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Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP

Home Secretary

2 Marsham Street

London

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11<sup>th</sup> July 2023

Dear Home Secretary

**HMICFRS Report: An inspection of the Eastern regional response to serious and organised 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 'An inspection of the Eastern regional response to serious and organised crime.'

I recognise the changes in how this aspect of policing is inspected so that the regions and ROCUs are considered as well as local forces. I also recognise this also provides an insight into how well forces and ROCUs are working together to tackle SOC. These inspections help me to do my job in terms of holding the Chief Constable to account.

Both the Chief Constable and I welcome the publication of this report into how well policing tackles serious and organised crime ("SOC"), though of course I am disappointed that Cambridgeshire was judged to be "inadequate" with some areas of concern and areas for improvement identified.

The Chief Constable has provided a comprehensive response.

As you would expect, I have discussed the report with the Chief Constable. The inspection was undertaken over a year ago so I have been reassured by the Chief Constable that considerable work has been undertaken since then to ensure that Cambridgeshire is on a better footing.

Last year I established a High Harms Board, which I chair, to provide multi-agency strategic direction across four key areas: serious and organised crime; serious violence; the drug strategy; and violence against women and girls. As part of the work of this Board we have received regular updates on SOC. This has included updates for strategic partners on the local profile and threats, which have been followed up with local engagement through each Community Safety Partnership. We have also been informed of progress on strengthening the local SOC multi-agency partnership arrangements.

I hope this response, and that of the Chief Constable, provides reassurance regarding the commitment of both myself and Cambridgeshire Constabulary to tackling serious and organised crime in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

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**