

RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON TO THE HMICFRS REPORT

Report on an inspection visit to police custody suites in Wiltshire

Police and Crime Commissioner's comments

I welcome HMICFRS findings and am delighted by Wiltshire Polices commitment to effectively implement the recommendations made. The introduction of improved technology allowing efficiencies, alongside greater supervisory oversight is an encouraging development, moving the force in the right direction.

Last year, I approved the £3.7m investment in custody refurbishment work which ensures Wiltshire Police have the facilities and tools to not only deliver excellence in policing, but further trauma informed work within a custody setting.

The investment is necessary to ensure Wiltshire Police and its estates are fit for the 21st century, meeting Home Office compliance advice, as well as HMICFRS inspection criteria. This in turn will help to improve future Wiltshire Police PEEL (Police Efficiency, Effectiveness and Legitimacy) reports and overall custody standards.

The works will supply Wiltshire Police with modern custodial facilities for improved prisoner safety and better evidence collection opportunities; informing investigation and charge outcomes.

My office will monitor the forces newly introduced performance metrics, assessing outcomes against the OPCC's scrutiny panel reports and independent custody assessments. Persistent issues will be identified and challenged.

I note the concerns raised with the consistent provision of healthcare in custody, and the recognition that whilst robust mechanisms and arrangements national staff shortages are being experienced in many Forces. We will continue to work with providers to address these gaps and minimise the risk to detainees.

I am confident that many areas of policing will reap the benefits of this refurbishment project serving Wiltshire's residents well long into the future.

