

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Alan Hardwick

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Date: 23rd March 2016

Our Reference: AH/aw/kc/HMIPS-2015-001

Mr Peter Clarke CVO OBE QPM
HM Chief Inspector of Prisons
HM Inspectorate of Prisons
6th Floor, Victory House
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London
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By email to: barbara.buchanan@hmiprison.gsi.gov.uk

Dear 

Joint Inspectorate Report on Lincolnshire Custody

I am presenting my comments in response to the above Report within the meaning of s55 (5) of the Police Act 1996. This letter will be copied to the Home Secretary and published on my website.

I read with great disappointment some of the findings the Inspectorate's Report presents. I was particularly concerned by the findings relating to previous recommendations made in the 2011 inspection report, against which the Force is judged to have made insufficient progress.

Consequently, I have spoken directly with the Chief Constable and Deputy Chief Constable and asked that they set out how the Force will address the points raised in the Inspection Report. I have also requested that, as a matter of urgency, a detailed action plan be created encompassing all the recommendations made in the Report. I will closely monitor the implementation of this action plan.

However, I note, and am reassured by, findings in the Report that relate to staff working in custody being extremely helpful and interacting well with detainees - and that both initial and refresher training for custody staff is recognised as being appropriate and relevant.

The Report further identifies a positive relationship with partners in the provision of substance misuse services and that there is a good working relationship with and support for, the Independent Custody Visitor Scheme. In addition, the Report identifies that the physical conditions, cleanliness and general maintenance of the custody suites is good.

Nevertheless, I was concerned by the key findings of the Report as I understand the importance of ensuring the legal rights and safety of detainees, their appropriate treatment, and the conditions of their detention, particularly for those who are more vulnerable.

I also clearly recognise the imperative for the Force to make demonstrable progress against the recommendations contained in the Inspectorate's Report. I will use its findings to help me hold the Chief Constable to account for achieving the improvements required.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Hardwick', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

cc: HMI Dru Sharpling CBE, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary
HMI Zoë Billingham, Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary
The Right Hon Theresa May MP – Home Secretary
Chief Constable Neil Rhodes – Lincolnshire Police