



The Rt Hon Priti Patel  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Via email

21<sup>st</sup> October 2019

## **HMICFRS report: PEEL: Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy 2018/19**

Dear Home Secretary,

The publication of the PEEL report for Northamptonshire Police for 2018/19 highlights a number of key areas of performance that are clearly not acceptable to me as the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner.

Whilst this report raises a number of concerns, it is important to recognise that it reflects a snapshot of performance that ended early in January 2019. Since then, the Chief Constable and I have undertaken a great deal of work since then to address areas of underperformance and to instil a positive culture of continual improvement across the organisation.

There is no doubt that this report makes disappointing reading, however it does support me in my statutory role in holding the Chief Constable to account for the performance of Northamptonshire Police. The report also reflects the concerns I had regarding the organisation which I have shared with the Chief Constable after he was appointed. However this is the result of an inspection that took place more than nine months ago and it does not reflect Northamptonshire Police as it is performing today.

The Chief Constable had only just joined Northamptonshire Police when the review took place late in 2018 and so he had not had the chance to set the clear priorities and new focus that is now reshaping the Force. Nevertheless, I take this report very seriously and fully acknowledge the areas of concern which, despite the considerable movement forward, need the Force's full attention.

In the nine months since the report I have worked closely with Chief Constable and the Force now has taken a firmer grip of crime and investigation and put a new focus on burglary that has improved detection rates to 18% - among the highest in the country. This force now is on target to reduce the number of burglaries by more than 35% this year.

In addition to this, the Force has also:

- Improved the way crimes are dealt with, allocating an officer quickly to every case to give people a clear point of contact and reduce handovers between teams of officers;
- Reduced the amount of time that people wait for a scheduled appointment with the police from 10 days to 48 hours – and this waiting time is on track to reduce still further;

- Adopted new systems that give every supervisor access to real time information on calls and incidents, so that they can identify and understand demand and so focus resources to the right areas.

I am more confident than I have ever been that Northamptonshire Police is improving, putting the focus on the areas that matter to people such as answering calls more quickly, timely and thorough investigation, targeting burglary and using technology to make sure police are in the right place at the right time. These are tangible changes that I can see which I hope will make a real difference to residents in communities across the county.

There will also be more police in Northamptonshire within the next two years: almost 100 new officers funded through the council tax are being recruited and the Government have announced that we will have funding for just under 200 further officers. All of this will be complemented by the Force's move to a territorial policing model, which will make the Force even more accountable to local needs and bring a local response to local problems.

However I do believe that despite the increased funding we have received, there is still an underlying problem with our funding, where Northamptonshire Police receives around £8 less per head of population from the Government than other Forces the HMIC says are most similar to us. We are one of the fastest growing counties in the country and we need recognition that this county deserves more.

My role is to hold the Chief Constable to account on behalf of local people and I am well aware that there is still much to do. I have ensured that the Chief has the resources he needs, with a bigger budget than ever before. In the current year, Nick Adderley has a budget of £130 million, the largest operational budget that a Chief Constable of Northamptonshire has had for many years.

This report represents an important wake up call to the Chief Constable and underlines my commitment to ensuring a culture of continual improvement is entrenched across the organisation. As the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, I have a regular and robust accountability process that allows me to raise issues of concern and to track performance. I have therefore asked the Chief Constable to provide me with regular updates to ensure that the pace of improvement that we have established continues and challenges areas of inefficiency and outdated practices.



Stephen Mold  
Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

c.c. Sir Thomas Winsor