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

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JED

Your Reference:

13 November 2014

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

Dear Home Secretary

### **Response HMIC Inspection into Undercover Policing**

I write in relation to the report issued by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) that covered undercover policing in England and Wales. I note that despite being a lengthy and in depth report, there were unfortunately no force level findings presented which would have been invaluable for those involved in implementing necessary changes. Nevertheless the report highlighted a number of concerns that are shared by the public, West Yorkshire Police and the OPCC alike.

It is felt that many of these concerns lie in the difficulty of reconciling the Code of Ethics and the general tenets of policing (trust, openness, integrity) with the need for some officers to practice deception and to tell lies in order to establish and maintain their cover. The inspection has also echoed existing concerns of the OPCC regarding the level of support and continued contact for undercover officers deployed on long term operations, this is vital to ensure their welfare and prevent them being drawn into inappropriate activity. In light of this it is important that there are sufficient mechanisms in place for dealing with reports and victims of crime allegedly caused by undercover officers. The OPCC and West Yorkshire Police have reviewed the findings of the inspection and will be ensuring that the relevant recommendations are taken on board in all areas of undercover policing.

Yours sincerely

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