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Rt Hon Theresa May
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
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03/09/2014

Dear Home Secretary,

Responding to Austerity

I am writing to you to formally respond to the inspection undertaken by HMIC on Derbyshire Constabulary's response to the financial challenges we face here in Derbyshire. Firstly I would like to welcome the report. Whilst I value the external scrutiny offered through HMIC inspection, and see it as something akin to free consultancy that will help me meet my fourth Police and Crime Plan strategic objective around resource allocation, I am also extremely concerned about the cost to our budget and the significantly increased amount of inspection work carried out by HMIC. Obviously I am pleased that the inspection judged our performance in all three key areas as being 'Good'.

I am glad that the inspection recognised the significant work undertaken within Derbyshire to meet the financial challenges ahead and how our approach moving forward should help us meet those challenges head on. The cuts to funding to the police service, coupled with the top slicing of budgets to allow for additional resources for HMIC and the IPCC and to further support the Home Office Innovation Fund have put significantly increased pressure upon us.

I was particularly pleased that the report highlighted the 'cautious' approach we have taken to collaboration. As I am on the record as saying many times, I am keen to explore opportunities for savings through collaborative working - but the key driver has been, and will remain, that collaboration must be best for Derbyshire and that may mean that we are unable to join some of our regional colleagues at this time as we believe we are able to continue to drive savings out prior to joining collaborative work. I also welcomed

the observation that we do not consider savings from collaborative work until they have materialised.

I am confident that the challenging Priority Based Budgeting approach adopted within Derbyshire, which is coming to its conclusion, will help deliver the savings we need for this current round of austerity. However, my prediction at this stage for the future is losing further significant numbers of officers and staff, which will undoubtedly have a noticeable impact upon the service we are able to deliver to the people of Derbyshire.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Charles". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Alan Charles
Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

Cc Chief Constable Mick Creedon
HMIC Zoe Billingham