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Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JAD

Your Reference:

14 November 2017

The Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DP

Dear Home Secretary

HMIC Response – Abuse of position for a sexual purpose

I am writing to you in response to the national HMIC Inspection report 'abuse of position for a sexual purpose', which reported in October 2017. I am pleased that HMIC have carried out this inspection as ensuring that all police officers and police staff act with utmost integrity at all times is imperative.

It is disappointing that HMIC found that inconsistencies in the progress made by police services nationally in response to the 2016 report. As part of the efforts to improve, West Yorkshire Police provided their updated plans to HMIC ahead of the impending National Strategy in May 2017 for feedback. HMIC subsequently provided a useful assessment of these plans and identified three main areas for improvement;

1. The plans included a review of the capability and capacity of the counter-corruption unit, however no further information was provided.
2. Improvements to the IT systems' monitoring capability was included although at the time of the review this had not yet commenced.
3. Initiatives to seek intelligence from those organisations that support vulnerable people were also mentioned but a lack of information did not allow the HMIC to assess the progress in this area.

I have been monitoring and supporting the Chief Constable and Professional Standards Department (PSD) in West Yorkshire Police to drive forward the work needed to address these areas and improve our response generally. I would like to take the opportunity to share with you some of the progress made;

1. Review of the capability and capacity of the counter corruption unit:

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- Additional staff are being recruited to the Professional Standards Department and are being trained in line with the National Strategy. The department has also built up a close working relationship with the National Crime Agency to improve their counter corruption capacity.
- Regular meetings take place with the regional confidential unit to highlight Organised Crime Groups and intelligence sharing from across all covert investigations and monthly meetings take place between the Counter Corruption Unit and the force Authorising Officer.

Improvements to IT systems monitoring capability was included but at the time of the review this had not yet commenced.

- West Yorkshire Police have been in a joint procurement exercise with South Yorkshire Police for the last 10 months to purchase a mobile data audit capability (CITSL - this has the ability to monitor and audit all Force systems). This exercise is anticipated to be completed within 3 weeks and the new system in place prior to Dec 2017.
- West Yorkshire Police PSD have now acquired a licence for an IT system called COSAIN. This is a tool for monitoring social media and a 'profile' is being developed in relation to potential sexual misconduct.
- The Force has recently implemented an insider threat log on audit capability called Logpoint. This is part of the wider IT security strategy and ensures that Force IT have clear responsibility for the integrity of Force systems including access limitation and audit capability.
- West Yorkshire Police has an auditing capability across its data sets that allows for the interrogation of Force systems when intelligence is received around potential sexual abuse.

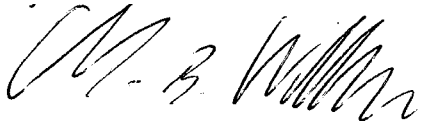
Initiatives to seek intelligence from those organisations that support vulnerable people were also mentioned but a lack of information did not allow us to assess the progress in this area.

- Prior to the National Strategy West Yorkshire Police PSD linked in with external agencies as a possible intelligence source. This included working closely with the OPCC safeguarding co-ordinator to highlight potential groups to engage with in order to outline the threat and more recently the specific strategy to increase reporting. Operations have been in place for the last 2 years to identify potential offenders who abuse their positions.
- In 2016 PSD conducted a number of inputs to domestic violent support coordinators, this work continues and has brought numerous referrals to our attention.
- Staff from the Counter Corruption Unit have a meeting with a group of partner agencies who deal with vulnerable groups every 3 months. This is to raise awareness, educate and provide paths for reporting such allegations.

In addition to these specific examples, West Yorkshire Police have made significant progress in ensuring the integrity of their workforce and I am reassured by their efforts. I would be happy to provide further detail around this work if it would be useful. I strongly feel that communities in West Yorkshire should feel confident that their police service will act with the utmost integrity at all times, and that the organisation will work harder to seek out those who do not. Whilst I am pleased with their response to this issue, I will continue to work with the Chief Constable to ensure that this is a priority not just for the Professional Standards Department but for the entire organisation.

I hope you have found this feedback useful.

Yours sincerely



Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

Copied to:

Chief Constable Dee Collins – West Yorkshire Police