

# The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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**Marc Jones**

**The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire**

**Date:** 21<sup>st</sup> December 2016

**Our Ref:** MJ/AW/kc/HMIC-2016-039

HMI Michael Cunningham  
HM Inspector of Constabulary  
HMIC  
Waterside House  
471 Kirkstall Road  
LEEDS LS4 2QB

By email to: [michael.cunningham1@hmic.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:michael.cunningham1@hmic.gsi.gov.uk)

Dear Michael

## **Force Report for the Efficiency Strand of PEEL (Published 3 November 2016)**

I should like to present my comments in response to the above Report within the meaning of s55(5) of the Police Act 1996. This letter will be copied to the Home Secretary and published on my website.

I am pleased by the overall grading of "Good" received by the Force for how efficient it is at keeping people safe and reducing crime. In addition, I welcomed the confirmation by HMIC of the good service the Force delivers at one of the lowest costs per head of population in England and Wales.

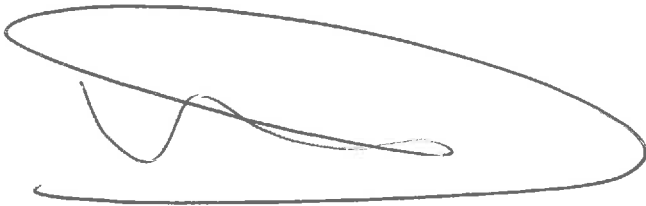
I am particularly pleased that the Report acknowledges the many steps the Force has taken to maximise value for money for the taxpayer through entering into local partnerships, private sector outsourcing and extensive and wide ranging collaborative working. The Report confirms that the Force has "*done what can reasonably be expected to be as efficient as possible*", bearing in mind the challenges of Lincolnshire's geographical size, the comparatively small workforce and limited funding base. I noted with interest that the Report makes no specific recommendations, as it does not identify any causes for concern.

The Report does however reach a conclusion, with which I wholeheartedly agree, that as a consequence of the Force being so efficient in delivering its service to the public, if it were to be faced with having to make further savings, the only remaining option is to further reduce frontline police officers and police community support officers. I believe this would result in a visible loss of service and a level of service degradation that the public of Lincolnshire neither deserve, nor are likely to find acceptable.

For this reason, both I and the Chief Constable are committed to working with the Home Office to achieve an equitable and sustainable solution to the problems surrounding the appropriate funding of policing in Lincolnshire.

I should like to take this opportunity to reaffirm my commitment to holding the Chief Constable to account for the efficiency of the Force and our joint efforts to develop detailed plans of how we can continue to provide services with due regard to potential changes in future funding arrangements.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, sweeping oval shape with a smaller, more intricate scribble inside it.

**Marc Jones**

Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

cc: Home Secretary - The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Chief Constable Neil Rhodes, Lincolnshire Police