

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner for Surrey

PO Box 412
Guildford
Surrey
GU3 1BR

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

Tel: 01483 630200
Fax: 01483 634502

e-mail:
surreypcc@surrey.pnn.police.uk
Website: www.surrey-pcc.gov.uk

December 2019

Dear Home Secretary and HMICFRS

Response from David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the National HMICFRS report 'Cyber: Keep the light on - An inspection of the police response to cyber-dependent crime'

I welcome this HMICFRS report into cyber-dependent crime. I have a long held view that cyber-dependent crime requires national co-ordination and fundamental reform. I agree with the HMICFRS recommendation that the Government should now consider the establishment of a national police response. Police forces have been doing their best but cyber-crime continues to grow in complexity and scale and knows no regional or internal boundaries. Surrey and Sussex Police Police forces do everything they can with the resources available but I believe the current approach of forces taking responsibility for investigations at a local level is flawed.

A national response is not the complete answer and any national body set up must work in tandem with force cybercrime units so that we don't lose that local knowledge and engagement. Locally, the joint Surrey and Sussex Cyber Crime Unit has been operating since 2015 providing investigative provision for all cyber dependent crimes received across the two counties. It also provides tactical advice and subject matter expertise around the digital aspect of investigations. The team recently received an uplift in resource, through national transformation funding of an extra Detective Constable and a Cyber Protect officer.

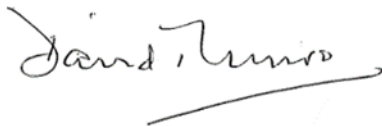
I was heartened to see the HMICFRS report stating forces were generally effective at tackling cyber-dependent crime and I have visited the Surrey and Sussex team. Though they are only a small unit I was really impressed with the work they were doing to combat what is often really complex criminality.

I have asked the Chief Constable, Gavin Stephens for his comment on the report and he has said:

"I welcome the October 2019 HMICFRS report "Cyber: Keep the light on – An inspection of the police response to cyber-dependant crime" which recognises that the police response to cyber-dependent crime is generally good although it can be inconsistent across policing. The report has made one national recommendation as well as four areas for improvement (AFIs) although only one was for Chief Constables. The recommendation and AFI will be recorded and monitored through our existing governance structures and the strategic lead will oversee their implementation."

The report identified one Area for Improvement for Chief Constables: that they should evaluate the use that their force makes of cyber specials and volunteers to ensure that they are used effectively. The Cyber Crime Unit in Surrey and Sussex already has one dedicated cyber special who is used regularly on warrants and for investigative work and a second who works in the cyber security department of a well know international bank has also just been recruited. Recently the CCU worked with the Lead for Volunteers in Surrey to recruit a university graduate volunteer but they liked the police family so much they joined the Digital Forensics Team full time short time later. Further work is being undertaken to identify and recruit more volunteers.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Munro". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal stroke.

David Munro
Police and Crime Commissioner