

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP  
Secretary of State for the Home Department  
2 Marsham Street  
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30 November 2021

Via email: [withammp@parliament.uk](mailto:withammp@parliament.uk) and post

Dear Home Secretary

**Response to HMICFRS Inspection Reports around Violence Against Women and Girls – Interim Report (July 2021) and Final Inspection Report (September 2021)**

I am writing to you with my comments on the above reports, as required by Section 55 of the Police Act 1996.

When I was elected in May 2021, I pledged to engage more with the public and local communities, helping partnerships, people and organisations to work together more effectively to deliver what matters the most to them. In my recently published Police and Crime Plan, I also took full account of legislation and Government policy, including your Tackling Violence Against Women and Girls Strategy and the Domestic Abuse Act.

Not all crime is easy to see or report. It is critical that we all act to reduce the sometimes hidden crimes that affect the most vulnerable in our communities – including violence against women and girls, domestic violence, hate crime and child grooming and exploitation. This means raising awareness, working proactively to protect and safeguard vulnerable people, supporting victims, ensuring offenders are brought to justice and seeking to prevent reoffending. Early intervention is key.

I want to eliminate violence against women and girls through working together.

That's why I have fully welcomed and supported both the interim HMICFRS report into how effectively the police engage with women and girls, and the final inspection report into the police response to violence against women and girls. Please accept my apologies for the slightly delayed response, but I wanted to focus on listening to the public and local communities, understand the findings of the HMICFRS reports and discuss them with the Chief Constable, and ensure the findings will be implemented through our assurance mechanisms within the timescales required.

I have also had several months now to work with Humberside Police and our partners to come together and develop a shared approach. For me, this starts now, with nineteen different agencies across East Yorkshire and Northern Lincolnshire who came together last week on International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women, with a shared approach to tackling Violence Against Women and Girls.

This follows an event I jointly hosted in July 2021 to examine what work was already ongoing, identifying joint working opportunities and agreeing a shared approach to reducing violence.



The HMICFRS interim report called for radical action to tackle the 'stark and shocking' level of violence against women and girls and urged police forces and partner agencies to build on current momentum to improve the service and support offered to those affected by these crimes and enhance their capability and capacity to pursue and disrupt adult perpetrators of violent offences to reduce and prevent the harms they are causing.

In the Humber region, we rank fifth nationally for numbers of recorded domestic abuse, with around 75% of the total number of offences being against women.

I am sure that we all recognise there is no quick fix to end the violence, but we must take shared responsibility in addressing and calling out violence, abuse and harassment of women and girls.

Locally, all of the agencies involved have agreed a number of pledges including working together to prioritise tackling violence against women and girls, exploring prevention and early intervention through education to treat the causes of violence, listening to and supporting victims and survivors, ensuring their views are included in decision-making, including women from the most marginalised sectors of society, and promising to never condone, excuse or remain silent about male violence against women.

I am clear that violence and abuse in all its forms will not be tolerated. We must all be prepared, on a partnership basis, to prioritise tackling violence against women and girls. It is one of the key priorities in my Police and Crime Plan.

I believe we must start with addressing the perpetrators of this violence and abuse. We live in a society and culture where misogyny and sexism have for too long been tolerated, where girls and women are over-sexualised in the media and victims are wrongly often depicted as being somehow to blame for the crimes committed against them. This has to change, we need to focus on the perpetrators of this violence, those committing domestic abuse, sexual offences and harming our children. There is already good work happening across the Humberside Police area, but there is much more still to do. By bringing our efforts together I am convinced we can go further.

The HMICFRS reports have created a much needed focus and show us all that now is the time for us all to act in partnership, in committing to focusing on perpetrators and tackling this epidemic of violence against women and girls. I hope we will continue to take important steps towards that and will keep you updated on progress locally.

I will post this response onto my web-site for public access.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Evison  
Police and Crime Commissioner for Humberside

cc Sir Tom Winsor WS, HMCIC

