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Response from Kevin Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the HMIC report on Firearms Licensing – Targeting the Risk

I thank the HMIC for their timely report into police firearms licensing arrangements. Surrey Police in recent years has had incidents where arrangement for firearms licensing was relevant and as such Surrey were one of the forces to be inspected.

This is an area where we need to make sure that best practice is followed and that the right procedures are in place with the right level of staff to meet the demands. I agree with the recommendations made by HMIC and have asked that the Chief Constable provides me with a report on how she has implemented the recommendations and an update on current arrangements in Surrey Police for firearms licensing. I will consider that report at my Management Meeting with the Chief Constable in January, which is webcast for the public to view.

Further national guidance is also welcomed and one the Home Office have completed their recommendations I will revisit the arrangements in Surrey to ensure that they meet any new guidance issued.

We should, however, bear in mind that meeting additional guidance and increased staffing arrangements comes at a cost. Whilst I fully support the recommendations I would like to see them costed and the costs to be made transparent. I would then like to see the Government set the firearms licensing fee at a level which full recovers the costs of the licensing, so that the costs fall on those who hold firearms rather than to local taxpayers.