



Lincolnshire POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

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Date: 20th September 2018

Our Ref: MJ/AW/bs/HMIC-2018-028

Ms Zoë Billingham
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Eastern Region
HMICFRS
6th Floor, Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
LONDON
SW1V 1PN

Dear Ms Billingham

HMICFRS Crime Data Integrity Inspection Report (Published July 2018)

I 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 am exceedingly troubled by the findings of the HMICFRS Crime Data Integrity (Crime Recording) inspection report, particularly the extent of the criticisms it contains which are reflected in the overall grading attained by the force of "Inadequate". Prior to publication of the report I had received briefings from the Chief Officer team over a period of time which had indicated a much narrower set of issues had been identified, still troubling, but more centred on recording process and technical interpretation of recording standards rather than any deficiency in officer training, awareness and ultimately victim focus.

I believe the inspection report findings as published could seriously undermine public confidence not just in crime recording but policing in Lincolnshire. I have therefore taken a number of steps to help ensure that the force addresses the issues identified in a suitably robust, open and comprehensive manner. Key amongst these is the setting-up of a public facing panel to deliver transparent oversight of the implementation of the required changes and to assess the progress made. The overarching purpose is, to provide additional assurance to both myself and the wider public that appropriate and effective remedial measures have been taken. In doing so, I wish to ensure that the right balance is struck between compliance with recording standards and maintaining a clear focus on the victims of crime.

The Chief constable and I recognise there is much to be done to reassure the public of Lincolnshire and to improve the forces performance across all the areas touched by crime recording practices and highlighted by the HMICFRS report. Both he and I are committed to achieving marked improvements and these will be driven by our existing governance structure and the use of the public facing Panel and the forces' detailed action plan.

To aid clarity and your understanding of the importance I place on the response to the inspection report, I have attached both my initial letter to the Chief Constable and his reply.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a series of loops and curves, enclosed within a horizontal oval shape.

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

cc: Home Secretary, Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP