

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
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28 May 2019

MOPAC080519-D2684

Dear Home Secretary,

Fraud a time to choose – an inspection of the police response to fraud.

I write with regard to the national inspection report published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) on 2 April 2019 which focused on the national policing response to fraud.

I welcome this report and the insight that it brings to the high level of demand that online crime places on policing. That is why the Mayor and I have set out within the Police and Crime Plan our commitment to protecting people and businesses from cybercrime. This includes support to the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) in leading the way in tackling the growing threat of online offending through its dedicated response team - Fraud and Linked Crime Online (FALCON). These officers work closely with the Police Digital Security Centre to provide advice and support to victims of online crime.

As part of our work in helping to protect and prepare against the threat posed by cybercrime it should be noted that MOPAC and the MPS support the Police Digital Security Centre that works with small and medium size enterprises. By providing advice and assistance direct to this sector we can make a real difference to the way they manage the threat they face.

In further support of this crime area, MOPAC is also working with the Mayor's Chief Digital Officer to deliver a cyber-security strategy for London and funding preventative initiatives. The strategy will better protect London's digital infrastructure and ensure Londoners and business have the information and resources they need to stay safe online.

I am confident that the MPS is progressing the two recommendations for Chief Constables and the areas for improvement (AFIs) noted in the report for all forces. Firstly, the MPS has developed a Fraud/Cyber dashboard to support local understanding and improve compliance with crime report completion. Improved understanding will ultimately lead to improved outcomes for victims and more accurate reporting to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau (NFIB). And secondly, the MPS is working to update its fraud policy and toolkit to include the forces' policy for responding to and investigation of allegations of fraud.

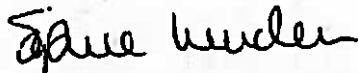
In response to the number of AFIs highlighted in the inspection report, the MPS is considering collaboration with NFIB and/or using Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme (ARIS) funding to develop capacity in this area. To improve its response to vulnerable

victims of fraud the MPS has analysed victim data and identified that in 2018 alone, there were 46,000 fraud victims in London. Action Fraud currently disseminate vulnerable victim details to forces in victim care referrals for immediate response, these are allocated to Local Policing teams to take forward. All other victim data is assessed to identify crime type, vulnerability, loss and location to baseline projects and to target advice and activity.

To address the other areas for improvement, the MPS is updating its fraud policy and toolkit to reflect these changes and will ensure that this is also included in awareness training for its Economic Crime Command. I will be discussing the MPS response to this inspection report as part of my regular bilateral meetings with senior officers.

I hope this provides a useful summary of the MPS activity in response to this report.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime

cc. Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS)
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