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*Working hard to keep you safe*

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The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
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Dear Home Secretary

### **Response to HMIC report into rape data and outcomes**

I am writing to you with my comments on the HMIC report entitled Rape Monitoring Group: Digests and data 2014/15, published on 5 November 2015.

The devastating crime of rape can have a lifelong effect on victims and their families. Support to this cohort was something I made a priority in my Police and Crime Plan when I was elected and I spend a great deal of time listening to victims and their families in order to tailor services and support.

It is important that we work collaboratively with a whole host of committed individuals, partnerships, agencies and communities to protect the most vulnerable in society. I aim to build on my continued challenge to create a holistic 'big team' approach and remain committed to bringing together the right organisations and people to deliver change. That is why I continue to support and fund, despite financial pressures, a number of initiatives including:

- 'Not In Our Community' – this is a collaborative campaign aimed at raising awareness among young people and teaching them to spot the signs of exploitation. The campaign team have been working with local schools and launched an informative website [www.notinourcommunity.org](http://www.notinourcommunity.org) and social-media campaign. We all have a responsibility to ensure that messages reach all our young people and reduce the number of victims in the future.
- Financial support to increase the number of Independent Sexual Violence Advisers (ISVAs). The increase in recorded sexual offences locally mirrors a national trend for encouraging greater reporting and I am pleased that victims of rape and sexual assault have the confidence to come forward and report their experiences, both current and historical.
- Funding for the Safeguarding Children Team at Hull Royal Infirmary to purchase essential medical equipment for intimate assessment of child victims of rape and sexual assault.
- Funding for The Warren in Hull to increase the current capacity of counselling, information and advice services to young people, including young victims of rape and sexual offences, bullying and ASB, homophobia and neglect.
- Funding for 'It's My Right' (Grimsby and Scunthorpe Rape Crisis) for two crisis workers dealing with victims of domestic abuse and serious sexual violence, including an on-call

out of hours service. The crisis workers attend a 'safe place' to meet a victim within 60 minutes, or be at centre premises in Grimsby or Scunthorpe within 30 minutes.

I welcome the HMIC report, which covers a wealth of information. Significantly, it highlights that Humberside Police has the highest ratio in the country of charging and summoning suspects to court for the rape of a child, and one of the best charge/summons rates nationally for adult rape suspects. This is where, based on the police investigation, the CPS decides there is sufficient evidence for a realistic prospect of conviction and it is in the public interest to proceed against the suspect.

In the last few years there has been a determined effort from Humberside Police to improve and strengthen the service to victims, identify the perpetrators and bring them to justice. I am pleased this HMIC report shows the positive signs of that work with an increasing rate of prosecutions and convictions, but there is always room for improvement.

The most important outcome is that victims have the confidence to come forward and report these offences to the police, knowing that they will be listened to and supported. The increasing number of reports show this is happening and that is to be encouraged. Humberside Police has a dedicated team of officers investigating these types of crime and there is a wider network throughout our area doing incredible work to support victims.

When we look at younger victims, recent scandals such as Rotherham strengthen the resolve of all of us to protect our children against the individuals who want to exploit them. This report clearly shows that Humberside Police are the best in the country when it comes to charging suspects for the rape of a child and putting them before the courts.

It is vital we have structures in place to give victims and their families the confidence to report rapes and sexual offences, and to then receive the care and support they need, and reassurance the offender will be brought to justice.

Yours sincerely



Matthew Grove  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

Cc Sir Tom Winsor, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary  
Michael Cunningham QPM, HM Inspector of Constabulary, Northern Region  
Justine Curran QPM, Chief Constable, Humberside Police  
Winston Roddick, Chairman, APCC