



Mark Burns-Williamson OBE
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire
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Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JAD

Your Reference:

6 February 2015

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DP

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Response – Child Protection Inspection

I am writing to you in response to the HMIC Child Protection Inspection for West Yorkshire, reported on 13th of January 2015. As noted in the report, protecting our children is of vital importance and remains a top priority within my Police and Crime Plan. It is an area which I regularly review with the Chief Constable and will continue to do so in order to ensure that all of the recommendations are implemented. For example the concerns raised regarding the devolution of responsibility to the five districts of West Yorkshire leading to inconsistencies in practice are already being tackled by me and the force and I am working closely with the Chief Constable to monitor the progress made against a joint action plan.

I was pleased to see that it included examples of the positive work and good practice as well as some constructive criticism. The recognition of the high standards of investigation and good awareness across frontline officers of Child Sexual Exploitation was encouraging; to further improve on this area £1.5 million of funding that I made available for the police will now be used to employ up to 30 more specialist investigators. Other points surrounding inconsistencies across districts, workload capacity, and recording of information were reported in a productive manner which will feed into ongoing work. Last February I made an extra £3.5million available to the police for increased capacity to deal with CSE, Human Trafficking and Cyber Crime, an action plan has been developed following a series of meetings which I initiated with WYP and partners to identify what more needs to be done collectively with partners, I have also funded the creation of a Safeguarding Advisor post to coordinate all of the work being done in this field to make sure that the approach is collective and consistent, maintaining a real focus on safeguarding work.

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I was however disappointed that the delay between the inspection and the report resulted in much of the recent progress and work being missed. I am also concerned that inspections into areas such as child protection (which very much require a multi-agency response to produce the outcomes for our communities) should be inspected in a way that reflect the full partnership functions involved. I understand there are plans to do this in the near future, however I nevertheless feel that this report would have been more helpful and more meaningful if it had reflected the wider safeguarding work in West Yorkshire for all concerned.

I hope you have found this feedback helpful.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark". The signature is stylized and includes a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

Copied to:

Dee Collins QPM, Temporary Chief Constable, West Yorkshire Police