



**Mark Burns-Williamson OBE**  
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Office of the  
**Police & Crime  
Commissioner**  
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JAD

Your Reference:

18 February 2016

Sir Tom Winsor  
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary  
6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Globe House  
89 Ecclestone Square  
London  
SW1V 1PN

Dear Sir Tom

**Response to Crime-Recording – Accuracy further inspections letter dated  
6 November 2015**

I am writing to you in reference to your letter to all Chief Constables and PCCs dated the 6 November 2015 regarding HMIC's future inspection of force crime-recording practices.

As you know, nearly 2 years has now passed since the initial inspection into the under and mis-recording of crimes and a great deal of work has been taken to rectify this. In your letter, you named West Yorkshire Police as an example of how forces can rapidly remedy a poor position, whilst I am thankful for the recognition, I would like to seek assurance that HMIC continues to focus on creating a level playing field where the same good progress is not being made which your letter implies.

West Yorkshire Police has worked hard to implement the necessary changes and has now completed eight of the ten actions drawn from the initial HMIC recommendations. In 2015 West Yorkshire Police carried out an audit mirroring that of the previous HMIC inspection which showed our compliance rate had improved from 67% to 82%, and plans are underway to repeat this audit ahead of the next inspections to ensure that we are not taking our finger off the pulse and improving further still.

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Whilst I am pleased with West Yorkshire Police's efforts, I am concerned about the position elsewhere and subsequent inaccurate crime data recording has meant that any comparisons drawn are potentially not fair or reflective of the true risk of crime in different areas. I have been vocal with the Chief Constable about our efforts to improve crime data integrity in West Yorkshire so our public know they can be confident in their police force, however many people will still compare total crime levels without the wider context and as a result will fear that crime in their county is significantly higher than others. This effectively undermines the work that we have put in to building trust and will continue to do so until all areas have reached similar standards.

I will continue to support West Yorkshire Police to ensure that the progress made is regularly reviewed and improved upon, and welcome the next round of HMIC inspections. I was encouraged by the recent correspondence from HMI Mike Cunningham reiterating the need for such robust auditing and stating that these reports will include graded judgements. This method of reporting will undoubtedly provide a clearer explanation of the results and will go some way to helping us communicate our progress to members of the public. The HMIC stated in 2014 *"that failure properly to record crime is indefensible, and a continuation of the reported national failure rate would be deplorable"* I completely agree with this statement and hope that those forces who are not achieving the same rate of improvement are identified and supported. The sooner all forces are on a level playing field regarding crime recording, the sooner the public can trust the police data and make a fair and proper comparison to elsewhere throughout England and Wales.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson  
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

Copied to:

T/Constable Dee Collins QPM, West Yorkshire Police