

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Alan Hardwick

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Wendy Williams
Her Majesty's Inspector Constabulary
5 St Philips Place
4th floor
Birmingham
B3 2PW

Dear Wendy,

Witness for the Prosecution: Identifying Victim and Witness Vulnerability in Criminal Case Files

I am pleased to provide my formal response to HMIC's inspection of Lincolnshire Police entitled 'Witness for the prosecution: identifying victim and witness vulnerability in criminal case files'.

Whilst difficult to draw meaningful conclusions from a relatively small sample size, the report does reflect our careful work with victims and witnesses. It is encouraging to note that 7 out of 9 witness details were accurately recorded and a 75% success rate achieved in determining the vulnerability of witnesses. In addition, 6 out of 10 cases had adequate MG5 case summaries whilst special measures were requested in only 1 out of 4 cases where vulnerability and risk of harm were identified.

I am unaware of any specific complaints from our local CPS with regards to police interview summaries, and our regional criminal justice service will continue to meet with all prosecution partners to ensure that any themes or problems are addressed quickly. More can be done and moving forward, Lincolnshire Police will be supporting the quality of its crime investigations with a new manual of guidance.

As Commissioner, I have made victims and witnesses central to my Police and Crime Plan and I remain committed to doing everything to ensure that vulnerable victims and witnesses continue to be supported in Lincolnshire.

Sincerely
Alan.

Alan Hardwick
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

cc The Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Home Secretary