



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

### **Digital Forensics**

#### **An inspection into how well the police and other agencies use digital forensics in their investigations**

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

Digital forensics has become an integral part of national security and is ingrained within policing, continuously providing even greater opportunities for success in the criminal justice system. Which makes it essential forces effectively resource accurate and timely delivery of evidence removing gaps or blocks in their infrastructure arrangements.

I welcome HMICFRS inspection in such a key area of policing and am pleased Wiltshire will align with the nationally set demand modelling system, to quantify regional workloads and benchmark best practise. The use of Southwest forensics is audited by the independent OPCC/force internal auditors and my oversight of the force's performance management arrangements are in place.

Investment in this area is crucial. My office will scrutinise the effectiveness of the new case management system and evaluate the governance and oversight arrangements SW forensics and Wiltshire Police set up, once in place. Effective engagement with front line officers and consistent prioritisation of caseloads to ensure success in the courts for victims of sexual offences, drug dealers, as outlined in my Police and Crime plan is crucial.

Lastly, ISO accreditation volumes will allow forensic standardisation across forces nationally to assist the CJS (Criminal Justice System) and support victim. The force must ensure they prioritise this work and that they build a respected and effective service for the residents of Wiltshire.