

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP  
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**Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner:  
Chief Executive:**

**Ron Hogg  
Stephen White**

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18<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Dear Secretary of State,

**The Police Response to Domestic Abuse: An Update Report**

This letter constitutes my reply to the recent HMICFRS report on *The Police Response to Domestic Abuse* which I will be publishing on my website in line with my responsibilities with regard to Section 55 of the Police Act 1996.

I welcome the continued focus by HMICFRS on the Police response to Domestic Abuse. In particular, those areas where further work is continuing to better understand the reasons behind the increasing numbers in order to ensure each individual case is triaged effectively and efficiently and appropriate action taken.

Domestic Abuse continues to be a local priority and HMICFRS reports are helpful in terms of identifying areas to focus on in respect of measuring performance and outcomes and holding the Police Force to account as well as providing best practice advice and shared learning.

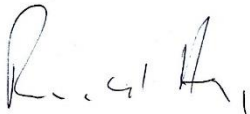
It is gratifying to see that service has improved markedly and as one of the Force areas involved in the Domestic Abuse Whole Systems Approach project I applaud the inclusion in the report of identifying and responding appropriately to coercive control, the introduction of MATAAC and Operation Encompass and the collaboration essential to ensuring victims are supported and perpetrators held to account.

The importance of partnership working cannot be over emphasised and in Durham we are continually reviewing our approach to MASH and MARAC and are active participants in our local multi-agency Domestic Abuse Strategic planning and commissioning mechanisms as well as our Local Criminal Justice Partnership.

As we look forward to the introduction and implementation of the Domestic Abuse Bill we will continue to review and refine our processes and operations to ensure early and effective identification of Domestic Abuse, availability of tailored support for victims and their families, where appropriate, and seek innovative approaches to reducing reoffending.

I am also copying this letter to Sir Thomas Winsor, Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

Yours Sincerely



Ron Hogg  
Durham Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner

cc: Sir Thomas Winsor, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary, HMICFRS