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Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
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Your Ref: HMIC Inspection, PEEL efficiency

Our Ref: RH / TB

Date: 1 December 2016

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Dear Home Secretary,

**Re: HMIC Revisit Inspection, *PEEL* Police Efficiency**

I am writing to you following the report from her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) PEEL inspection of Essex Police around the strand of 'efficiency'.

I welcome HMIC's inspection of Essex Police and their findings that the force is 'good in respect of the efficiency with which it keeps people safe and reduces crime'. These are core responsibilities for any police force.

I am also pleased that the Inspectorate also identified that Essex Police has 'developed a sophisticated understanding of new, emerging and hidden demand and regularly and effectively challenges itself to identify inefficient activities.'

The HMIC report emphasises the need for community policing to prevent crime and ensure local people remain connected with Essex Police. The people of our county, both during my election campaign and during our recent engagement about the Police and Crime Plan, have clearly expressed the importance they place on this work. In response to this, more local, visible and accessible policing will be a key priority in the new Police and Crime Plan for Essex.

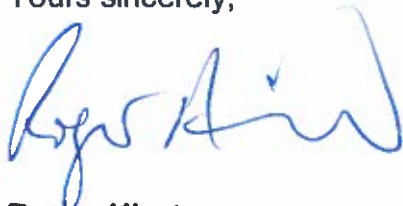
One means of delivering this will be the new mobile devices which are being rolled out to all front line police officers to help enable them to spend more time visibly patrolling our communities, rather than having to return to police stations to complete administrative tasks.

I am also pleased that HMIC recognised the importance of the mental health triage collaboration between Essex Police and the health service, finding that in 2015-16 this may have prevented 192 people from being inappropriately detained in police custody under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act.

Some of the financial assumptions in the HMIC report are based on an estates strategy which is now being heavily revised, and which will require less borrowing. I believe it is essential that we continue to modernise the police property estate across the county, and I will ensure that the money raised through this process is used primarily to help deliver more local, accessible and visible policing.

I would like to close by recognising the positive findings of HMIC but also noting that this good work needs to be maintained, monitored and further enhanced to ensure that Essex Police continues efficiently to keep people safe and reduce crime.

Yours sincerely,



**Roger Hirst**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Essex**