

Police and Crime Commissioner for Durham

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**Suella Braverman KC MP**

**Home Secretary**

**Home Office**

**2 Marsham Street**

**London**

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**Police and Crime Commissioner: Joy Allen**

**Deputy Monitoring Officer: Sweety Sahani**

 **25 October 2022**

 Dear Home Secretary,

**HMICFRS Inspection Report: PEEL Spotlight – The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime – Finding time for crime.**

This letter constitutes the response to the above inspection from myself, Joy Allen, Durham Police and Crime Commissioner, in order to fulfil my responsibilities with regard to Section 55 of the Police Act 1996. The reply to HMICFRS will also be published on my website.

In turn, here are position statements showing what the Constabulary is doing to meet the recommendations which relate to Chief Constables, of which I am in support:

**Recommendation 1: By March 2023, forces should make sure their crime scene management practices adhere to the authorised professional practice on managing investigations for SAC or provide a rationale for deviating from it. They should also include: giving victims timely and appropriate advice during their initial call; and applying a risk assessment process such as THRIVE, clearly recording it, and flagging those re-victimised for further support.**

It has not been identified as an issue in Durham PEEL but the force will be reviewing the Call Handler training in relation to Crime Scene Management.

As part of the force’s initial contact with the victim/reporting person they ensure that they give appropriate advice regarding the scene and an expected estimated time of arrival in order to conduct crime scene investigation (CSI). This is all recorded either on the officer’s handwritten document or direct onto the CSI system. The force document an investigation plan of what they are going to complete, which encompasses a lot of the elements within the THRIVE (Threat, Harm, Risk, Investigation, Vulnerability, and Engagement) process.

**Recommendation 2: By March 2023, all forces should ensure SAC investigations are subject to effective supervision and direction. This should focus on:**

**making sure supervisors have the capability and capacity to meaningfully supervise investigations; making sure investigations meet the necessary standard and achieve suitable outcomes that consider the voice or opinion of victims; applying investigative outcome codes appropriately; and complying with the Victims’ Code and recording evidence of compliance.**

The work on investigative standards is ongoing with continued audit, scrutiny and training. At a strategic level, investigative standards, outcomes and VCOP are monitored.

As PCC, I was pleased to see that the inspection has highlighted national good practice ongoing in Durham Constabulary. Notably, using behavioural science to inform problem solving, with particular note to tackling student victims of burglary, and the force’s use of out of court disposals to tackle root causes via the Checkpoint programme, which has proven to reduce the likelihood of reoffending. In addition, the OPCC, alongside the force, have undertaken significant scenario planning work regarding Victims’ Code of Practice compliance and quality assurance, which is concomitant with some of the areas of focus held by this HMICFRS inspection.

I am also copying this letter to Andy Cooke, His Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.

Yours sincerely,



**Joy Allen**

**Police and Crime Commissioner for Darlington and Durham**

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