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Police, Crime and Victims' Commissioner:
Chief Executive:

Ron Hogg
Stephen White

16 May 2019

Dear Sajid,

HMICFRS Inspection Report: Fraud: Time to choose

This letter constitutes my reply to HMICFRS which I will be publishing on my website in order to fulfil my responsibilities with regard to Section 55 of the Police Act 1996.

The report – *Fraud: Time to Choose* - identifies a number of issues relating to the organisational structures that support fraud investigations at local and national levels, and correctly suggests that greater clarity of roles and responsibilities is needed. Good practice is regularly shared between forces on a number of topics, and this is encouraged and endorsed in the inspection report. In Durham, we are due to have our fraud investigation processes peer-reviewed by City of London Police, the acknowledged experts in this area. The focus on victims is also important, and it reflects the need to provide clear advice and support to victims of fraud.

In turn, I address the recommendations with implications for Durham Constabulary:

Recommendation 2 – By 31 March 2020, the National Police Chiefs' Council Coordinator for Economic Crime, and chief constables, should ensure that all forces have processes in place to accurately and efficiently report fraud outcomes to the National Intelligence Bureau.

The Constabulary will be asking City of London Police to peer-review these processes so that the force can put in place and revisions to existing procedures by 31 March 2020.

Recommendation 9 – By 30 September 2019, chief constables should publish their force’s policy for responding to and investigating allegations of fraud (in relation to both calls for services and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau disseminations for enforcement).

This is also an area where Durham Constabulary will be asking City of London Police to consider during the peer review. Afterwards, the force will be in a position to publish new guidance for Officers on responding to and investigating allegations of fraud.

I hope that this letter provides you with a clear outline of the work ongoing in Durham to meet the recommendations of the *Fraud: Time to Choose* report.

I am also copying this letter to Sir Thomas Winsor, Her Majesty’s Chief Inspector of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Hogg
Police, Crime and Victims’ Commissioner for Durham



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