

Information for police forces about the close of fieldwork debrief

This is our preliminary feedback – on an immediate basis – at or towards the end of our fieldwork. It is not the final picture. Nor is it a complete account of what we have found and what we will say in our report. It contains what we presently consider to be the principal pieces of evidence (so far) obtained during this visit. HMIC's team has more work to do gathering and analysing evidence, and assessing the evidence and analysis against our judgment criteria.

Additional evidence, further consideration of all of the evidence, and the assessment we make of it – both now and in the later stages of this inspection – can and may change the balance and/or intensity of positive and negative inspection findings. Further findings may be made. What we say to you now may in some respects differ from what is said in the final report.

Moderation is an important part of the grading and assessment process. It can only be done after the fieldwork has been completed and the evidence assessed in all the forces which are subject to this inspection. You will appreciate that we are not in a position now to provide you with information about the findings of inspections in other forces.

In particular, I should emphasise that the final judgment as to what is to be said about the evidence obtained and assessed in every inspection rests with the Inspectors of Constabulary concerned. That includes the qualitative view as to the absolute and relative merits of the force in the respects which have been inspected. If HMIC is going to be adversely critical, it is for the Inspectors of Constabulary concerned to decide on that, and what is to be said. If HMIC is going to provide favourable criticism, the same applies. Anything which is said to you today is subject to those potentially supervening factors and considerations, which must of course only be made and come into play at the very end of the inspection and report-writing process.