



Rt Hon Theresa May MP

mayt@parliament.uk

BY EMAIL ONLY

Please ask for: Clive Grunshaw
Telephone: 01772 533587
Email: Commissioner@lancashire-pcc.gov.uk
Our Ref:
Date: 2nd April 2014

Dear Rt Hon Theresa May,

I am writing in response to the letter you sent to all police forces, including Lancashire Constabulary, with regard to the recent HMIC domestic abuse inspections.

I was extremely disappointed by the tone and content of your letter, and would like to take this opportunity to clarify a few points, drawing on Lancashire Constabulary's own report from the HMIC inspectors.

Domestic abuse is not dealt with in the same manner across all forces – and your correspondence assumes the "current police response to domestic abuse is failing victims" across the board.

This is not the case, and the HMIC inspection reports do not reflect that. In fact, here in Lancashire we were highly praised for the way we handle abuse cases, and told that the public could have "confidence" in reporting instances of domestic abuse to us. HMIC also praised the Constabulary for its investment in "well-trained and specialist staff" and found "staff demonstrated a high level of commitment and awareness and that they work well with partners"

As Police and Crime Commissioner, tackling domestic abuse in the county is one of my top priorities, and I am proud of the continuing progress the force is making.

The findings of the HMIC report do not mean we are in any way complacent about the task we face here in Lancashire. I have demonstrated my commitment to addressing the most serious incidents of domestic abuse by agreeing to fund all Domestic Homicide Reviews in the county through my Community Safety Fund. This clearly shows my dedication to ensuring all partners and agencies across Lancashire learn from any tragedies which may occur, and a county-wide partnership commitment to consistently develop and improve ways of working.

Therefore, I do not attempt to hide from the difficulties surrounding tackling domestic abuse, and the need for the Constabulary to constantly review its procedures and monitor and evaluate its performance. As Police and Crime Commissioner I have a key role in scrutiny of the force, and I welcome the recommendations made by HMIC to help the force improve further. I will work with

Clive Grunshaw Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire
PO Box 653, PRESTON, PR2 2WB
www.lancashire-pcc.gov.uk

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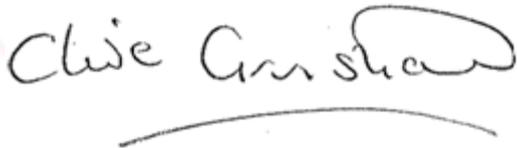


the Chief Constable to ensure these are implemented as soon as possible, and monitor the on-going effectiveness of our domestic abuse provision.

However, as I believe HMIC has acknowledged, Lancashire's Public Protection Unit is currently performing well, with inspectors singling out the Constabulary as providing a "good service.... in all areas". As a result, I would like to invite you to Lancashire to observe our approach first-hand and see the dedication, professionalism and skill of our officers and staff.

I look forward to welcoming you to the county.

Yours sincerely



Clive Grunshaw
Police & Crime Commissioner for Lancashire

