



# BUSINESS CRIME

## A FOLLOW-UP REVIEW OF HOW THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM DEALS WITH BUSINESS CRIME IN NORTHERN IRELAND

NOVEMBER 2020

### WHAT IS A FOLLOW-UP REVIEW?

Follow-up Reviews are carried out by Inspectors to assess if and how accepted inspection recommendations have been implemented by organisations. They are usually carried out around two years after an inspection report has been published.

### WHY DO A FOLLOW UP REVIEW?

- ▶ Provides a published assessment by CJI of the level of progress in implementing agreed recommendations arising from an inspection.
- ▶ Creates a clear expectation that CJI will return to assess momentum in implementing agreed recommendations and completing action plans.
- ▶ Allows inspected organisations to demonstrate the improvements they have made.

### WHAT WERE THE MAIN FINDINGS OF THE CJI INSPECTION IN 2017?

- ▶ As business crime included a range of offences such as shoplifting, cyber crime, burglary, tiger kidnappings and assault, there was no agreed definition of business crime meaning insufficient analysis of its trends and impact.
- ▶ There was under-reporting of crime to the police by businesses.
- ▶ The relationships between the Police Service of Northern Ireland (PSNI) and business representative bodies were developing.
- ▶ The business community felt crimes involving businesses were considered as 'victimless' by the criminal justice system.
- ▶ Sanctions against persistent offenders were viewed by business representatives as inadequate.
- ▶ There were six recommendations for improvement: two strategic and four operational.

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### WHO DID WE MEET AS PART OF THIS FOLLOW-UP REVIEW?

- ▶ This review focused on the PSNI and the work it had undertaken to implement the inspection recommendations.
- ▶ Inspectors conducted a series of meetings and gathered data from the PSNI and the Department of Justice to inform our views. We also spoke with and listened to the views of business representative bodies.

### WHAT PROGRESS DID WE FIND SINCE THE 2017 INSPECTION?

- ▶ Five recommendations were assessed as Achieved and one Partially Achieved.
- ▶ Information sharing between the business community and the police has greatly improved.
- ▶ We found evidence of improvement. There are stronger partnerships in place and more meaningful engagement between the criminal justice system and business umbrella groups, principally through the Business Crime Partnership.
- ▶ There was good co-operation between the police and business to implement and deal with the impact of new and changing Covid-19 pandemic regulations.

### WHAT HAPPENS NOW?

- ▶ As progress has been good on delivering these recommendations, we do not plan to undertake further specific inspection work at this time. We will return to the theme of business crime as part of other planned inspection work.
- ▶ When recommendations have not been achieved, CJI will decide on the timing of a second Follow-up Review or schedule a new full inspection.

Criminal Justice Inspection  
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*a better justice system for all*



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