

The NPCC lead has strong links with the Home Office and College of Policing with well-established meeting structures to drive this recommendation activity.

Since changes to Home Office crime recording being introduced in May 2023, the national NPCC stalking lead has worked with colleagues from NPCC Domestic Abuse and VAWG portfolios, the Home Office National Crime Registrar, Suzy Lamplugh Trust and DA Commissioners Office to complete a 12-month impact review. Throughout this collaboration, improvement opportunities have been identified to amend the crime recording rules for officers and staff.

In addition, recommendation six of the super-complaint requires the Home Office to review the impact of the principal crime rule on the identification and investigation of stalking. As a result, the HO CR Impact Review Working Group will be shortly reconfigured under a new Home Office Task and Finish Group, which will include representation from the NPCC lead and will ensure changes are correctly described in the statutory guidance on the Stalking Protection Act.

**Recommendation 27: To bodies subject to recommendations. By 22 November 2024 (56 days from publication), write to HMICFRS, the IOPC and the College of Policing setting out their response to the recommendations made to them. Chief constables should direct their response to the NPCC which should provide a collective response on behalf of all police forces. PCCs and their mayor equivalents should direct their response to the APCC which should provide a collective response on their behalf.**

As set out within this letter, the NPCC has complied with the requirement to provide its response to the IOPC, HMICFRS and College of Policing within the required 56 days. Further progress against recommendations will be monitored through the NPCC lead chaired National Stalking and Harassment Offences Working Group (NSHOWG) and an additional written update will be provided in June 2025.

## **Recommendations made to Chief Constables in England and Wales**

**Recommendation 29: To the NPCC. By 27 June 2025 (nine months from publication), share a report summarising the progress forces have made against their action plans with HMICFRS, the IOPC and the College of Policing. This report will be published on the GOV.UK police super-complaints webpage.**

To facilitate coordination of the policing response, the NPCC portfolio lead wrote to all forces, following the report publication on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2024, with a template action plan containing the recommendations for Chief Constables and PCCs. In addition, a compendium of existing practice guidance to assist forces with bringing improvement plans together and reviewing their current

approach was also circulated. Chief Constables were asked to identify an executive and operational lead with responsibility for overseeing the response to the super-complaint and were requested to produce and publish an action plan on their websites by **22<sup>nd</sup> November 2024**. We can confirm, all forces in England and Wales have identified leads as requested ([Appendix A](#)) and have published an action plan which sets out what they will do to address the recommendations made in the super-complaint.

The NPCC will continue to work with and support Chief Constables in responding to and delivering the 14 recommendations for forces outlined in the report.

### **Summary**

The NPCC welcomes the opportunity to provide a more comprehensive response to the progress made against the recommendations in June 2025, and in the meantime, look forward to continuing to work closely with your respective teams to further improve the police response to stalking.

If we can provide any further clarity at this time, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely



**Gavin Stephens QPM**  
**Chair National Police Chiefs' Council**



**Dr Paul Mills QPM**  
**Deputy Chief Constable**  
**National Lead for Stalking & Harassment**  
**Offences**

Appendix A – list of force leads and action plans

Force	Executive Lead	Operational Lead	Website link
Avon & Somerset	CS Wiggington	CI Paul	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Bedfordshire	ACC Murphy	DI Bozward	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
British Transport Police	T/DCS White	DCI Mellor	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Cambridgeshire	ACC Lukey	Supt. Nash	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Cheshire	DCS Lee	DCI Doleman	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Cleveland	ACC Baker	Supt Wilson	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Cumbria	ACC Stalker	DCS Ashton	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Derbyshire	ACC Abdy	DS Pope	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Devon & Cornwall	ACC Pearce	CI Perriam	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Dorset	ACC Callaghan	D/Supt. Beashel	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Durham	ACC McAdam	DCI Fuller	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Dyfed Powys	T/ACC Phillips	DCI Williams	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Essex	ACC Mariner	D/Supt. Morrissey	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Gloucestershire	CS Paterson	D/Supt. Fletcher	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
GMP	ACC Parker	DCS Jones	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Gwent	ACC Townsend	D/Supt. Chaplin	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Hampshire	DCS Bitters	DCI Leeson	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Hertfordshire	ACC Telfer	C/Supt Ghaboos	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Humberside	ACC McLoughlin	D/Supt Booker	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Kent	DCS McDermott	DCS McDermott	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Lancashire	ACC Winstanley	DCI Dickinson	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Leicestershire	ACC Kerr	D/Supt. Baker	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Lincolnshire	ACC Mayo	DCI Cox	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
London, Met	Cmdr. Southworth	D/Supt. Wadey	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
London, City of	DCS Horsburgh	T/CI Hay	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Merseyside	DCS Lamb	Rachael Reece	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Norfolk	T/ACC Balmer	D/Supt. Hinds	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
North Wales	DCS Beck	DCI Curry	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
North Yorkshire	ACC Clarke	D/Supt. Wright	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Northamptonshire	ACC James	D/Supt. Banfield	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Northumbria	ACC Simpson	DCI Pollock	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Nottinghamshire	ACC Griffin	DCS Scurr	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
South Wales	ACC Davies	DCS Jones	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
South Yorkshire	T/ACC Barnett	D/Supt. Cowley	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Staffordshire	DCC Roy	Supt. Furlong	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Suffolk	ACC Bridger	CS Topping	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Surrey	ACC Jones	Supt. Ramm	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Sussex	DCS McDonagh	DCI Lewis	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Thames Valley	ACC Barrow-Grint	D/Supt. Barnham	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Warwickshire	ACC Smith	DCI Kendall	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
West Mercia	T/ACC Marsh	D/Supt. Lowe	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
West Midlands	ACC Mattinson	CS Hopkins	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
West Yorkshire	ACC Miller	DCI Raw	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>
Wiltshire	ACC Cooper	DCS Coles	<a href="#">Action Plan</a>