

To: The Home Secretary
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
and Fire and Rescue Services

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Response from David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the HMICFRS report 'Surrey Police: Crime Data Integrity Inspection 2018'

Surrey Police and its Chief Officers have worked hard over the last few years to improve crime recording accuracy. I am pleased to see that this has been recognised by HMICFRS in grading Surrey Police as 'Good' overall for crime data integrity. I am particularly pleased to see the focus on victims and the good police recording for incidents of violence, sharing of indecent images, stalking and harassment. It is of great importance that police record correctly crimes reported to them in order to continue to have high levels of public confidence in Surrey Police.

HMICFRS graded the leadership and culture to meeting national standards for crime recording as "outstanding" with strong, demonstrable leadership and a clear commitment to get crime recording right.

Whilst there were no specific recommendations made in the report, Areas for Improvement were identified, including improved recording of sexual crimes and modern slavery investigations.

I have asked the Chief Constable for his comments on the report. He has provided me with a report responding as follows:

Surrey Police were pleased with this grading from HMICFRS which places Surrey as one of the top forces of the 31 forces assessed so far and confirms we are heading in the right direction. It's particularly pleasing that HMICFRS has recognised Surrey as 'outstanding' for having a strong, demonstrable leadership and a clear commitment to get crime recording right.

However there are areas where we have fallen short, and whilst the number of errors in our crime recording are small, any instance of us failing to record an offence accurately is one too many.

Specifically the inspectors highlighted a concern in the recording of rape and sexual crimes. This is particularly worrying due to the nature of these crimes, however we want to reassure the public and victims of these offences that in all cases records existed, but there were instances where a misunderstanding of the

complex recording rules resulted in a mis-classification of the crime or instances where reports of multiple crimes meant records should have been separated. We have not missed victims. We have looked at these individual cases and remain positive that the necessary investigations and safeguarding requirements were undertaken to a high standard.

Timely and accurate recording is so important as it gives us up-to-date intelligence, helps us identify crime patterns and quickly target where our resources are most needed. This is vital for effective crime investigation and prevention. Our aspiration is that we set our sights on becoming an 'outstanding' Force in all measures of crime data integrity by building on the training that's already in place and by focusing on the recommendations put forward by the inspectors.

We hope that the findings of the inspection gives confidence to victims that Surrey Police will record and respond to crime appropriately, ensuring they remain at the heart of everything we do and receive all the care and access to the right support services.

I support the Chief Constable in the aspiration to be outstanding. A member of staff from my office sits on the force boards which oversee crime data quality and inspection recommendations and areas for improvement. Through these boards, and reports to my regular scrutiny meetings with the Chief Constable, we will monitor continued progress in ensuring high quality in the recording of crime data.

I will continue to regularly scrutinise the Chief Constable on how Surrey Police ensure high standards of crime data recording and look forward to seeing continued improvement in the areas identified by HMICFRS.

David Munro
Police and Crime Commissioner
