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Dear Home Secretary and HMIC

***Response from David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the
HMIC report 'PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2016'***

I was pleased to see this report from HMIC. As you will be aware, the last inspection in 2015 on effectiveness found Surrey Police to be 'requiring improvement' overall and the area of protecting vulnerable people and children was found to be 'inadequate'.

The release of the previous HMIC report in December 2015 was a dark day for Surrey Police and identified areas of serious concern around how the Force dealt with protecting vulnerable people from harm, particularly children. This was rightly made an absolute priority and since I took up my post I have been acutely aware of the sheer hard work and determination that has gone into turning this situation around. Keeping people safe and supporting victims are key priorities in my Police and Crime Plan and must be a cornerstone of the policing service we provide.

I am delighted that this assessment from the HMIC reflects the sustained effort officers and staff at all levels across Surrey Police have put in over the last year or so. To go from where the Force were in 2015 to reaching a 'good' grading by the HMIC is a significant achievement that should be applauded.

I was also pleased to see that the force is well prepared to respond in the case of an attack that would require an armed response. This is one of the 6 priorities set out in our Surrey local Police and Crime Plan and it is reassuring that HMIC have found that Surrey Police are well prepared and are implementing the required plans to increase firearms capacity and capability.

But whilst there is much to celebrate, there is also much more to be done and we cannot rest on our laurels for one minute. Although the Force has made significant progress, the HMIC have highlighted further areas that need improvement. I am committed to working with the Chief Constable to tackle those issues and ensure we continue to build on the progress already made.

HMIC have highlighted areas in which to improve including the investigation of crime, ensuring consistently good standards of investigation, improved integrated offender

management, improved understanding of local communities, better identification of repeat domestic violence and improvements in tackling serious and organised crime.

At my performance meeting in March I shall be asking the Chief Constable to address these areas for improvement as well as other areas identified in the PEEL process and will be providing support for continued improvement.

Yours sincerely,

David Munro
Police and Crime Commissioner

