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The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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4 April 2014

Dear Home Secretary.

HMIC Review of Domestic Abuse

I am writing in response to the HMIC Report on Durham Constabulary published on the 27 March 2014. Firstly I must thank the staff of HMIC who conducted this thorough inspection within Durham Constabulary. Their professionalism is to be commended.

I note, accept and will ensure actions across all of the recommendations that have been made in order to further enhance the high quality of service delivered by officers and staff.

I cannot however sufficiently express my deep disappointment about the comments made by HMI Zoe Billingham and CHMIC Mr Tom Winsor. I accept that it is difficult to adequately reflect the findings of a national report in a few words, but I do believe that their comments, in the spirit of raising standards and reassuring communities, could and should have reflected the positive work being done in the eight forces commended.

In the light of these comments we now have to re-build trust amongst some of our partner agencies, and I dare not consider the impact on victims who have not yet reported such abuse to Durham Constabulary. Their confidence to report such abuse to us must now be sorely undermined.

I urge that greater balance be sought in any future statements.

Yours sincerely

Police and Crime Commissioner

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