

The Rt. Hon. Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London, SW1P 4DP

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11 November 2014

Dear Theresa,

HMIC Crime Data Integrity

I write with regard to the report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) on 28 August 2014 regarding Crime data integrity.

I welcome the report and recognise the points made in terms of the importance of the accuracy and integrity of police-recorded crime data being vital to public trust in the police.

The report further noted that the proper management of crime-recording critically depends on three interlocking factors: *leadership and governance, systems and processes, and the knowledge and skills of the people involved.*

Prior to the report being published, I had commissioned an internal audit on the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) crime data. The internal audit findings concluded that the governance arrangements for crime recording needed to be more clearly defined, to ensure that accountability and roles and responsibilities are clearly assigned.

Furthermore, that there was need to develop a more integrated governance framework and defined strategy, which would ensure the commitment to the effective reporting of crime and the accuracy of data. This is to be supported by an improved level of training and more effective supervision.

I am keen to ensure that the MPS takes action to address the issues highlighted in the internal audit review. Coincidentally, as part of their annual work programme, Internal Audit are about to commence a follow-on piece of work to confirm that progress is being made.

The Commissioner, Sir Bernard Hogan-Howe has assured me that there is now in place better training for frontline staff and systems to quickly identify and correct potential failures of proper crime recording.

I have also met with the Metropolitan Police's Crime Registrar, who has also shown me evidence that the recommendations in the HMIC Crime data integrity report are being taken forward in addition to the internal audit findings.

Yours sincerely



Stephen Greenhalgh
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime