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Your Reference JMcE/AS/54027

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Date 21st January 2013

Dear Home Secretary,

REVISITING POLICE RELATIONSHIPS: A PROGRESS REPORT

I write as I'm required to comment upon reports published by the HMIC concerning the Derbyshire Constabulary. On 17th December 2012 I received a copy from Zoe Billingham HM Inspector of Constabulary for the Eastern Region and her progress report on Revisiting Police Relationships

I have noted the national findings and evidence of some good work in relation to the establishment of processes and policies to manage vulnerabilities, along with HMIC's concerns of inconsistency and lack of an appropriate degree of urgency.

It is my responsibility to hold the Chief Constable of Derbyshire to account and in this regard I have focused upon the evidence of the Constabulary's improvements as to how they identify, monitor and manage integrity issues. The report makes for comfortable reading, with no recommendations as to how to improve; yet one can never rest and so I am pleased to add additional areas of improvement since their visit for your information.

It is my understanding that the Force has not responded formally to HMIC's findings and so I have consulted them before responding myself as follows:

- The single inappropriate disclosure to the media as mentioned in the report was investigated. There was insufficient evidence to substantiate that the media came into certain information due to a corrupt relationship, or whether it was obtained from other sources. No formal action has been taken.

The Force have responded positively to the recommendations in 'Without Fear or Favour' in:

- Introducing guidance in relation to Social Networking, which was in line with National Guidelines and prior to that the guidance had been covered in a series of Chief Constable's orders.

- Revising the guidance in relation to Gifts and Hospitality, again in line with National Guidance and implementing processes in-force to ensure that entries in the register were reviewed by the Anti Corruption Unit (ACU) and triangulated with Procurement and Contracts
- Maintaining a register in ACU of Police Officers and Members of Police Staff who have a relationship with a member of the media. Guidance provided by the media department as to how officers should record contact with the media.
- Progressing the re-writing of the Secondary Employment Guidance to reflect National Guidance and align processes where necessary.

The Force continues the process of working through the progress report since December 2012 and taking cognisance of the national evidence. In demonstrating leadership I have volunteered to undertake vetting myself, along with requiring my Deputy and staff of my Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to undergo vetting to Management level. They have also received a presentation from the Force Security Manager on the vulnerabilities around debt management.

I shall continue to monitor the Force and support HMIC in their inspection processes so as to provide the public with assurance that the Force continues to deal with the matters as highlighted within the report.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Charles', written in a cursive style.

Alan Charles
Police and Crime Commissioner

Copy Chief Constable Mick Creedon QPM
HMIC Zoe Billingham BA Hons