



Home Office

Rt Hon Mike Penning MP  
Minister of State for Policing, Criminal  
Justice and Victims

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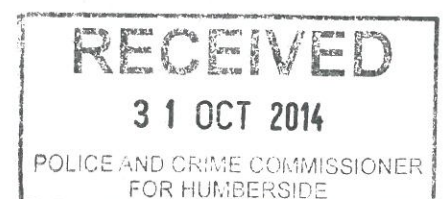
27 OCT 2014

*Dear Matthew*

Thank you for your letter of 2 October to the Home Secretary regarding Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's (HMIC's) recent '*Core Business*' report. I am replying as the Minister for Policing, Criminal Justice and Victims.

HMIC is an independent organisation and its findings are based on an agreed methodology and professional judgement. It is not my role to question HMIC's findings, recommendations or its approach with the media. While I expect all forces to have due regards to the report's recommendations, I do note your concerns and if you have not already done so, you may consider it appropriate to raise these directly with Tom Winsor at HMIC.

On the issue of the growing number of inspections HMIC is mindful to remove duplication of activity across inspection programmes and maximise cost-benefits. In time, the regular Police Effectiveness Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) assessment will reduce the need for additional thematic inspection. However, the new PEEL programme is about improving transparency and, therefore, public accountability in policing.



This Government believes that improved transparency and the greater scrutiny it brings, will deliver better performance across all areas of policing activity.

Similarly, HMIC inspections are not about introducing national policing targets through the back door. This Government does not set targets and neither does HMIC. Since 2010, the Home Office has abolished all central policing targets and mandatory indicators in order to strip away unnecessary bureaucracy and return professional discretion to the police service. Inspections, and in particular the PEEL programme, are about providing objective and engaging information that can be used by the public to ask questions of their PCC and their force, and by the force to enable continuous improvement of the service they provide.

I am reassured to read of your ongoing work in the force to free up police time and your belief that Humberside is well on the way to addressing many of the issues raised in the report.

I hope that this clarifies the Government position.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Regards Mike Penning'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Rt Hon Mike Penning MP**