



**RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF WILTSHIRE AND SWINDON TO THE HMICFRS REPORT FRAUD: TIME TO CHOOSE - AN INSPECTION OF THE POLICE RESPONSE TO FRAUD**

**Chief Constable’s comments**

The Chief Constable welcomes the finding and recommendations of this national HMICFRS inspection. Whilst this report has not identified Wiltshire specific recommendations, we accept the recommendations and will continue to work with partners to deliver these improvements.

<b>Recommendations</b>	<b>Wiltshire response</b>
By 30 September 2019, chief constables should publish their force’s policy for responding to and investigating allegations of fraud (in relation to both calls for and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau disseminations for enforcement).	<p>Responding to, and investigation of allegations of fraud, are covered by a number of different policies with Wiltshire Police, including Grading &amp; Deployment, Crime Screening, Crime Allocation, Crime or ASB against Vulnerable Adults and Hierarchical Crime Review.</p> <p>A brief summary of such policies relating to response and investigation of fraud allegations is being prepared and will also be published by 30 September 2019.</p>
By 31 March 2020, the National Police Chiefs’ Council Coordinator for Economic Crime and chief constables should ensure that forces have processes in place to accurately and efficiently report fraud outcomes to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau.	Processes are already in place to report outcomes as required to the NFIB.

**Police and Crime Commissioner’s comments**

I welcome the national inspection into policing’s response to Fraud. It has been a concern to PCCs. Fraud is a crime that has grown exponentially over the last decade, with cyber dependant and enabled fraud affecting all parts of our communities.

It is an area of crime that policing and wider society needs to tackle urgently. Ensuring that we have both the public awareness and policing capability, to prevent and enforce.

We are playing catch up as the changing patterns of criminality are becoming increasing international.

Fraud offenders do not recognise policing boundaries. Therefore I support HMICFRS's call for a national strategy to be created to ensure Forces and law enforcement bodies can work most effectively together to tackle this problem.

We need to increase public awareness of Action Fraud, to ensure it meets the needs of the public and that it plays a more pivotal role in protecting the public. This should then be supported by the right technical and investigative ability to bring offenders to justice.

In Wiltshire and Swindon we are working closely with our local trading standards departments to identify and protect vulnerability victims and provide support. However the scale and changing criminality means this is increasingly difficult and less effective against the scale of the challenge.

The sums of money that is lost are devastating our citizens, often at vulnerable times in their lives. That is why in Wiltshire I ensure all victims of fraud receive 'enhanced' support over and above the Victims Code of Practice.

I look forward to a national strategy that focus on preventing fraud and ensuring that the citizens understand how to protect themselves, but also have confidence that if reported policing has the capability to bring offenders to justice.

Cc: Wendy Williams, HMI  
Chief Constable Kier Prichard, Wiltshire Constabulary