

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

15 November 2019

Dear Home Secretary

Response to the HMICFRS Report on inspection of the police response to cyber-dependent crime

In line with my statutory responsibilities as Police and Crime Commissioner and following consultation with the Chief Constable, I am pleased to provide the following response to the HMICFRS and the Secretary of State for the Home Office in respect of the above thematic inspection report into how the police and National Crime Agency deal with the threat of cyber crime which was published on 24 October 2019.

The Chief Constable and I welcome the report on how police forces tackle the issue of cyber crime.

The Chief Constable and I agree with the areas for improvement identified in the report.

We agree with the report's recommendation to create a 'national police cyber-dependent crime network' as an alternative to the current police structure for the response to cyber crime with the following suggestions:

1. The delivery of the network must remain within the public sector (no private sector outsourcing in whole or part);
2. This must be fully funded from within central budgets (i.e. the budget cannot be top-sliced from police funds);
3. The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) should be part of the development of the governance structure for this new body; and
4. Future delivery models should embrace and expand the role of existing agencies and units already operating in this space (for example, the National Cyber Security Centre, the NCA's National Cyber Crime Unit, GCHQ and other national specialist capabilities).

I will continue to take a keen interest in developments in this area. This response will be published on the OPCC website.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Martyn Underhill', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Martyn Underhill
Police and Crime Commissioner