



People for Proper Policing in North Wales

The new HMIP report card scheme needs improving.

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The new report card scheme rolled out by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary needs improving if it is to accurately show how Forces are performing.

Peter Fahy – Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police – admitted in an interview that the initiative was “a good attempt” at showing the complexities of policing but he did not believe it showed the public the full picture.

He told PoliceOracle.com: *“Policing is clearly a very complex business and you have to ask questions about how you report results in a document encapsulating everything on the spectrum from anti-social behaviour to gun crime. The report card is a good attempt but some improvements are needed – I think that is a view also shared by the Association of Chief Police Officers.”*

Fahy was speaking after his Force pulled in **a poor rating for public confidence and local policing** categories in its first report card published last month.

But despite the assessment, latest figures for Greater Manchester show that offences are at the lowest level for a decade with a 12 per cent reduction in crime in the past year. **Significantly, firearms discharges were reduced by a quarter in the year and are now at their lowest level since 2003.**

Domestic burglary and robbery were both down by 15 per cent, vehicle crime was cut by nearly 20 per cent and there were 10 per cent fewer violent attacks.

Fahy said: *“Obviously we didn't come out particularly well compared to other Forces in our first report card but the figures we have just published tell a very different story. We now have the lowest level of gun crime for eight years. Working with Greater Manchester Police Authority we have agreed some stretching targets to cut crime and improve public confidence in the next 12 months.*

“There is an ambitious change programme underway and a new style of policing is being introduced – these are helping us make the best use of officers and staff to provide the service that people want,” Fahy emphasised.

The achievements of the Force were commended by **Paul Murphy, Chairman of the Greater Manchester Police Authority**. He said: *“In the past it is no secret that we have expressed disappointment in performance and demanded improvement. It is good to see the latest figures show policing is moving in the right direction.”*

The PPP comments...our experience in Cheshire showed that under Fahy local community Policing and ASB were of low priority despite these crimes blighting the lives of so many people. It would seem GMPF has the same problem. The quoted improvements, if not subject to distortion, are commendable.