

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

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Dear Home Secretary and HMICFRS

Response from David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the National HMCPSI/ HMICFRS report 'Handling of Cases Involving Disability Hate Crime'

Whilst it is encouraging that there has been some improvement in handling of disability hate crimes, it is clear that police and others still have some way to go and improvements need to be made. We must make efforts to understand victims' needs and pass information over to the CPS.

The following issues have been identified for the police to address:

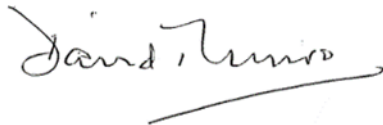
- Chief constables should ensure that the system used to transfer information to the CPS regarding the request for charging advice clearly identifies cases where, in accordance with the definition, the police consider a case to be a hate crime.
- Chief constables should ensure that all cases involving disability hate crime are accurately flagged in accordance with the Home Office counting rules for recorded crime.
- Chief constables should ensure that there is effective supervision of all disability hate crime cases, to assure themselves that investigations and subsequent case file submissions to the CPS have been completed to an appropriate standard.
- Chief constables should ensure that victims are offered an opportunity to make personal statements in all relevant cases, and that, when appropriate, these statements are taken and provided to the CPS.

I have asked Chief Constable Nick Ephgrave to comment on these issues. He has said that the issues raised have either already been addressed or being worked towards by Surrey Police. Hate crimes are already identified by the force and the information is passed to the CPS. The flagging issue has been identified as part of previous HMICFRS recommendations and is being actioned and monitored. Divisional leads have been identified for supervision of hate crime cases. Mobile Data Terminals are being used to make it mandatory to indicate if victims have been offered an opportunity to make performance statements.

This report is particularly important to me due to my national role in Equality, Diversity and Human Rights. I am aware that issues with regard to Disability Hate Crime are far from solved, so I welcome the report and recommendations for police and the CPS.

My office will monitor progress against these issues within Surrey Police and work with the Chief Constable to ensure victims of disability hate crime are supported.

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 line.

David Munro
Police and Crime Commissioner