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Office of the
**Police & Crime
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West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/NF

Your Reference:

4 July 2019

The Rt Hon Nick Hurd MP
Minister of State for Policing and Fire
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DP

Dear Nick

HMICFRS Response: CDI Inspection

Thank-you for your letter of the 29th May, and your words of congratulations for West Yorkshire Police on achieving an 'Outstanding' grading in the recent HMICFRS inspection of Crime Data Integrity.

Since the publication of HMIC's last West Yorkshire inspection report on CDI, I have prioritised having representation from my office at CDI project board ('Gold Group') meetings where the force co-ordinate their work. This oversight has reassured me of the strong commitment West Yorkshire Police has made to this project under the leadership of T/CC Robins, and latterly T/DCC Foster as well as former CC Dee Collins. We have witnessed a comprehensive effort to embed the correct processes and culture for CDI in West Yorkshire. The great step forward we have seen in the organisation's commitment to accurate crime recording richly deserves the 'Outstanding' grading.

You have asked how West Yorkshire Police (WYP) intend to build on and sustain the improvements they have made in CDI. I can report that the Gold Group have already adopted a new audit and implementation plan, and have made adjustments to address the issues which the inspectors identified during their visit. The team are aware that there is still work to be done to ensure that victims of crime receive the best possible service in crime recording.

Specific activities I would like to highlight are:

Incidents involving more than one crime – work is ongoing with staff in the WYP contact centre and Incident Management Unit to ensure that the correct number of crimes are recorded at dispatch. The Force Crime Management Unit (FCMU) and the Office of the

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Force Crime Registrar (OFCR) continue to provide a screening and auditing function for crime records to achieve compliance with CDI best practice.

Violent and sexual offences – all records for sexual offences are audited by the OFCR who also feedback on the correct recording of violent offences to WYP local areas teams on a monthly basis.

Recording of crimes reported by third-party professionals – the OFCR have carried out work with WYP’s safeguarding teams, who are often the gateway for crimes reported by third parties. The OFCR conduct unannounced audits to ensure CDI compliance, and are also assessing additional routes where crimes can be reported, for example by a letter of complaint to the Chief Constable.

Use of standalone systems for major crimes – this issue was addressed during the HMICFRS inspection and WYP’s new policy requires large scale enquiries to be registered with the OFCR through a nominated CDI lead. In West Yorkshire there are currently 27 major crime enquiries registered with the OFCR. These are supported by a CDI ‘single point of contact’ to track and ensure compliance.

The principal crime rule and recording of stalking and harassment – on the Principal Crime Rule, the OFCR are currently delivering training inputs to Sergeants and Inspectors. In addition, post-foundation and refreshers courses are being delivered to new officers and those with 5 years’ service.

The inspectors commented on West Yorkshire Police’s ‘innovative and engaging’ CDI training programme, and an example of one of the OFCR’s video resources covering stalking and harassment can be found online¹. This video has since been adopted by several other forces.

Finally, you have asked about WYP’s efforts to share the good practice which led to their successful inspection. The Force Crime Register has been contacted by a number of police forces² after the report’s publication. In response, his team have developed an electronic resource which contains all their training packages, flowcharts, and guidance documents, available to be shared with any force contacting them.

With the rolling CDI inspections yet to be completed for all police forces, it is a good opportunity for me to share our views on how forces could be inspected on CDI in future. You mentioned in your letter the importance of accurate crime statistics as an influence on victims’ and the public’s confidence in their local police service, yet separate HMICFRS CDI and thematic inspections can lead to the anomaly of one force being graded as ‘Good’ in their annual PEEL inspection, but ‘Inadequate’ in their approach to CDI.

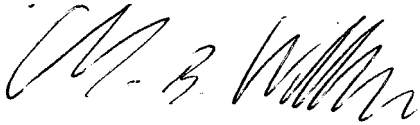
We would argue that a force’s approach to CDI could be an assessment criteria for almost every HMICFRS inspection, and particularly as part of the new Integrated PEEL Inspections. Equally, we would argue that the inspection moderation process should include cognisance

¹ West Yorkshire Police Behavioural Crime training video
(<https://vimeo.com/user26936326/review/295988924/a0e15958be>)

² This has included visits from Lancashire and Hampshire Police, and further support to the police services in Wiltshire, City of London, and Guernsey.

of CDI findings. In this way we can move away from the idea that good practice in crime recording is something discrete from the everyday work of an effective police force. Thank-you again for your letter. Please be in contact with me again if you need any further information about our work on CDI in West Yorkshire, as I regularly report back to the Police and Crime Panel in West Yorkshire who have also taken a keen interest over recent years.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire