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The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
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Your Ref:
My Ref:

1 February 2013

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Inspection – Revisiting Police Relationships: Progress Report

As required under Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996 (as amended by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011) I am writing to provide you with my comments and response to the recent publication of the HMIC Thematic and Dorset specific progress reports in respect of Revisiting Police Relationships.

Thematic Report

I am naturally pleased that the Thematic report highlights that good progress has been made across the police service as a whole, whilst acknowledging that work still remains to further improve in this area. I would certainly hope that this will give the public in particular encouragement that this is an area that is taken seriously by the service, whilst also highlighting some key areas of focus for further action to be taken.

Dorset Report

I am particularly pleased at the positive nature of the specific report relating to Dorset Police and of the acknowledgement of the work that has been undertaken to make further improvements following the original inspection. Evidently, much work has been done to review, update and communicate relevant policies and guidance, even where these were previously considered strong, which demonstrates that the Force is not resting on its laurels in respect of integrity matters. An increase in the number of staff working in the anti-corruption unit also highlights the Force's commitment to this important area.

As joint chair, with the Chief Constable, of our Professional Standards Board, I will have direct oversight of all integrity matters concerning the Force and in particular will be able to monitor ongoing progress with any outstanding actions directly relating to this inspection. In particular I note the reference to cases of potentially inappropriate behaviour on social media sites by officers and staff as a possible area of concern for the Force. However, I am also aware that the Force has worked hard to update guidance on the use of social media and on communicating this to all officers and staff and this work will continue.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Underhill
Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner

Copy:

Ms Dru Sharpling CBE, HM Inspector of Constabulary, Wales and Western Region
Ms Debbie Simpson, Chief Constable Dorset Police