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The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
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Dear Home Secretary

HMIC PEEL Inspection Reports – Legitimacy and Leadership

I am writing to you with my comments on the HMIC PEEL reports entitled 'Police Legitimacy 2016' and 'Police Leadership 2016'.

I would like to start by saying that I remain very supportive of the role of the Inspectorate. They are a vital component to transparency, accountability and general performance.

The most recent HMIC assessments are an important element in the creation of a textured overall picture and I would like to thank HMIC for producing their two latest reports on Humberside Police.

Whilst there are legitimate queries raised at both local and national levels about the frequency of the varying inspections carried out by HMIC, and the potentially confusing picture this creates for the public, each report raises questions or issues that should be further explored to ensure the police are delivering the best they can for their public.

It is pleasing to note that Humberside Police were judged as 'Good' in terms of 'Legitimacy', the same grading as they received last year. We should not, however, focus too much on a subjective grading process (in the same way we shouldn't over react to lower gradings in other inspections) but look beneath the surface, understand the issues raised, assess if progress is being made as quickly as is reasonable and what it all means for the service to the public. In respect of the Legitimacy report I am happy with the overall direction of travel and that the issues raised are already being addressed.

The Leadership report does not give a grading but a narrative assessment. It is the nature of these style of reports that issues will be identified for further action and that is the case in this instance. What is clear from the report is the importance the Force attaches to Leadership and the effort and resources it is putting into improving its ability to attract and retain the right people and develop the leadership capabilities of those within the Force. This is vital if Humberside Police is to deliver to its maximum potential.

In neither of these reports does HMIC identify any areas of concern. That should provide some considerable reassurance to the public. However, a limited number of areas for improvement are identified, that the Force is already addressing, and I will work with them to ensure progress is made into the future against these issues.

Improvement is a continuing journey and not a destination. I believe these reports are another milestone on that journey and I am committed to ensuring continued forward momentum, with incremental and sustainable improvement.

In summary, I welcome the assessment by Michael Cunningham and his team. I will post this response onto my web-site for public access.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Keith Hunter', with a long, sweeping horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Keith Hunter
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

cc: Rt Hon Brandon Lewis MP
Vera Baird QC, Chair Association of Police and Crime Commissioners
Justine Curran, Chief Constable, Humberside Police
Sir Thomas Winsor, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary
Michael Cunningham, HM Inspector of Constabulary, Northern Region
Councillor Evison, Chair of the Humberside Police and Crime Panel