



The Office of Matthew Grove

Working hard to keep you safe

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Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Inspection Reports – Public Order and Cyber Crime

I am writing to you with my comments on the recently published reports prepared by HMIC, as required by statute. The reports are entitled:

- a. The Strategic Policing Requirement: An inspection of how police forces in England and Wales deal with threats to public order.
- b. The Strategic Policing Requirement: An inspection of how police forces in England and Wales deal with threats of a large-scale cyber incident (including criminal attack).

I am aware that no further recommendations have been made in the above reports, in addition to those by HMIC on 10 April 2014 - The Strategic Policing Requirement: An inspection of the arrangements that police forces have in place that meet the Strategic Policing Requirement report.

I would like to place on record that the reports are fully welcomed, as both public order and cyber-crime are real and significant threats from a local, regional and national perspective. These reports add significant impetus to the need for a greater focus, in particular on cyber-crime, and will help to communicate the challenges to the Chief Constable, partners and the public.

Below are my immediate thoughts on the two thematic reports. In addition, I am awaiting the individual Force level reports from HMIC for public order and cyber crime, which I believe are due for publication in the immediate future. When these individual reports arrive, I will be in a position to comment further.

Public Order

I am pleased HMIC are generally assured that chief constables are having regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement; specifically that the level of resources dedicated to public order meets national requirements. I also note with interest that all the Police Support Units (PSUs) had the necessary equipment, albeit with differing specifications, and that professional practice was consistent.

It is of concern, however, that the requirement did not take into account the potential for requests of support from Scotland and Northern Ireland. Given the recent tensions in Northern Ireland, the request for resources from forces in England and Wales remains highly probable.

Large-Scale Cyber Incident

I am pleased that the report brings this rapidly expanding threat to the fore whilst understanding that our preparedness as a service remains at the very early stages of development. This is due in part to the rapid development of digital technology and the internet.

The report raises some interesting questions around defining cyber incidents, understanding our role and assessing progress in developing our skills to tackle these incidents. Locally, we have identified cyber-crime as a force level risk, which is being progressed through the formal risk management process.

There is clearly a need for greater understanding of the risks both locally and nationally. I would also personally like to see greater preventative measures in place around cyber-crime at a local level. To this end, I am currently refreshing my Police and Crime Plan, with the intention of placing greater focus on cyber-crime and related preventative measures.

I continue to welcome the work of HMIC around the Strategic Policing Requirement and particularly the input of Roger Baker, whose constructive and informed challenge remains of huge value to me.

I hope that this information is of use.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matthew Grove". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Matthew Grove
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

cc Roger Baker, HM Inspector of Constabulary