



The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
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Dear Home Secretary

REVISITING POLICE RELATIONSHIPS: A PROGRESS REPORT

I am writing to you with my comments on the recently published report prepared by HMIC, as required by statute. The report is entitled 'Revisiting police relationships: progress report' and a short local report was also published at the same time, highlighting a small number of findings specific to Humberside Police.

I would like to place on record that the follow-up inspection and report are fully welcomed by me. The report is already proving to be of use during this early period in office and it will add impetus to the progress already made by Humberside Police.

Over the last several months a full 'health-check' has been carried out locally and plans have been put in place to remedy any weaknesses around the identification, monitoring and management of integrity issues. However, I fully share the concerns of HMIC, around the need for changes to be implemented at a much quicker pace and to be communicated more clearly to staff and officers.

In addition, whilst I recognise that HMIC found no evidence of corruption in the police service, it remains vital that the public perceive the police as being completely open and honest in their dealings with them at all times; there is a need to have a clear sense of what is and is not acceptable behaviour. We need to communicate this message much better in order to help our staff and officers to do the right thing every time.

The work of my office, coupled with the evidence from HMIC, will provide me and the public with the necessary assurance that Humberside Police is maintaining a grip on these vital issues and is providing an open and honest approach. As part of this 'grip', the Force will be appointing a Customer Service Contact within the Professional Standards Branch, to continue to improve their customer focus and service delivery.

Our approach locally follows the suggested HMIC approach, through the Professional Standards Branch and Anti-Corruption Unit, where I am proud to say staffing levels remain constant. New policies have been put in place or are currently being reviewed for issues such as gifts and hospitality, second jobs and so on. Since my arrival, I have also been working to develop and maintain good relationships with the media, but I am fully aware that these relationships have to be open and able to be checked and challenged.

The approach I have adopted locally will fully address the issues raised in the report, particularly around governance arrangements, communications and the need to maintain robust systems.

Finally, I will continue to welcome the work of HMIC around this area of business. The legitimacy and integrity of the police service is vital to public confidence both now and in the future.

I hope that this information is of use.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Grove". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'M'.

Matthew Grove
Police and Crime Commissioner

Cc: Roger Baker, HM Inspector of Constabulary