



Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

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Our Ref: MJ/AW/HMIC-2017-039

Michael Cunningham QPM
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By email: michael.cunningham1@hmic.gsi.gov.uk
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Dear Mr Cunningham

HMICFRS PEEL Efficiency 2017 Inspection Report

I am pleased to present 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 welcome the HMICFRS Inspection Report as I recognise the value in all forces receiving proper and rigorous scrutiny as a key element in helping to facilitate continuous improvement. I am pleased that the Inspection Report recognises that *“Lincolnshire Police provides a good policing service to its communities at one of the lowest costs per head of the population in England and Wales”* and that it *“allocates and uses its resources well”*.

However, having reflected on the Report’s content, I remain baffled as to why HMICFRS have reached the conclusion that the Force should be downgraded to *“Requires improvement”* from a *“Good”* grading received only eight months ago, when the inspection team praised the Force for being one of the most efficient in the UK, stating, *“It is likely that there will be service loss or degradation of policing services in Lincolnshire if further reductions are made to the workforce. The Force is in this position through no fault of its own, its leadership or that of the newly elected Police and Crime Commissioner. The Force has acted responsibly and reasonably in striving to become one of the most efficient and cost effective forces in England and Wales”*.

The key criticism raised in the 2017 report is centred round the Force’s level of planning for future funding, yet none of us know what that funding will be.

Looking at the Report in detail, I note that it identifies a number of specific *“areas for improvement”*, progress against which will be monitored by my office through the use of a bespoke *“HMICFRS tracker”* and our robust *“holding to account”* governance processes. In addition, I shall be encouraging the Chief Constable to realise improvements in the development of strategic plans aligned with the recommendation made by the Inspection Report relating to a more comprehensive understanding of demand and the linking of financial plans with the Force’s revised operating and workforce model.

In closing, I wish to re-affirm my commitment to working with the Chief Constable and key partners to find new and innovative ways to make Lincolnshire Police and the service they deliver as efficient and effective as possible within the bounds of the increasingly perilous financial situation we face.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, enclosed within a hand-drawn oval. The signature is stylized and appears to read 'M Jones'.

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

cc: Home Secretary