



Lincolnshire
POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

Deepdale Lane, Nettleham, Lincoln LN2 2LT
Telephone (01522) 947192 Fax (01522) 558739
E-Mail: lincolnshire-pcc@lincs.pnn.police.uk Website: www.lincolnshire-pcc.gov.uk

Date: 16th March 2020
Our Ref: MJ/ASW/HMIC-2020-007

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

Dear Zoe,

Subject: HMICFRS & HMCPSI - Thematic Report on evidence led domestic abuse prosecutions (Published 23rd January 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.

The joint thematic inspection into evidence led domestic abuse prosecutions makes six recommendations aimed at the police service. I can confirm that these latest recommendations have been added to the bespoke HMICFRS 'tracker' document which records force progress against all 'Areas for Improvement', 'Recommendations' and 'Areas of Concern' made within relevant Criminal Justice Joint Inspectorate (CJJI) 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. I will continue to monitor the Force's progress towards completion of these recommendations.

I welcome collaborative joint agency inspection reports such as this one as they serve an important function in examining issues of importance that cut across agency boundaries and could therefore quite easily not be fully identified or dealt with, if left to the work of individual inspectorates alone.

I particularly noted that the report highlights that both operational police officers and CPS prosecutors had a good understanding of evidence led prosecutions and understand that cases can proceed without the victim being supportive.

Ultimately I recognise the need for a joined-up approach and a level of awareness from those involved that supports the victim at all stages of the investigation and prosecution to help protect them and keep them engaged with the process which will improve the outcomes for victims who are often in a vulnerable position.

I remain committed to working with the chief constable and holding him to account for delivering improvements in this often complex and challenging area of policing.

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