

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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24th July 2014

HMCIC Mr Thomas Winsor
HMIC
6th Floor, Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
LONDON
SW1V 1PN

Dear Tom

Following the publication of the *Policing in austerity; meeting the challenge* report and the accompanying Lincolnshire findings, we wanted to take the opportunity to respond and set out our shared views.

Firstly, please express our thanks to HMI Zoe Billingham and her team for what we feel is a balanced report that highlights our many achievements, not least your grading of "Outstanding" in terms of the extent to which we have an affordable way of delivering policing. We were pleased that you have recognised not only the plans we have in place to meet our savings requirements, but also the contribution made to these by collaboration and strategic partnership. Most importantly for us and our communities you also commend us on how successful we have been in increasing the proportion of police officers in frontline roles, despite extremely difficult circumstances.

It is helpful also that you express concerns around our ability to maintain current levels of service beyond 2016. You know these are concerns that we both share.

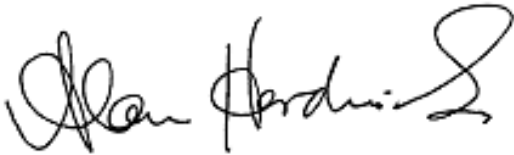
We have written today to the Home Secretary to invite her to visit us to learn first-hand about the Lincolnshire way of working as well as to discuss our future challenges. This letter, which we have attached, also forms the formal response required of Commissioners within the meaning of Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996. It will be published on the PCC website at <http://www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk/Policy/Performance.aspx>

With regard to the future, we were also pleased to see your proposals around convening a debate to consider a national blueprint for policing. This is something we feel we can both add to and would very much like to be involved. Perhaps we could arrange a meeting with you to help further inform how this work might best be achieved?

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Many thanks again for what we both agree was an insightful report for the service as a whole.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Alan Hardwick in black ink.

Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Handwritten signature of Neil Rhodes in black ink.

Neil Rhodes
Chief Constable