



**Alan Charles**  
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Friday, 25 October 2013

Dear Zoe,

### **Joint Inspection of Custody Suites**

I am writing to you to formally respond to the Joint Inspection of Custody that was published in September. I must apologise for the delay in my response to you, this was an administrative oversight.

As always we welcome external inspection of the work of the Force and firmly believe that it is through such inspection and scrutiny that we are able to deliver the continuous improvement that forms part of my Police and Crime Plan, in particular Objective 5.

I am pleased that the inspection highlighted areas of good practice within the suites in Derbyshire and noted the professional way in which those working within the custody environment treated detained people. I am also glad to see that the ongoing learning raised with staff through regular bulletins was highlighted. It is not the easiest of working environments and I think the professionalism of those working within custody is a credit to Derbyshire and the Police Service in general.

I have met with the Chief Constable to ensure that all of the 31 recommendations made within the report are considered and I have asked to be kept informed of actions taken. Moving on to the areas that caused concern to the inspection team I am pleased to be able to confirm that the practice of using the drink driving threshold to assess the fitness of a person to be interviewed has stopped.

I am acutely aware that there have been significant issues in relation to the roll out of the management information system within custody and I have been able to use the findings of the inspection to support my robust challenge of the contractor, Northgate, who provides the system used in Derbyshire.

I understand that the Chief Constable has been in touch with Tom Winsor in relation to the use of Form F142 and we can confirm that detainees are now present when the detainee is being given the reasons for arrest and informed of their rights.

If you would find it useful I would be happy to provide an update on progress the next time we meet.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan Charles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and 'C'.

Alan Charles  
**Police & Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire**