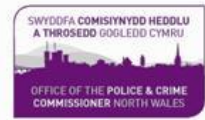




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## **Response from the North West and North Wales Police and Crime Commissioners to the HMIC report 'Regional Organised Crime Units: A review of capability and effectiveness'.**

North West and North Wales PCCs collectively welcome HMIC's first inspection report into the work of the Regional and Organised Crime Units (ROCU) and have noted the recommendations captured within the report.

This independent report has provided the North West PCCs with a valuable update on the work of TITAN and also provided insight into the work of the other regional crime units.

It was reassuring to note how TITAN has been recognised as a leading ROCU in areas such as collaboration, partner agency working and effective communication with the public.

These areas can aid the drive to tackle serious and organised crime, deliver savings, protect communities and make people feel safer.

In the past 6 years criminals have received a landmark total of 2,000 years in prison sentences from investigations led by TITAN. TITAN have also worked with other regions to tackle serious crimes including Operation Blenheim which saw 30 criminals from Glasgow and Liverpool sentenced for transporting drugs with a value of between £100 and £200 million. Such impressive landmark cases are partly the result of how TITAN is collaborating and 'working well' with partner agencies across the region as highlighted by HMIC.

Successful operations also send the message to the public that offenders committing serious crimes will be caught and prosecuted appropriately, this is key to maintaining public confidence in these units, but only if promoted appropriately.

TITAN's creative use of data on their website and social media is impressive and rightly highlighted by HMIC's inspectors. The time and effort TITAN put into communication and delivering key messages is essential to raising the profile of this valuable work which as HMIC highlight 'can be invisible to most communities'.

There is still room for improvement and the comments from the Inspectorate relating to intelligence sharing and undercover policing have been noted by North West and North Wales PCCs.

It is worthwhile emphasising TITAN's progress highlighted within HMIC's report all comes despite the difficulties that TITAN faces in relation to bringing together what are six considerably diverse police areas, each facing unique and challenging threats. However, despite these major differences, HMIC has found that TITAN is a relatively 'advanced model' of regional collaboration that can be held up as best practice nationally.

**Jane Kennedy, Police and Crime Commissioner for Merseyside  
PCC Lead for the North West ROCU**