**West Yorkshire Police & Crime Panel**

**Town Hall**

**Wakefield WF1 2HQ**

**Tel: 01924 305323**

Mr Mark Burns-Williamson

Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

Ploughland House

62 George Street

Wakefield

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19 July 2013

Dear Commissioner

**Re: HMIC Report – Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Panel in response to yesterday’s publication of the HMIC report ‘Policing in Austerity: Rising to the Challenge.’

As I am sure you can appreciate, the Panel is particularly concerned by the fact that West Yorkshire is identified as one of the five authorities likely to struggle to deliver the changes required in this period of austerity.

The report concludes that strong and effective leadership is essential if the West Yorkshire Police Force is to deliver the necessary transformations and savings and therefore be in a position to respond to further funding reductions. As Police and Crime Commissioner you clearly have a pivotal role to play in exercising this leadership and so we are seeking reassurances from yourself that the requisite detailed plans are being put in place to address the issues highlighted by the HMIC.

I am aware that you are due to meet with the Panel next week and I suggest we use that opportunity to discuss your initial response to the concerns highlighted by the HMIC and in this letter. I am happy to bring forward the meeting to 15:00 to ensure the original objectives for the workshop are still achieved.

As Thursday’s meeting will not be open to the public, I suggest we use the Panel’s next formal meeting on September 13th to have a more detailed discussion about your plans to reassure the Panel and the people of West Yorkshire that our police force is grasping the same opportunities to transform and to deliver savings as other forces across the country.

Yours Sincerely

**Cllr Alison Lowe**

(On behalf of the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel)