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

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JAD

Your Reference:

29 January 2016

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

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Response – Vulnerability Report

I am writing to you in response to the recent HMIC report on vulnerability released in December 2015.

Protecting vulnerable people and safeguarding generally is a key focus that cuts across many different areas of my Police and Crime Plan, and has resulted in a significant realignment of resources within West Yorkshire Police and our safeguarding partners in order to address the volume and scale of the challenge faced.

In recognition of the importance of this work I have previously made an extra £3.5million available to West Yorkshire Police to deal with child sexual exploitation as well as human trafficking and cyber-crime, which are often interrelated. I also allocated an additional £440,000 to raise awareness of child sexual exploitation in schools and increase support for victims, building on the positive work of the Multi-Agency Sharing Hubs. £1m has also been allocated to provide prevention, early intervention and support to victims of domestic abuse. A programme for first time offenders is now in place to reduce escalation and risk of violent behaviour, increase the safety of victims and children and change the behaviour of perpetrators. We are now developing new ways of tracking and sharing data across local authority boundaries to further protect the vulnerable. These initiatives are being coordinated and driven by the appointment of a dedicated safeguarding adviser within my office as a result of partnership working.

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The HMIC inspection into police effectiveness around vulnerability has found West Yorkshire Police as 'requiring improvement' and I will be working with the Chief Officer Team to see what more can be done to improve the services provided over and above the investment outlined in this letter. Despite the overall grade the report does have many positives to it and in many ways belies the amount of good work that is happening with our safeguarding partners. It recognises the clear focus on protecting those who are most vulnerable and protecting victims from harm, and the clear policies and guidance put in place for those groups who are vulnerable, recognising the hard work of the police and partners around child sexual exploitation. However, there are key points to take away from this report and I will be making sure that West Yorkshire Police builds on the good work already in place across the county and there will be no complacency or let up in protecting our communities.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

Copied to:

T/Chief Constable Dee Collins
West Yorkshire Police