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1. *DIBEN AC ARGYMHELLIAD* | PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATION

The purpose of this report is to provide information on force crime recording performance for monitoring purposes and OPCC reporting.

2. *CYFLWYNIAD A CHEFNDIR* | INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

This report aims to brief the Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) about the timeliness and accuracy of crime recording in Gwent Police.

It is important to provide the highest possible service levels to victims of crime. This should start at the first point of contact and last throughout the criminal justice process. It not only includes recording the victim's report, responding, and undertaking proportionate investigations, but also ensuring that any victim vulnerability is identified and that appropriate safeguarding measures are taken.

As part of this process, it is important that the force has high-quality crime data. This ensures victims are identified and supported at the earliest opportunity and establishes where, when, and how often crime is happening.

All Gwent Police Officers and Staff have a duty and personal responsibility to ensure that any crime identified to them is recorded in an ethical and transparent manner and in line with the HOCR and the National Crime Recording Standard (NCRS).

Crime is recorded by Gwent police to enable:

- Victims to be confident that their crimes are being properly investigated and allow them access to the full range of victim services.
- Governments to establish whether their policies are delivering crime reductions and to understand the relative performance of policing and criminal justice providers in England and Wales.
- Central and local Government, PCCs, Forces and their partners to understand the totality of demand so they can evaluate the relative value for money of service delivery activity.
- PCC's, Forces, and partners to build intelligence which informs the targeted use of resources to tackle the causes of crime and criminal behaviour, and which allows for their evaluation.
- The public to have a greater understanding of the scale, scope, and risk of crime in their local communities; and to allow them to judge the effectiveness of Government, police, and partners.
- Policing to prioritise effective investigation and finalisation of crime.
- Can plan effectively to ensure provision of a victim focussed service.



Compliance with national guidance and crime data integrity is the responsibility of the Force Crime Registrar (FCR) assisted by her Crime Data Integrity Team. The rules about crime recording are governed by Home Office National Crime Recording Standards (NCRS).

HMICFRS

HMICFRS judged the force as 'requiring improvement' in the Crime Data Integrity Inspection in 2018.

However, we have recently undergone a HMICFRS Crime Data Integrity inspection, this inspection involves a large number of occurrences being supplied to the HMICFRS, and in turn they will select a sample and review these for crime recording purposes. They will listen to the call, review for any additional crimes, and ascertain if the correct outcome has been applied.

For this Crime Data Inspection 2023-25 Gwent Police was graded as Outstanding for recording crime. We record 95.6% of all reported crime. 94.5% of violent offences and 98% of sexual offences. Only a small number of forces nationally have achieved this grading for the Crime Data Integrity inspection.

All rapes that were reviewed during the inspection 36 out of 36 rapes were correctly recorded as crimes.

All Anti-social behaviour incidents that were reviewed during the inspection 18 out of 18 incidents were correctly recorded as crimes.

Crime Data Integrity Team

The Crime Data Integrity Department is responsible for ensuring that all crimes are ethically recorded in accordance with the Home Office Counting Rules (**HOCR**) and the National Crime Recording Standard (**NCRS**). It takes a victim focused approach in line with the Victims' Charter.

On 1 July 2023, we introduced the Crime Data Integrity Team, this unit is staffed by colleagues with expertise in the Home Office Counting Rules, who ensure crime is recorded correctly. We deliver training to our crime recorders on a rolling programme to ensure that they are up to date with the latest developments within Home Office Counting Rules.

The Unit consists of the Data Audit Team, Timeliness Team and the Crime Management Unit which are managed by the Force Crime Registrar, supported by a Deputy Force Crime Registrar, all part of the Continuous Improvement Department structure with line management through a Senior Manager.

Every Storm log is reviewed by the team for the retrospective 24 hours to ensure we capture all crimes within the 24 hours as per the requirement of HOCR. The team also record crimes submitted by frontline officers when they have submitted the CRR01 template and are on hand to offer advice and guidance to colleagues through Microsoft Teams and email.

In addition to auditing recording crime performance, since April 2020 the FCR and her team also have assumed responsibility for applying crime outcomes. The rules around Outcomes are also determined by NCRS. They are added by the team at the point of closing a crime to ensure accurate records are maintained. Data Audit are responsible for applying crime outcomes with a criminal justice disposal (codes CO1 – CO10, CO20-CO21 and CO22). Crimes without this disposal code (CO11-CO18) are applied by the force Crime Management Unit.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

3.1 NCRS Compliance.

The force has recorded the following numbers of crime over the past 5 years.

