

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

2 May 2014

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Inspection – ‘Everyone’s Business: Improving the response to domestic abuse’

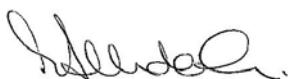
Further to the publication of the HMIC report into the police response to domestic violence and abuse on 27 March 2014.

Whilst it is clear that a number of weaknesses were found during the inspection process regarding the general police response nationally, I am delighted that Dorset Police was praised as being one of the top eight forces for its overall approach to tackling domestic abuse.

Domestic abuse is a dreadful crime with far-reaching consequences. The inspection report rightly identifies Dorset Police placing a significant focus on the victims of domestic abuse and violence and that the Force are working effectively with partners in responding to, and supporting, high risk victims. This is consistent with my Police and Crime Plan priorities to ‘reduce the number of victims of crime and anti-social behaviour’ and ‘reduce the number of people seriously harmed in Dorset’.

Despite this focus there will always be areas for further improvement and I note the report makes recommendations with regard to frontline officer training and a review of procedures for managing medium and standard risk perpetrators to reduce re-offending. I will therefore be working with the Chief Constable and other chief officers to ensure that these recommendations are addressed and that the Force continues to develop approaches to safeguard all victims and children subject to domestic violence and abuse.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Underhill
Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset

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 Debbie Simpson, Chief Constable Dorset Police