



Office of the Police and Crime

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Rt Hon Suella Braverman QC MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
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6th October 2022

Dear Home Secretary

PEEL Spotlight: The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime: Finding time for crime.

Under Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996, as Police and Crime Commissioner I am pleased to provide my formal response to the report by HMICFRS entitled 'The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime: Finding time for crime.'

Both the Chief Constable and I welcome the publication of this report.

The Chief Constable's response to the two recommendations is shown at Appendix 1. This response demonstrates Cambridgeshire Constabulary's overall commitment to combatting acquisitive crime and improving investigation standards. I am pleased to see a recognition of the importance of crime scene preservation and I welcome progress on the initial investigative response. This helps to bring offenders to justice.

I also welcome the ongoing commitment to reduce burglary and organised acquisitive crime.

When I was elected Police and Crime Commissioner, I promised to cut crime, support victims and bring offenders to justice. These promises and my commitment to tackling crime and keeping communities safe is outlined within my Police and Crime Plan 2021 to 2024. The response from the Chief Constable provides me with the necessary assurance that we continue to deliver against my Plan.

I too would also like to reassure you and the communities of Peterborough and Cambridgeshire, that I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account for the efficiency and effectiveness of the Constabulary. That includes monitoring the progress being made against the recommendations contained within this report.

I hope this response, and that of the Chief Constable, provides reassurance regarding the commitment of both myself and Cambridgeshire Constabulary to tackling burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime as well as keeping communities safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Darryl Preston', written in a cursive style.

Darryl Preston

Police and Crime Commissioner for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough

Enc - Appendix 1 – Cambridgeshire Constabulary’s response to HMICFRS report ‘The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime: Finding time for crime.’

Cambridgeshire Constabulary's response to HMICFRS report 'The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime: Finding time for crime.'

Recommendations:

HMICFRS has recommended that by March 2023, all police forces should ensure that:

1. Crime scene management practices adhere to the authorised professional practice on managing investigations for serious acquisitive crime or provide a rationale for deviating from it. They should also include:
 - a. Giving victims timely and appropriate advice during their initial call.
 - b. Applying a risk assessment process such as THRIVE, clearly recording it, and flagging those re-victimised for further support.

Force response: The Constabulary is committed to combatting acquisitive crime and this continues to be a key strategic priority for the force. We recognise the importance of evidence preservation and the initial investigative response to bring offenders to justice. In relation to giving victims timely and appropriate advice during the initial call, the force has recently carried out audits of calls for service to identify gaps in the provision of crime prevention and evidence preservation advice, and the application of risk assessment processes. As a result, new guidance has been developed for all call handlers in the Demand Hub. Reference guides covering the THRIVE assessment, vulnerability, repeat victimisation, and College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) have also been created and made available within contact management.

The Constabulary is also committed to reducing harm to communities and providing a high standard of professional and compassionate care to victims and witnesses, and those who are vulnerable. Support is provided by the Victim and Witness Hub which provides emotional and practical support to victims or witnesses to a crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, to help them cope and recover from the impact of crime. Victims of acquisitive crime including theft and burglary may also be

referred on to specialist services such as the Cambridgeshire Bobby Scheme which offers help, security equipment, and safety advice to reduce re-victimisation.

2. Serious acquisitive crime investigations are subject to effective supervision and direction. This should focus on:
 - a. Making sure supervisors have the capability and capacity to meaningfully supervise investigations.
 - b. Making sure investigations meet the necessary standard and achieve suitable outcomes that consider the voice or opinion of victims.
 - c. Applying investigative outcome codes appropriately.
 - d. Complying with the Victims' Code and recording evidence of compliance.

Force response: The Constabulary is committed to improving investigation standards, this includes ensuring that the use of outcomes is appropriate and adhering to the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime. An intervention plan is in place to improve the standard of crime investigations across the force through equipping officers with the tools and knowledge they need to deliver effective, proportionate, and quality investigations for victims of crime.

A specific delivery plan for Burglary and Organised Acquisitive Crime, led by Detective Chief Inspector Crime Managers, is focused on improving the initial investigative response and offence recording for acquisitive crime. This includes ensuring that the force's dedicated Acquisitive Crime Team (ACT) within the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) has the appropriate skills and equipment to deliver effective investigations and improve criminal justice outcomes.

There are robust governance arrangements in place through the Crime Standards Delivery Group and Force Performance Board to scrutinise performance relating to acquisitive crime and ensure continued improvements in this area.