



Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

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Date: 10th March 2020
Our Ref: MJ/ASW/HMIC-2020-018

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

Dear Zoe,

Subject: HMICFRS – Crime Data Integrity (CDI) Re-inspection report (Published February 2020)

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.

In July 2018 I was extremely troubled by the findings contained in the HMICFRS inspection report and its “inadequate” grading of the way in which crime was recorded by Lincolnshire police. I was very concerned about the potential for the findings to undermine the public’s confidence in policing in Lincolnshire and ultimately the service provided to victims of crime. In response to those findings and my concerns I sought direct and detailed assurances from the chief constable on how the issues raised in the report would be addressed and confidence in policing in Lincolnshire could be assured. In addition, I established the Independent Crime and Confidence Panel to deliver transparent oversight of the implementation of the required changes and to provide assurance to the public and I that appropriate remedial measures had been taken. A copy of their summary report and recommendations was published in January 2020 and I have attached a copy for your reference.

Bearing in mind these preceding circumstances, I am delighted with the findings of this most recent HMICFRS inspection report which now grades the way in which Lincolnshire police records Crime as “**Good**”. This result is a reflection of the hard work and dedication of officers and staff across the force in making the required changes. The report comments that,

“Lincolnshire police has significantly improved its crime recording arrangements since our 2018 inspection” and has...

- *Developed and implemented a CDI action plan to address recommendations and areas for improvement and drive systemic cultural change”.*
- *Developed a comprehensive crime recording e-learning package which the vast majority of officers have completed”.*
- *Focused existing resources to scrutinise and improve crime recording decision making and data quality.”*

My satisfaction with these findings is tempered by the clear need for continued effort to ensure the gains made are sustainable and to drive further improvement. On this point I am heartened by the grading within the report of “**Outstanding**” given by HMICFRS in response to the question “how well does the force demonstrate the leadership and culture necessary to meet the national standards for crime recording?”

The vital element in all of our efforts must be to create a crime recording culture with a clear victim focus rather than a compliance culture centred solely on technical standards. To this end I remain committed to working with the chief constable and holding him to account for maintaining the gains already realised and in delivering the further improvements required.

I can confirm that I will continue to monitor the force’s progress via the use of a bespoke HMICFRS ‘tracker’ document which records force progress against all ‘Areas for Improvement’, ‘Recommendations’ and ‘Areas of Concern’ made within HMICFRS Inspection reports. A copy of this tracker document is also provided to the Joint Independent Audit Committee on a quarterly basis to help provide assurance on current force remedial activity.

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