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Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
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28th May 2019

Dear

The police Response to HMICFRS national thematic report – Stalking and Harassment

Under Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996, as Police and Crime Commissioner I am pleased to provide my formal response to HMIC's inspection to the national thematic report entitled 'Stalking and Harassment'.

I note that the majority of HMICFRS recommendations are for national bodies, such as the NPCC, and that Cambridge constabulary are awaiting their recommendations. With regards to those specific recommendation for the constabulary I have discussed these at my Business Coordination Board and the Chief Constable has assured me of the work the Constabulary will be doing to review their policies and training, as necessary. Further reassurance will be sort, via my Board meeting, in due course.

The Constabulary's response to HMICFRS recommendations are attached in Appendix 1

Yours sincerely

Jason Ablewhite
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Cambridgeshire constabulary's response to HMICFRS Area for Improvements:

- Recommendation 1: Within six months chief constables should ensure that forces record stalking or harassment crimes if appropriate when victims report breaches of orders.
- **Response**: The Constabulary will continue to monitor its compliance with crime recording standards for crimes relating to stalking and harassment, including breaches of orders. Data quality continues to be scrutinised and corrective action taken where issues are identified. Recurring themes highlighted through audit are reported and fed back to improve performance.
- Recommendation 2: Within six months the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) lead and the CPS lead should consider whether they can do more to inform police officers and lawyers of the importance of treating breaches of orders as evidence of a wider pattern of offending, and when and in what circumstances officers and lawyers should treat this as further evidence of stalking or harassment.
- **Response**: This recommendation is addressed to the NPCC and CPS leads for stalking and harassment. The Constabulary will await further information.
- Recommendation 3: Within six months chief constables should ensure that officers are aware of the importance of treating breaches of orders, where appropriate, as part of a wider pattern of offending, and ensure that force policy and guidance helps officers to do this.
- **Response**: The Constabulary recognises the importance of recording breaches of orders, where a course of conduct has been established, to address wider patterns of victimisation for stalking and harassment. Force policy and training will be reviewed to continue to improve officers' awareness.
- Recommendation 4: We recommend that within six months the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment reviews whether all police forces should adopt one single definition of stalking, and that the Home Office works with the NPCC lead and partners nationally to review whether a cross-government definition of stalking could and should be adopted.
- **Response**: On 03 April 2019, the College of Policing and NPCC lead wrote jointly to chief constables to recommend that forces adopt a common description of stalking. The Constabulary has adopted the NPCC description to achieve consistency in the understanding of this offence.
- Recommendation 5: We recommend that within three months the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment writes to chief constables to reinforce the importance of making sure that crimes which forces are recording as malicious communications are properly assessed, to see if forces should also be recording them as stalking or harassment.

- **Response: This recommendation is addressed to the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment. The Constabulary will await further information.**
 - **Recommendation 6:** We recommend that within six months the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment reviews the use of injunctions to prevent nuisance and annoyance to protect harassment victims. Following this review, if necessary the NPCC lead should write to chief constables to ensure that forces routinely consider such powers when dealing with victims of harassment.
 - **Response: This recommendation is addressed to the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment. The Constabulary will await further information.**
 - **Recommendation 7:** We recommend that within three months the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment reminds chief officers of the need to ensure that: 1) officers are aware of the powers of entry and search for stalking, and use them appropriately; and 2) forces compile adequate records of these searches for audit and compliance purposes.
 - **Response: This recommendation is addressed to the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment. The Constabulary will await further information.**
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- **Force response to HMICFRS national areas for improvement:**
 - **Area for Improvement 1:** Within three months the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment should remind chief constables that they should regularly monitor compliance with the national stalking protocol, and ensure that suitable governance arrangements are in place for them to do so.
 - **Force Response: This area for improvement is addressed to the NPCC lead for stalking and harassment. The Constabulary will await further information.**