Year	Crimes recorded
2020-2021	48,633
2021-2022	54,649
2022-2023	58,155
2023-2024	57,084
2024-2025	59,986

The Data Audit team conduct regular crime audits to assess crime recording accuracy and compliance with NCRS. Quarterly audits of a sample of 100 Niche occurrences are undertaken to establish adherence with crime recording rules.

Additionally, daily crime and incident audits review crimes and incidents in specific areas of risk. These include Harassment/Stalking/Malicious communications incidents, Sexual offences and N100's (rape reports).

Quarterly NCRS audit data sample

Offence type	Home Office sample size – (quarterly)	Gwent's sample
Sex offences including rapes	141	10 quarterly
Violence with injury	334	30 quarterly
Robbery	40	10 quarterly
Drugs	202	10 quarterly
Burglary	275	10 quarterly
Theft	349	10 quarterly
Criminal damage & Arson	314	10 quarterly
Miscellaneous crime types	123	10 quarterly
Crime Outcomes	100	100 quarterly

Additionally, daily audits are conducted to review crime and incidents audits in specific areas of risk.

All sexual offences	Approx 15/20 per day	Data Audit
Burglary	Approx 15/20 per day	Data Audit
GBH	Approx 15/20 per day	Data Audit
Malicious Communications/conduct crimes	Approx 15/20 per day	Data Audit
N100's	All occurrences recorded daily	Data Audit
ASB Personal	All Storm incidents	Timeliness Team



ASB Nuisance	All Storm incidents	Timeliness Team
ASB Environmental	All Storm incidents	Timeliness Team
Force DMM	Every day	Data Audit/Timeliness Team
Occ's created without Storm	Every day	CMU/Timeliness

Completed NCRS Audits over the previous years recorded the following results:

Date of Audit	NCRS Compliance Rate
Mar-23	88%
Jul-23	91%
Oct-23	90%
Feb-24	97%
May-24	94%
Oct-24	95%
Jan-25	88%
Apr-25	97%

*January saw a decrease in our NCRS compliance due to officers not submitting CRR01's for offences disclosed to them within the investigation.

This compares with an average NCRS compliance rate of 84% in 2019. A NCRS compliance rate of 92 - 95% and above would be required to achieve a positive HMICFRS inspection outcome, and this has been achieved.

2024 - 2026 Audit schedule:

Date Audit conducted	Month of data reviewed	Audit report due/CDI working group meeting
December 2023	October 2023	January 2024
April 2024	February 2024	May 2024
July 2024	May 2024	August 2024
October 2024	August 2024	November 2024
January 2025	November 2024	February 2025
April 2025	February 2025	May 2025
July 2025	May 2025	August 2025
October 2025	August 2025	November 2025
January 2026	November 2025	February 2026

3.2 Timeliness

Any crime reported must be recorded at the earliest opportunity, or in any case within 24 hours of reporting. The force was previously praised by the HMICFRS for the timeliness of recording crime in our previous inspection. The force continues to record crime efficiently and in accordance with NCRS guidance as detailed in the audit findings below.

Date of Audit	Timeliness of recording crime
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Mar-23	96%
Jul-23	86%
Oct-23	86%
Feb-24	93%
May-24	97%
Oct-24	95%
Jan-25	89%
Apr-25	98%

3.3 Outcomes

Outcomes were introduced by the Home Office to promote a truer picture of how crime is finalised. The outcome categories provide a framework which can assist in giving the victim a better understanding of the final outcome of their case, and also a better understanding amongst the general public about how crime is investigated.

In each of the audits carried out, the force also audited the accuracy of the outcomes applied to each crime on closure. The results below are outcomes overall including positive and No Further Action outcomes.

