

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Alan Hardwick
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Ms Zoë Billingham
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Eastern Region
HM Inspectorate of Constabulary
6th Floor
Globe House
89 Eccleston Square
London SW1V 1PN

Dear Zoë

HMIC Report "Everyone's business: Improving the Police Response to Domestic Abuse"

I am pleased 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 welcome the Report and the findings it presents. Domestic abuse is a terrible crime with complex and far reaching consequences. It is therefore of great importance to always strive for a better level of service in incidents of domestic violence.

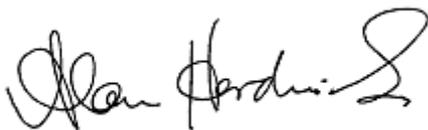
When dealing with domestic violence, the primary focus should always be on the victim. The Report quite rightly identifies Lincolnshire Police as already achieving a high standard of victim support. This is displayed through the work done by call handlers to identify victims, the experience shown by dedicated domestic abuse officers and the way in which all staff understand their role in preventing domestic violence.

There are however always areas which could see further improvement. I note the Report highlights the need for greater supervision of victims who are assessed as either medium or standard risk. Also, the need to ensure victims are kept informed should a perpetrator be released from custody.

In response to this, the Force has produced an action plan detailing how it intends to improve service in line with the Report's recommendations. I also have regular one-to-one discussions with chief officers on the issues surrounding domestic violence and will use this opportunity to monitor progress.

I will continue to ensure the prevention of domestic violence and maintaining a high quality of service for victims remains a key issue within Lincolnshire Police. By holding the Chief Constable to account and monitoring the Force's progress, I will ensure the people of Lincolnshire are confident with the service they receive.

Yours sincerely



Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

cc: The Rt Hon Theresa May MP – Home Secretary