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I welcome the recently published Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary – Building the Picture inspection report.

I have considered this report and have discussed it with the Chief Constable, who recognises that the report presents an opportunity for the Force to review its position in relation to the statutory Code of Practice on the Management of Police Information and the associated Guidance.

I also note the issues highlighted in relation to the Management of Police Information (MoPI) across the police service, and that since the Report was published the Chair of the National Information Management Committee has shared a MoPI Action Plan with the Home Secretary.

In the meantime, the Constabulary has already begun to take steps at a strategic and operational level to address the findings that have emerged in relation to Lancashire.

In this regard the Constabulary has reviewed and revised the Terms of Reference for its Information Governance Board and a new and updated Information Management Strategy and Policy will be presented to the Board in the near future. I have also agreed with the Chief Constable that my office will be represented at future Board meetings.

As part of the on-going ICT strategy, which will see various key force systems replaced in the short and medium term, I will be keen to ensure that technological solutions will be procured and implemented that will enhance information management and help facilitate MoPI compliance in the future.

I am aware that there has been a significant decrease in the number of staff working in the information management business area but understand that Lancashire Constabulary has already agreed, as part of a review of its Information Assurance department, to the establishment of a records manager post. However, I am mindful that further consideration may be required to enhance present and future resource levels within the Information Management functions of Audit and Review, Retention and Disposal.

You will appreciate that any such proposals will be informed by the findings emerging from the local audit against the APP which is to be undertaken in accordance with the recommendations set out within the HMIC Report. This audit will help identify any gaps or weaknesses. An Action Plan will in due course be presented to the Constabulary's Information Governance Board for consideration.

Therefore, in moving forward, I am assured by the Chief Constable that the Constabulary will of course take note of any findings and national guidance arising from the work to be undertaken within the national MoPI Action Plan.

It is extremely important that, in times of financial austerity the effective management of information is critical in delivering an 'intelligence led' efficient and effective police force and I will continue to closely monitor the progress of Lancashire Constabulary in this area through my Strategic Scrutiny meetings.

Yours sincerely

Clive Grunshaw
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lancashire