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Rt Hon Theresa May
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
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12/11/2015

Dear Home Secretary,

PEEL: Police Efficiency 2015

I am writing to you to formally respond to the recently published Police Efficiency Survey for Derbyshire Constabulary that forms part of the annual PEEL assessment. As I have said previously I greatly value the external scrutiny of the service by HMIC and see it as something akin to free consultancy that assists me undertaking my role as Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire.

I am pleased that HMIC Consider that Derbyshire is a 'Good' Force, and feel that this is testament to the strong leadership of Chief Constable Mick Creedon and his senior team and the hard work and dedication of all the officers and staff that work for Derbyshire Constabulary. Difficult decisions have needed to be taken and the leadership of the Force have not been afraid to take them. No area of policing has been considered 'off limits' and by using the skills and experience from within I believe we have been able to develop an approach to responding to the financial challenges facing the Police Service today that has credibility within the Force.

It is good to see that the report considers Derbyshire is a low-cost force. It recognises that Derbyshire has seen reductions in crime both over the past 12 months and also the past 5 years that outstrips the national average. (This is of course a reduction in the 'basket of crimes' that make up national crime statistics and does not include some of the most complex crimes such as cyber-crime, CSE and historical sexual abuse allegations which have all seen significant increases nationwide, and represent a significant draw on already stretched resources.) We are part of a well-respected regional collaboration that you have cited as best practice. These are great headlines

that we are justifiably proud of. We cannot, however, rest on our laurels and I will be working closely with Mr Creedon and his senior team to understand how we will ensure that the Force continues to have robust and credible plans for responding to the forthcoming Comprehensive Spending Review and the changing demands that modern policing faces. However the accumulative cuts to our budget are now having an impact on the service that we deliver and the additional cuts that the Chancellor will announce on 25th November will have a significant detrimental impact on policing in Derbyshire.

HMIC have raised concerns about the Force's IT infrastructure, concerns that I have also raised on a number of occasions. Work is underway to address these concerns. Next year we will be the final force in the region to join a single platform Records Management System that will combine the core policing systems of Crime & Intelligence along with Case & Custody. Feedback from the provider of the system has been that this will be the largest single, multi-force platform of its kind in the world of policing. We are working with our regional partners to understand what additional benefits the data that we will hold could bring us in terms of our response to changing demands.

As you may already be aware we are in the process of building a joint headquarters building with colleagues from Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service which will hopefully deliver both savings but also smarter ways of the two emergency services working together.

I note that the inspectorate considered five forces to be 'Outstanding'. I shall be seeking to understand what it is they do that we don't and what we might be able to do to further improve the HMIC grading for Derbyshire. This will, however, need to be a proportionate response as I believe it is more important to deliver a quality policing service to the people of Derbyshire than it is to chase 'grades'. This report has given me the assurance that we are on track and are delivering an effective policing service in 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
Zoe Billingham, HM Inspector of Constabulary (Eastern Region)
Michael Cunningham QPM, Lead HM Inspector of Constabulary on this inspection