

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 HMICFRS report 'Fraud: time to choose. An inspection of the police response to fraud'.

Surrey Police takes fraud incredibly seriously and does its best to combat such crimes. Whilst I am glad to say that we will be providing more resources included in the planned 100 officer uplift for 2019/20, I am disappointed to see that the level of service that victims receive is not sufficient. I will be monitoring Surrey Police performance in tackling fraud and in working with other agencies.

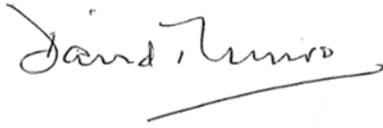
Given the non-geographic nature of most fraud offences, I believe that the system for recording fraud, investigating fraud and supporting victims of fraud needs to change. There should be a nationally led response with national resources towards tackling this area of crime. This would provide the required consistency of response. Individual officers in Surrey work hard to combat fraud but the overall system lets them down.

I have asked the Chief Constable, Gavin Stephens, for his views on the report, to which he has said:

"I welcome the HMICFRS Fraud report, and recognise the issues which it highlights, as having significant impact on victims, particularly the vulnerable, and the police. Fraud is a complex crime by virtue of the fact it has no respect for jurisdictional boundaries and we have identified it as one of the force priorities for 2019/20. We recognise the importance of a multi-agency solution and we will continue to work closely with the National Coordinators Office for Economic Crime and other partners to improve the force response to Fraud, safeguard victims and prevent people from being drawn into or continuing to be involved in Fraud. The recommendations and areas for improvement will be recorded and monitored through our existing governance structures and the strategic lead will oversee their implementation."

My office will monitor Surrey Police progress in tackling fraud and will work with the Chief Constable to ensure that not only victims of fraud are supported, but officers who are tackling the issues are provided with adequate resources as well.

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