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Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JED

Your Reference:

7 January 2016

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

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Response – The depths of dishonour: hidden voices and shameful crime

I am writing to you in response to the national HMIC inspection report focused on honour based violence (HBV), female genital mutilation (FGM) and forced marriage, in December 2015. Tackling HBV, FGM and forced marriage remain key priorities for me and are outcomes in my Police and Crime Plan. They are areas which I regularly review with the Chief Constable and will continue to do so in order to ensure that we are both doing everything we can to protect and support vulnerable victims of these crimes.

Although this is a national thematic report and does not provide specific feedback for each force area, I am confident that West Yorkshire Police are working hard to address the recommendations and key areas of focus relevant for them, and ways to address these. West Yorkshire Police was graded as “prepared” for three out of the four areas but “not yet prepared” with regards to enforcement and prevention, I therefore will be ensuring that the Chief Constable concentrates on improving this over the coming months. Following discussions with the Chief Constable and HMIC Inspectors it appears that West Yorkshire Police lacks a standardised practice policy across the districts in relation to HBV and as a result the force action plans will be reviewed to address this and reported on through my regular meetings with the Chief Constable.

Within my office I have a number of lead policy officers who are tasked with driving these areas forward by working closely with local communities, partners and the police. I feel that together we have made some good progress in each area; I have supported a number of conferences, roadshows and campaigns to raise awareness and bring key stakeholders together, funded a number of projects and initiatives through my Safer Communities Fund using money seized through the Proceeds of Crime Act, responded to Home Office consultations including one on multi-agency statutory guidance for FGM and have orchestrated meetings at county levels between relevant safeguarding boards, the

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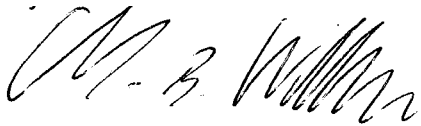
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police and the OPCC. I am committed to ensuring that this work is continued and regularly reviewing the progress of my own team, West Yorkshire Police and other partners in tackling HBV, FGM and forced marriage and would welcome any further engagement with HMIC in relation to these areas where appropriate.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire