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

Dear Home Secretary

I am writing in response to the recently published HMIC report following their inspection of force arrangements in place to meet the Strategic Policing Requirement.

With regard to the recommendations directed at Chief Constables, I would comment as follows:-

1. Durham Constabulary is fully committed to supporting the National Policing Requirement and the force's Strategic Policing Requirement Delivery Plan is evidence of a "living document" approach, which involves regular re- assessment against national risks and those in our local Community Risk Register. For public order in particular, the HMIC inspection shows that the force is contributing fully what is expected of it in terms of PSU capacity and capability.
2. The Constabulary conducts a full evidence based assessment against the College of Policing's capability frameworks every year as part of its strategic assessment arrangements. The assessment is carried out in the light of the current threat assessments from a number of sources, including the Firearms Threat and Risk Assessment, the Counter Terrorism and Domestic Extremism Local Profiles and the Public Order Strategic Threat and Risk Assessment, together with the Local Community Risk Register. Thus the Strategic Policing Requirement is fully mainstreamed within the force's annual strategic planning cycle.
3. As indicated above, the annual strategic planning cycle includes the force's strategic threat and risk assessment. However, decisions around capacity and capability to contribute to changing requirements are not only considered on an annual basis. The Strategic Threat and Risk meetings and Commanders' Problem Solving meetings provide dynamic

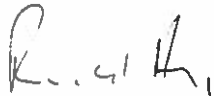
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- fora to respond to resource requirements across the force to reflect changes in the local and national threats. In addition, the three sub regional Deputy Chief Constables meet on a monthly basis to consider the regional response to national threats, including the identification of the opportunities for increased collaboration and sharing of resources to provide a more effective capability across the sub region.
4. Durham Constabulary is fully committed to the College of Policing's capability frameworks and other guidance published as part of the APP, and use them as the basis for decisions around force and regional contributions. The force can fulfil its national PSU contribution requirement whilst maintaining PSU capacity within the force boundary. The force submits its self-assessment results to the College on a regular basis to inform the national picture.
 5. Cyber-crime in all its guises is a rapidly developing area for Durham Constabulary and the Chief Constable has recently agreed that Durham will become the regional hub for the north east sub region. In addition, the recently released capability framework for cyber-crime will inform the development of the regional response to the capacity and capability requirements of the Serious and Organised Crime Strategy.
 8. For the past three years Durham Constabulary has conducted a full assessment against the College of Policing's capability frameworks every autumn as part of its annual strategic assessment arrangements. In addition, I chair a Police and Crime Commissioner Protective Services Panel to oversee force developments in achieving and maintaining capacity and capability to respond to both existing and developing national threats.
 9. The Constabulary maintains good relationships with the College of Policing and gives professional consideration to all guidance that they produce, particularly that which is published as Authorised Professional Practice, in the light of local and regional threats. Building on the successful joint Specialist Operations Unit with Cleveland police (where firearms commanders can be deployed between forces), a joint project is currently underway (funded through a successful Innovation Fund bid) to consider developing the current arrangements to cover a wider range of functions within the operations environment.
 10. The Constabulary is represented on the National Inter-operability Programme by the Deputy Chief Constable who is also the regional lead for Command and Control. It is anticipated that this recommendation will be taken forward by the national ACPO lead for public order and the Constabulary is keen to participate in the delivery of this recommendation.
 11. The Constabulary uses a resource management system which provides control room and resourcing staff with real time information on officer availability and skills so that appropriate resources can be readily mobilised.

12. The Constabulary will work to agree and adopt a standard specification for equipment. The force has an accredited public order training facility that serves a number of other forces and ensures that joint training includes inter-operability between differing equipment.
14. Durham Constabulary is fully committed to the JESIP arrangements at a strategic and operational level. The Deputy Chief Constable represents the force at an executive level and is the regional lead for interoperability (Command and Control). The generic Major Incident Plan is currently being re-written with Local Resilience Forum partners to provide joint operating procedures covering all issues on the Community Risk Register.
15. Durham's Chief Constable is the national ACPO lead for intelligence and is a keen advocate of sharing intelligence with a wide range of appropriate partners. The Constabulary has developed a sophisticated ICT application (Red Sigma) based on the Microsoft dynamics platform which will provide an integrated solution to sharing intelligence and other information with partners. This is due to go live across the force later this month and could provide the platform for such an integrated approach.

I hope you will agree that the above clearly demonstrates Durham's willingness and capability to fully engage with the implementation of the HMIC recommendations.

Yours sincerely



Police and Crime Commissioner