

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

### **An inspection of Values and culture in fire and rescue services**

#### The Force Recommendation covered in this response

By 1 September 2023, chief constables should make sure they are appropriately using their Common Law Police Disclosure powers in circumstances involving employees of fire and rescue services. Common Law Police Disclosure (CLPD) ensures that where there is a public protection risk, the police will pass information to the employer or regulatory body to allow them to act swiftly to put in measures to mitigate any danger.

### **Police and Crime Commissioner's comments**

For Fire and Rescue leaders to effectively tackle issues associated with poor values and culture it is paramount the Chief Constable ensures appropriate use of Common Law Police disclosure power.

I am therefore pleased the Chief Constable has enhanced the capability and capacity of the force's professional standards teams and that the disclosure unit will ensure Wiltshire's Police officers and staff regularly receive information pertaining to Common Law Police Disclosure (CLPD) procedures to ensure awareness and familiarisation.

The force procedures are informed by the power to relay the importance of disclosing information, which can then help fire and rescue services consider risk mitigation measures in respect of an employment or voluntary role believed to be undertaken by that individual.

The force is clear where during an investigation or other policing activity, a significant risk is identified, in which there is an urgent pressing social need to address, under CLPD they can consider making a disclosure to the regulatory body or employer.

This relates to any occupation where risk is identified, with all disclosures satisfying the high threshold for disclosure, which is equivalent to that imposed by S113B (4) of the Police Act 1997.

The CLPD scheme must strike an appropriate balance between the interests of the individual and the importance of public protection in terms of safeguarding. My expectation is this work will enhance the fire and rescue services ability to root out corruption, ensuring officers live up to the behaviours expected by the residents I serve.