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

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JED

Your Reference:

17 November 2015

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

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Response – West Yorkshire Police PEEL Efficiency Inspection

I am writing to you in response to the HMIC PEEL efficiency inspection for West Yorkshire, reported on 20th of October 2015. West Yorkshire have received three positive grades; two 'good' judgements for '*how does the force use its resources to meet demands*' and '*how sustainable is the force's financial position for the short and long term*' as well as an outstanding judgement in '*how sustainable and affordable is the workforce model*'.

Whilst I am pleased that the results were positive reflecting the hard work of West Yorkshire Police to provide an efficient service to the public, I am concerned that this report will detract from the very real dangers facing policing as a result of the government cuts. Since 2010, West Yorkshire Police's budget has reduced by over 30% with the government expected to reveal further cuts potentially as high as another 40%. The report acknowledges that "*West Yorkshire Police has positioned itself well*" and "*is well prepared to face its future financial challenges*", however I take little satisfaction in knowing that we are well prepared for the massive burden of the extra cuts coming our way. It is inevitable that people will lose their jobs and resources will continue to diminish, meaning that the job of ensuring that the communities we serve are safer and feel safer will be increasingly difficult.

We are working hard to prepare for impact that the CSR will undoubtedly have on West Yorkshire and have been in contact with local MPs ahead of the announcement. More recently my office has been working on developing a communications strategy which aims to explain the current climate and manage public expectations whilst trying to assure our communities that the police will still be there when they are needed.

Continued.....

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However this is no easy task and is one that will require a coherent and consistent narrative from Westminster going forward. I will continue to work with West Yorkshire Police, local authorities and partners to do what we can to lessen the impact of these cuts on our public and encourage West Yorkshire Police, partners and HMIC to continue working together to identify new ways to improve efficiency without sacrificing effectiveness.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire