

South Yorkshire  
Mayoral Combined Authority  
11 Broad Street West  
Sheffield, S1 2BQ

26<sup>th</sup> June 2025

To: His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

Dear Chief Inspector

**Response from Kilvinder Vigurs, South Yorkshire's Deputy Mayor, to the HMICFRS report:  
improving the response to organised immigration crime**

I welcome the findings of the report. The focus it places on organised immigration crime is welcome. We need to continue to work in partnership at a local, regional and national level if we are to better understand the threat it poses and the degree to which it is impacting our communities.

The four recommendations for policing that are detailed within the report have been accepted by the Chief Constable of South Yorkshire Police (SYP). As the Deputy Mayor with PCC responsibilities in South Yorkshire, I have oversight of the implementation of these recommendations (as appropriate to South Yorkshire) through local governance arrangements.

**Recommendation 1**

**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.**

I agree with this recommendation. Ensuring a consistent process to allow Immigration Enforcement's National Command and Control Unit to utilise intelligence gathered at force level will be essential to increasing disruptions and ensuring investigative opportunities are not lost. It will also be important for forces to be sighted on what the collective picture of national intelligence feeding into the Command-and-Control Unit is telling us so that it can be used to inform local force strategic intelligence assessments. This will help to deliver a proactive partnership response that focuses on dismantling organised crime through the four P approach of prevent, prepare, protect and pursue.

**Recommendation 2**

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

I agree. The collection, analysis and sharing of information is critical to improving our understanding of the involvement of organised criminal gangs in organised immigration, modern slavery and human trafficking. I am pleased that South Yorkshire Police has a Modern Slavery and Organised Immigration Crime Unit. This demonstrates a commitment to improving delivery in this area however, we know there is more we can do. We know there are gaps in data and intelligence in relation to organised immigration crime. This can make it difficult to see hidden and therefore, unmet demand. We also see challenges in identifying suspects, and we know that victims are often reluctant to come forward either because they don't recognise themselves as victims or through fear – or both. Raising awareness of organised immigration crime and improving public trust and confidence are essential if we are to improve our response to this crime.

### **Recommendation 3**

**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.**

I agree. Training officers and staff is key however, for this to be effective, the training has to be sustained, refreshed and repeated. Many officers, staff and partner organisations may not routinely encounter organised immigration crime. They need to be trained in how to recognise it and what to do when they see it.

### **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.**

I agree with this recommendation.

Commenting more broadly, organised immigration crime is not restricted to force borders or threat types. Improving our understanding, is in part reliant on police and partners being professionally curious and gathering intelligence to help address gaps in what we know about suspects, victims and locations. We need to continue to work together in our efforts to tackle organized criminality including organized immigration crime.

Yours sincerely



Kilvinder Vigurs  
Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime