



RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON TO THE HMICFRS REPORT: the final annual assessment of the efficient and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales

Police and Crime Commissioner's comments

In response to your letter requesting our advice and assistance in preparation of your final annual assessment of the efficient and effectiveness of policing in England and Wales. As a newly elected PCC with an extensive background across the security and international policing sector I have some general comments that I would welcome further discussion and consideration in the annual assessment.

I note previous reports on neighbourhood policing and community engagement by the inspectorate. I believe there needs to be a far greater connection with the views of the public and reflections of success or otherwise of the services they receive.

The role of PCC is central to this and far greater collaboration with the APCC and individual PCCs in addressing this would ensure the work of the HMICFRS reflects these aspects. I believe there is a disconnect between policing and local communities' views and satisfaction with the service they receive, which can be strengthened in the work of the HMICFRS.

This begins with the Forces strategic assessments and continues throughout the way services work with local communities, policing culture and effective communication. Within the variable police funding models, there is a gap within the HMICFRS regarding the consideration of how PEEL and other inspections do not acknowledge the impact of disproportionate funding per head of population.

This is vitally important as the PEEL process aims to provide an objective assessment of each Force. The financial and resourcing context during PEEL needs to assess the decisions made to keep the public safe and ensure these reflect value for money and effectiveness, especially in smaller and underfunded forces.

I note that many recommendations include increases in resources without any assessment of where finite resources would be drawn from. I note that there is an extensive upturn and increasing burden placed on Forces by the inspectorate.

Whilst I am supportive of using external inspectorates to drive improvement this is

increasingly impacting on the ability for smaller forces to deliver for the public and designing resource intensive processes which divert limited resources away from the frontline.

During the last year there has been a significant increase of HMICFRS reports, more intensive PEEL and FMS demands placed on forces. This is in addition to the governance and strategic role of the PCC, additional national policing demands and governance. All of which presents a real danger of overlap, overburdensome bureaucracy and diversion of resources from the strategic delivery of the required outputs and outcomes that are necessary to make our county a safer place.