



Home Secretary
c/o Gareth Redmond
Head of Police Transparency Unit
Home Office, Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DF

19th May 2014

Home Secretary,

North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCCs) response to the joint Thematic report on "A Criminal use of Police Cells?" dated June 2013

Thank you for focussing much of the Home Office's and agencies like HMIC's work on mental health and Section 136 facilities. Examining the extent to which police custody is used as a place of safety under section 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983 was important, and I note the one recommendation.

You will know we have taken great strides in North Yorkshire when dealing with mental health patients, and specifically Section 136 detainees. From having no health-based Places of Safety, we now have two, with more expected to open in the coming year. This has led to huge improvements for detainees, and with the addition of Street Triage services in parts of North Yorkshire, we are making further progress still.

North Yorkshire can now begin to implement the recommendation from this report, and work with health colleagues and others to ensure there is a full explanation of when detainees are taken into custody rather than a Section 136 facility where relevant. This still cannot cover the whole force area due to large, rural nature of the police service area, but we can extend this recommendation as services develop.

Yours sincerely

Julia Mulligan
North Yorkshire's Police & Crime Commissioner

