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HMI, Eastern Region
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02.04.2019

Dear Zoe,

Crime Data Integrity Inspection 2018

I am writing to you to formally respond to the Crime Data Integrity inspection 2018 report, published on 7th March 2019.

It goes without saying that it is very disappointing to hear that Derbyshire's crime recording arrangements are deemed to be exceptionally poor and that your overall judgement of this area of business is that Derbyshire Constabulary is inadequate. As I believe you are already aware this issue is being dealt with as a critical incident by the Force, as I believe it should be.

I am aware that there are various technical arguments relating to crime recording and the current recording rules, but I do not feel that it is helpful or appropriate to rehearse these again. As the directly elected individual responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the people of Derbyshire I have a duty to ensure that when people report a crime this is recorded properly and that they get the service they need.

My main concern is to ensure that victims of crime have received a quality support service that meets their needs and helps them recover from their experience. The findings of this report clearly do not reflect this priority. I, like the Chief Constable, am focused on maintaining the quality of policing in Derbyshire and thereby sustaining its rightful reputation as one of the safest places to live, work or visit. Again, the assessment in this report does not reflect this commitment.

What I found of particular concern were the findings in relation to violent crime, sexual assaults and rapes. It is of vital importance that victims of these types of crimes have confidence in the police to come forward and report them. Your findings suggest that there is significant work that



needs to be undertaken to provide the evidence to support the confidence that we are asking people to have in us.

I was pleased that you recognised the commitment of everyone within the Force to 'do the right thing' and their enthusiasm to achieve this, but I take on board your reflection that this may have had an unintended consequence of down-playing the nature of the crime recording rules.

As you observed the Force have recognised that there is work to be done and I know that T/ACC Mehmet is leading on this area of work, including through the running of a Gold Group at which my office is represented by my Chief Executive. It is regrettable that Derbyshire is the only force you have inspected to date that has achieved an inadequate rating for crime recording leadership. This is something I have raised, and will continue to challenge the Chief Constable about.

In a very difficult read I was pleased that you identified awareness by the Force of its responsibilities under the Victims' Code of Practice (VCOP). It was also good to read that you identified the targeted support I commission for victims under 18 through the 'Got Your Back' service as good practice. And whilst it was less comfortable reading about the effectiveness of recording of equality data for victims, this does resonate with conversations I have had previously with the Chief Constable and will add further weight to my pressure to the Chief/Force to get things right.

Clearly there is significant work that needs to be undertaken to improve the situation. Your report outlines a number of areas for improvement both immediately and in the longer term. I have asked for a formal report to be produced on activity to respond to these requirements for the next meeting (May 2019) of my Strategic Priorities Assurance Board, which is a public meeting, so I can understand plans and progress and can offer assurance to the people of Derbyshire that we are taking action to significantly improve things. I am happy to share this report with you, though it will be available through our website should you wish to see a copy. I am also happy to either personally, or through senior officers in my team, to maintain an open dialogue with you, or your colleagues, about progress on this agenda.

As I have often said before, I see the inspection by HMICFRS as a form of consultancy that helps identify issues that I may not be aware of and that helps me fulfill my duties as a Police and Crime Commissioner to ensure that we have an efficient and effective police force in Derbyshire. For that I would like to thank you and your team for the work they have put into this inspection and report. I fully anticipate, and expect, that you and your team will see a marked improvement when you come back to revisit the Force.

Yours sincerely,



Hardyal Dhindsa
Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire

Cc Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Policing & the Fire Service

