

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

25 March 2015

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Inspection – ‘Dorset Police: Crime Inspection 2014’

Further to the publication of the HMIC Crime Inspection report for Dorset Police in November 2014.

I am naturally delighted that the inspection found that Dorset Police has achieved significant reductions in crime, works effectively with partners on crime prevention and reducing offending, and has a strong focus on victims. A number of positive aspects have been highlighted in the report which is testament to the continued strong performance of the Force in the current challenging climate.

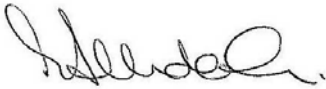
The specific recommendations contained within the report are noted and I am satisfied that significant progress is already being made towards them. For example, the Force lead has commissioned an overarching review of adult safeguarding demand, structures and processes in order to fully recognise the critical interdependencies between all relevant agencies. This recognises that arrangements in relation to children are currently more mature and well-established. Steps have also been taken by the Force to provide greater clarity around the supervisory ownership and accountability for individual cases, providing more robust arrangements for tasking and progress reviews in particular.

Dorset Police are also working closely with the local Children and Adult Safeguarding Boards in order to ensure that local arrangements are as efficient, resilient and sustainable as possible without being vulnerable to peaks in demand or other external factors and pressures. Multi-agency working groups have been established to enhance understanding of demand and the associated impact and risk management implications that this has across all relevant agencies.

I can also confirm that since the HMIC inspection took place, which also coincided with an unprecedented level of demand, staffing levels have been increased within the Safeguarding Referral Unit (SRU) in order to ensure and maintain the timeliness of all case reviews that have been actioned or tasked out.

Oversight of all HMIC inspections of the Force is carried out at our Strategic Performance Board which I jointly chair with the Chief Constable. Specific ownership of recommendations and actions are also allocated to senior officers as appropriate and monitored through the relevant strategic board. Through these robust governance arrangements I am satisfied that the relevant improvements will be made and implemented accordingly.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Underhill
Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset

Copy: Drusilla Sharpling, HMI for Wales, West Midlands and the South West
Debbie Simpson, Chief Constable Dorset Police