

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

5<sup>th</sup> September 2014

Home Secretary,

**North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCCs) response to the NYP & Thematic report on "Valuing the Police (4), Policing in Austerity – Meeting the Challenge" dated June 2014**

I welcome the HMIC Policing in Austerity – Meeting the Challenge report judging North Yorkshire Police as "good" when it comes to providing value for money, "outstanding" in its efficiency whilst rating our financial planning for the future as "good".

I am pleased to see that the report highlights that North Yorkshire Police has made good progress in reducing costs still further while retaining its commitment to neighbourhood policing and that the force is delivering the required savings today, while investing and developing an affordable way to deliver policing in the future.

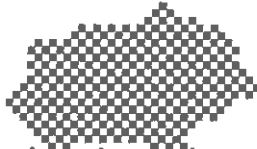
There is no doubt that policing against the backdrop of reduced funding is a challenge, but it's good to see that HMIC recognises the work that has been undertaken across North Yorkshire to deal with the difficulties we have seen over the past four years.

What matters to the Chief Constable and myself is that we provide the people of North Yorkshire with best possible service, that victims of crime are supported when they are at their most vulnerable, and that offenders are brought to justice. Nothing will change those priorities and it is up to us to ensure that we manage our resources with those priorities in mind.

Our figures for reducing crime and for victim satisfaction are already some of the best in the country and while it will be a challenge to improve on these, I am confident that our plans for the future, which include investing in technology and cutting bureaucracy will help us to become more responsive.

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My focus at the moment is on increasing and improving the services we can offer to victims of crime. Up to 570 more victims of domestic and sexual violence in North Yorkshire could each year receive specialist support and advice under a new contract I announced recently.

Using new funding from the Ministry of Justice – and in partnership with North Yorkshire County Council and City of York Council – I am pleased to be able to have a more-than-twofold increase in funding for victims of domestic and sexual violence. The increase means the number of victims benefitting from support could rise from the current average of 430 a year up to a projected 1,000.

Separately, both the Chief Constable and myself are passionate about keeping officers visible in our communities. We believe this is crucial to successful policing and we know this is what the public want to see too. To that end, we are committed to retaining operational capability. In fact, this report shows that savings can be made, whilst ensuring local neighbourhood policing remains robust and healthy.

Looking forwards though, there will be challenges. It is therefore satisfying that HMIC has recognised the quality our future plans. We are determined to do all we can to maintain local community policing, as well as meet our national and regional responsibilities through alliances and collaboration.

Yours sincerely

Julia Mulligan  
North Yorkshire's Police & Crime Commissioner

