



Office of the Police and Crime

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Rt Hon Priti Patel MP

Home Secretary

2 Marsham Street

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9th May 2022

Dear Home Secretary

**State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales
2021**

I am writing to you to personally respond to the report entitled, 'State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2021'.

I welcome Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary's annual assessment of the efficiency and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales 2021. This assessment is Sir Thomas Winsor's ninth and final report. I would like to wish Sir Thomas all the best in his future endeavours.

I recognise that this assessment is drawn from inspections carried out between April 2021 and November 2021, the findings and reports of other organisations, and other information and analysis. It provides an overview of the inspection findings. It contains a full list of the inspections and other work during the period in question. Finally, it includes reflections on Sir Thomas's nine-year tenure.

I concur with Sir Thomas in that during his tenure, demand on the police has changed significantly. In response policing has come a long way in many respects to meet this demand. Highlights from the report include critical advances in several areas of policing including domestic abuse; child protection and the sensitivity to the needs of the most vulnerable; crime recording; the quality of some investigations; relations with the public and workforce diversity. I also recognise that there are things which need to improve.

Having been in office for nearly a year, I can see where improvements in Cambridgeshire Constabulary's ways of working are required, and I am working with the Chief Constable for continuous improvement in outcomes for the public. A key theme taken from the assessment is that the primary purpose of the police is prevention. Many agencies have a responsibility to support the preventative effort. I spent a great deal of time listening to people across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and a similar theme came through time and time again. This helped me develop the priority areas included within my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024, which outlines my commitment to prevent and reduce crime.

The assessment acknowledges that the police should rebuild public trust in their service. Sir Thomas concedes that demand and public expectations cannot be met without sufficient funding. Cambridgeshire Constabulary have long argued that the funding formula disadvantages them. To be fair many other forces with similar demographics also have and successive governments have wrestled with the challenge. Positively, the Police Officer Uplift Programme continues to make progress, ahead of its target to recruit an additional 20,000 officers.

The work of the Constabulary includes the development of a sustainable operating model designed to meet the challenges which lay ahead. However as welcome as it is, the uplift programme will not immediately solve one of policing's most persistent problems: a shortage of experienced detectives. More detectives are needed to deal with the most serious crimes, such as child abuse, sexual offences, robberies, knife crime and, of course, homicide. They are also needed to deal with professional standards and corruption.

Finally, the findings of the inspections and the reflections of Sir Thomas identify opportunities for further change. Changes which seek to improve service delivery are welcome and we must all strive to achieve greater national, regional and local consistency. I look forward to continuing to work with the Chief Constable and partners locally, across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and nationally to improve policing further for the benefit of the public we serve, keeping all our communities safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Darryl Preston', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Darryl Preston

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough