

Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP
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Your ref: n/a
Our ref: SH
Date: 04 October 2022
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Dear Home Secretary

I write in response to the HMICFRS final inspection report: **PEEL Spotlight - The police response to burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime - Finding time for crime.**

I acknowledge the recommendations made in this report and understand that recommendations 1 and 2 (listed in appendix A for reference) are applicable to all Forces, including Essex Police.

The Chief Constable has provided a detailed response to me regarding each of the recommendations, both of which have been assigned a lead officer of ACC ranking. The information provided to me by the Chief Constable has provided reassurance that the Force is meeting the requirements of recommendation 1.

The Chief Constable has also assured me that Essex Police is on target to achieve what is required in recommendation 2 in a timely and effective manner. Essex Police has an *Investigations Improvement Board* with a focus on quality, and a *Detective Development Board* with a focus on recruitment, training, retention and wellbeing. These Boards ensure monitoring of progress and oversight of compliance. Dip sampling is used to monitor quality of investigations and compliance with the Victims Code. A Victim Closure Document and Victim's Dashboard are used to give victims a voice and enable their feedback to drive improvements.

While it is good that these actions have been taken and processes are in place to meet recommendation 2, more work needs to be done in this area until we can say for certain that it is being adequately met. I have already engaged the support of the Police Fire and Crime Panel and will maintain close scrutiny of Essex Police's progress in this area.

Burglary, robbery and other acquisitive crime have a detrimental impact on the victims of these crimes, and I support the recommendations made, which seek to ensure that victims receive a quality service that both support victims and provide the best chance for a solved outcome. 'Improving support for victims of crime' is a key priority in Essex and is included in my Police and Crime Plan 2021-2024, delivery against which is regularly and rigorously monitored, including through the monthly Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board. Ultimately we will know for sure that the actions taken in this area are working when we see an increase in the confidence victims have in Essex Police.

I will continue to maintain close scrutiny of the work of Essex Police in this regard, and to hold the Chief Constable to account.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. Hirst', written in a cursive style.

Roger Hirst
Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

c.c. Ben-Julian Harrington, Chief Constable, Essex Police

Appendix A – Recommendations

Recommendation 1

- By March 2023, forces should make sure their crime scene management practices adhere to the authorised professional practice on managing investigations for SAC or provide a rationale for deviating from it. They should also include:
 - giving victims timely and appropriate advice during their initial call; and
 - applying a risk assessment process such as THRIVE, clearly recording it, and flagging those re-victimised for further support.

Recommendation 2

- By March 2023, all forces should ensure SAC investigations are subject to effective supervision and direction. This should focus on:
 - making sure supervisors have the capability and capacity to meaningfully supervise investigations;
 - making sure investigations meet the necessary standard and achieve suitable outcomes that consider the voice or opinion of victims;
 - applying investigative outcome codes appropriately; and
 - complying with the Victims' Code and recording evidence of compliance.
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