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Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JED

Your Reference:

8 May 2014

The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DP

Dear Home Secretary

Response to HMIC Review on Domestic Abuse

The report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary released on 27 March 2014 was met with great interest not just by me but also by partner agencies and the communities we work to serve in West Yorkshire.

Reporting of domestic violence and abuse is higher in West Yorkshire than many other forces and I believe that is partly down to increased awareness and victims knowing that there is help and support available to them. But as this report shows, more needs to be done, especially around training of staff and consistencies across West Yorkshire Police in dealing with reports and complaints. This is a timely report and the recommendation that West Yorkshire Police should put something in place to ensure that local officers are as aware of the families at greatest risk of domestic abuse as they are of burglars and vehicle crime offenders is quite stark. As part of the budget for 2014/15 I had already pledged to make an additional £1m available for closer working with partners on domestic abuse over the next 2 years. A renewed effort by the police and partners locally will be required to join up the dots.

Since the original inspection I know West Yorkshire Police has done much work to address your early findings and I have since met, and will continue to meet, with the Chief Constable to progress the formal recommendations from HMIC. However I note from the national report that HMIC has recommended a further multi-agency inspection of partner services to tackle domestic abuse. I would welcome such an inspection as, while helpful, the current report is too narrow in its focus – services to tackle domestic abuse and help those affected by it cannot be delivered by the police alone or in isolation.

Continued...

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Any further inspection needs to not only consider the contribution of other partners but also the contribution to partnership working that the police service makes.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

Cc HMIC