



Lincolnshire POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

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Date: 4th July 2019

Our Ref: MJ/ASW/2019-HMICFRS 026

HMI Zoe Billingham
HMICFRS
6th Floor Globe House,
89 Ecclestone Square,
London,
SW1V 1PN.

Dear Zoe,

Subject: HMICFRS - Police Response to Fraud, Thematic Report (Published 2nd April 2019)

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.

The thematic inspection into the police response to fraud “A Time to Choose” makes two recommendations that relate directly to all forces nationally and asks Chief Constables to ensure that action is taken. I can confirm that both of these recommendations have been acted on by Lincolnshire police with progress being made towards their achievement within the timescales indicated in the report. I will continue to monitor the Force’s progress towards completion of these recommendations via the use of a bespoke HMICFRS ‘tracker’ document which records force progress against all ‘Areas for Improvement’ and ‘Recommendations’ made within HMICFRS Inspection reports. A copy of this tracker document is also provided to HMICFRS by the force on a quarterly basis to help ensure they are kept up to date on current force remedial activity.

I value the findings of the HMICFRS report as it highlights the scope of the work required by major agencies to make changes at both strategic and operational levels to improve the response to fraud nationally. The report details the improvements needed in organisational structures, clarity on roles and responsibilities and dissemination of guidance and good practice to better support the actions of forces locally. Importantly this will help to deliver an improved and consistent service to the victims of fraud.

However, for me the report brings in to sharp focus the ongoing and genuine challenge for police forces such as Lincolnshire in providing sufficient local capacity and capability to meet the growing demand and increasing complexity of fraud investigations.

I remain committed to driving improvements and finding innovative solutions to the complex problems posed by this area of criminality whilst remaining realistic about what can be achieved with the level of funding available to Lincolnshire.

Yours sincerely,

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

Marc Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire