

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
LONDON
SW1P 4DF

23 July 2014

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Inspection – ‘Policing in Austerity: Meeting the Challenge’

Further to the recent publication of the fourth year of valuing the police inspections by HMIC I welcome the findings, which recognises the strong response made by Dorset Police to meeting the financial challenges of recent years whilst limiting the impact on frontline policing.

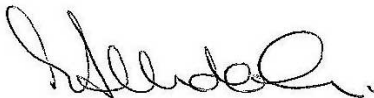
I am also pleased to see the continued fall in recorded crime, which is a huge testament to the hard work of all police officers, police staff, volunteers and partner agencies locally.

HMIC has identified good practice in Dorset for meeting the required financial savings whilst safeguarding frontline service delivery. It also recognises that we have to plan for emerging threats such as cyber crime and child sexual exploitation and therefore it remains vital that we continue to invest in those services to protect future generations.

The report also details how Dorset Police is one of the lowest funded and lowest spending forces in the country and how reductions to our budget are felt acutely as a result. Despite this I remain confident that the Force will achieve its savings target of £23.2 million over the most recent Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) period (March 2011 to March 2015), but this will mean exploring quite radical changes to the way that we work to avoid impacting on frontline services and our ability to further cut crime.

These remain challenging times but I will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable and other key partners to ensure that despite reduced funding, communities across Dorset will continue to receive a high level of service from their police force.

Yours sincerely



Martyn Underhill
Police and Crime Commissioner for Dorset

Copy: Drusilla Sharpling, HMI for Wales, West Midlands and the South West
Debbie Simpson, Chief Constable Dorset Police