Date of Audit	Outcome accuracy
Mar-23	95%
Jul-23	85%
Oct-23	86%
Feb-24	77%
May-24	95%
Oct-24	90%
Jan-25	90%
Apr-25	82%

3.4 Positive outcomes

The table below shows volumes of positive outcomes for all crime by calendar year, based on the date the outcome was applied, and the year-on-year percentage change. There was an increase of 5.0% when comparing the number of recorded offences in 2024.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES CALENDAR YEAR			
Year	Positive Outcomes	Difference (n)	Difference (%)
2023	7,121	-	-
2024	7,478	357	5.0%

The long-term forecast predicts a reduction of 13.1% by the end of 2025, eventually seeing year on year increases of around 1% in 2026, 2027 and 2028. The reason for this forecast is due to the volume of positive outcomes increasing significantly in 2023 and 2024 in comparison to the rest of the timeframe.



We aim to apply 600 positive outcomes per month; this was not achieved in December 2024 due to annual leave abstractions.

3.5 Crime Data Integrity Performance meeting

A force Crime Data Integrity improvement group was founded in August 2020. The group acts in an advisory capacity to; develop and coordinate processes that ensure accurate crime recording, promote organisational learning and provide scrutiny and audit to support continuous improvement. Membership includes representatives from key business areas across the force, reinforcing that crime data integrity is everyone's business. It is chaired by the Force Crime Registrar.

More recently this has changed to the Crime Data Integrity Performance meeting, whereby we advise the force on where we are with our crime data, advise stakeholders on any new crime recording procedures or legislation being introduced, also explain to the group when we require their assistance when problems or issues arise that they can address with their teams. For example, to alleviate the re-work of tasks to the CDI team and the submission of Crime Recording Requests (CRR01's) that is the officers and Sergeant's responsibility. It is the intention to include CDI performance data within the workstream performance packs going forward and the CDI management team will attend these forums.

4. CYDWEITHIO | COLLABORATION

- Not applicable

5. CAMAU NESAF | NEXT STEPS

- Continue with the force audit regime on a quarterly basis and seek to improve the lessons learned from the process,
- Reinforce the crime recording advice and guidance provided at force training days through pro-active communications and through performance meetings.
- Maintain and increase the higher standard of Crime Recording and continue to improve our NCRS compliance rate.
- Work with the analyst team to ensure CDI performance statistics are included in the workstream performance packs.

6. YSTYRIAETHAU ARIANNOL | FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

7. YSTYRIAETHAU PERSONEL | PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

None

8. YSTYRIAETHAU CYFREITHIOL | LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

None

9. YSTYRIAETHAU CYDRADDOLDEB A HAWLIAU DYNOL | EQUALITIES & HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

- This report has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Joint Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.
- In preparing this report, consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.

10. RISG | RISK

- Crime Data Integrity was previously included on the Force/OPCC Joint Risk Register as a medium risk, however through continued hard work this risk was lowered and then removed completely. This will be monitored by the Force Crime Registrar to ensure high standards of crime recording.

11. BUDD Y CYHOEDD | PUBLIC INTEREST

- In producing this report, has consideration been given to 'public confidence'? Yes
- Are the contents of this report, observations, and appendices necessary and suitable for the public domain? Yes
- If you consider this report to be exempt from the public domain, please state the reasons:
N/A
- Media, Stakeholder and Community Impacts:

12. AWDUR YR ADRODDIAD | REPORT AUTHOR

- Rhianne Wiltshire (Force Crime Registrar)

13. PRIF SWYDDOG ARWEINIOL | LEAD CHIEF OFFICER

- DCC Nikki Brain

14. ATODIADAU | ANNEXES

- Nil

15. CYMERADWYAETH LLYWODRAETHU A BRIF SWYDDOG | GOVERNANCE BOARD AND CHIEF OFFICER APPROVAL

- This report has been presented to the following oversight board: Operational Effectiveness Board
Meeting chaired by: ACC Vicki Townsend
Meeting date: 29th April 2025
Actions or amendments arising from meeting:



ACC Townsend asked for an explanation for the January anomaly in compliance to be included in the report.

ACC Townsend enquired what the table in Positive Outcomes is explaining and if it can be reviewed for accuracy.

- This report has been presented to the Scrutiny Executive Board.
Meeting chaired by: ACC McLain
Meeting date: 6 May 2025
Actions or amendments arising from meeting: None
- I confirm this report has been discussed and approved at a Formal Chief Officers' meeting.
Meeting date: 13 May 2025
- I confirm this report is suitable for the public domain.

Signature:



Date: 13 May 2025