



Dear Home Secretary,

This is the response from West Yorkshire regarding:

HMICFRS report – Improving the response to organised immigration crime

With West Yorkshire being one of the forces inspected between February 2024 and June 2024, I welcome this report which highlights the severity of organised immigration crime across the country, and where there are areas for improvement such as intelligence and investigative opportunities being lost, or the uptake of training programmes.

Since West Yorkshire's thematic inspection, the force continues to undertake multi agency roads operations and debriefing of Migrants that have arrived in the UK illegally to increase understanding of organised immigration crime, as well as increasing our ANPR network to tackle this issue.

The force demonstrates several promising examples of good practice in this area, including an Asylum Roadshow. This Roadshow rotates around locations being used to house Asylum Seekers which are often targeted and used to recruit street dealers, who are exploitable through lack of opportunities or connection with statutory services. Attendees include: Crimestoppers, Migration Yorkshire, Gangmasters Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA), Bevan (education provider for the vulnerable, NHS based), Loan Shark Team and various departments from Leeds City Council.

The West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP) meeting, which I Chair, has input from a number of different partners including the Home Office, Salvation Army, all 5 local authorities, and Department for Work and Pensions. The meeting is well attended with high levels of dynamic engagement. The dashboard shared at the most recent meeting shows that criminal exploitation can be seen to directly contribute to much of the overall crime pattern seen throughout the force. Leeds district continues to be the main contributor to volumes of crime at almost half off all recorded. Criminal exploitation continues to dominate in terms of volume and NRM referrals have increased slightly.

Organised immigration crime remains a significant challenge across West Yorkshire. Between October and December 2024, the force recorded the highest number of clandestine entry events in the region, with 12 incidents involving the arrival of 19 migrants concealed in the rear compartments of heavy goods vehicles (HGVs).

In response, West Yorkshire Police's Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking (MSHT) Team continues to deliver scenario-based training to frontline officers. This training is designed to improve the identification, management, and safeguarding responses to such incidents.

During the same reporting period, 272 modern slavery offences were recorded across West Yorkshire. The MSHT Team is actively investigating complex and serious cases, including organised criminal exploitation involving cannabis, primarily involving Vietnamese nationals. Additionally, the force is preparing for the prosecution of two major international sex trafficking cases, both scheduled for trial later in 2025.

I am confident that the measures that West Yorkshire Police are putting in place in response to these threats will help to prioritise and tackle organised immigration crime, and I'm assured the recommendations of this HMICFRS report are being implemented across the force.

Regards,



Alison Lowe
Deputy Mayor for
Policing & Crime

Alison Lowe,
Deputy Mayor of West Yorkshire for Policing and Crime



Our response to key recommendations in the inspection report

Recommendation 2:

By 30 April 2026, chief constables should make sure that every time a member of their force reports a case to Immigration Enforcement's National Command and Control Unit, the reporting officer completes and submits the required intelligence document.

This is standard practice within West Yorkshire Police. The force is currently undertaking assurance work to confirm that the process is followed on all occasions.

Recommendation 4

By 31 December 2025, chief constables should make sure they have clear plans to collect, analyse and share information related to organised immigration crime.

West Yorkshire Police (WYP) continue to play an active role in tackling modern slavery and organised immigration crime through their involvement in the West Yorkshire Anti-Slavery Partnership (WYASP). Their collaboration with partner agencies supports both enforcement activity and the development of actionable intelligence to disrupt and prevent these offences.

The force also works closely with the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU), participating in coordinated operations and national intensification campaigns, such as Operation Aidant, targeting modern slavery and human trafficking.

In support of a strategic and evidence-based approach, WYP regularly shares detailed data dashboards with key partners. These dashboards provide valuable insights into the prevalence, trends, and characteristics of modern slavery and organised immigration crime across the region.

Intelligence shared through the WYASP indicates that WYP is currently investigating a range of serious offences. These include cases of birth certificate fraud intended to facilitate unlawful immigration status, immigration irregularities involving food delivery drivers, and multiple investigations relating to criminal and sexual exploitation linked to organised immigration crime.

Recommendation 8

By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit, should make sure that relevant **personnel in all Home Office police forces complete the Hydra training package on organised immigration crime.**

West Yorkshire Police continue to invest in specialist training to strengthen their operational response to modern slavery and human trafficking (MSHT). Frontline officers are receiving dedicated training to act as Modern Slavery Victim Liaison Officers, enhancing the force's capacity to provide effective, trauma-informed support to victims.

In addition, a growing number of officers have now completed the intensive four-day MSHT Tactical Advisor (TAC) course. This advanced training increases organisational resilience and ensures the force is better equipped to manage complex MSHT investigations and victim engagement.

The force also remains committed to partnership development through the delivery of training to external agencies across West Yorkshire and the wider region. This approach reinforces a coordinated, multi-agency response to tackling exploitation in all its forms.



Additionally, West Yorkshire Police have commissioned further specialist training over the coming months. This includes a modern slavery course tailored for regional Financial Investigators and the delivery of the Hydra training programme in collaboration with Humberside Police. The Regional Coordinator has provided Organised Immigration Crime training to Humberside Police's Force Intelligence Bureau, with plans to expand delivery regionally to support improved intelligence collection and cross-border collaboration.

Recommendation 9

By 30 April 2026, chief constables, working with the Modern Slavery & Organised Immigration Crime Unit and the [College of Policing](#), should make sure that relevant [personnel](#) in all Home Office police forces complete the four modules of the organised immigration crime e-learning package.

Within West Yorkshire all members of the Modern Slavery Human Trafficking team have undertaken the four modules of the the College of Policing E-learning package. The force is currently reviewing the other "relevant personnel" and identifying them with a view to further delivery of the e-learn package.