



Lincolnshire POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER

SAFER TOGETHER

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Date: 6th July 2019

Our Ref: MJ/ASW/HMIC-2019-044

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

Dear Zoe,

Subject: HMICFRS - Police Response to cyber-dependent crime, Thematic Report (Published 24th October 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.

Cybercrime represents a significant threat to the UK and can have a devastating impact on both business and individuals. This is an ever-evolving area of criminality which often targets the most vulnerable in our communities and places increasing demands for services on policing, key law enforcement agencies and their partners.

I was pleased that the report found the current response from law enforcement agencies to cyber-dependent crime was generally good, although there is still much that can be done to improve.

The report makes one recommendation which is directed at national agencies and calls for a revision of the current structure for the response to cyber-dependent crime and to consider the creation of a national police cyber-dependent crime network, its engagement with other law enforcement agencies and the co-ordination and responsibilities required for the network to be effective.

The report also makes comment on areas for improvement (AFIs) that can be addressed by chief constables although it stops short of prescribing how these should be achieved. However, for me the report brings in to sharp focus the ongoing and genuine challenge for police forces such as Lincolnshire in providing the local capacity and capability required to meet the growing demand and increasing complexity of cyber-dependent crime.

I can confirm that those AFIs directly relevant to Lincolnshire police have been acted on with progress being made towards their achievement. I will continue to monitor the Force's

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progress towards their completion 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 our Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) quarterly 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