

Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP
Home Secretary
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Your ref: n/a
Our ref: SH
Date: 31 August 2023
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Dear Home Secretary

I write in response to the national thematic Counter Terrorism Joint Inspection report: **Management of terrorist offenders in the wake of terrorist attacks.**

I acknowledge the twenty-one recommendations made in this report and understand that none are directly applicable to Essex Police. I see that three (19, 20 and 21) are aimed at Counter Terrorism Policing, with responsibility given to the senior national coordinator and the Head of Interventions (Prevent and Nominal Management) to ensure compliance.

The six forces of the region, including Essex Police, have agreed a section 22 collaboration, whereby the Counter Terrorism function is devolved to the command of the Bedfordshire Chief Constable. This is delivered through the Eastern Region Special Operations Unit (ERSOU)/Counter Terrorism with a variety of structures and panels, including the Contest board, and separate reporting to the force Chief Constables. There is a fixed intelligence management unit at Essex HQ, receiving and assessing Counter Terrorism information. However, they do not provide the link to Counter Terrorism Policing HQ (CTPHQ), this would be through Senior Management Team/Senior Leadership Team engagement. ACC Nolan attends the Regional Contest Board. There is a fully functioning regional Counter Terrorism offender management unit. The link to CTPHQ is therefore through ERSOU/Counter Terrorism with clear lines to Essex Police.

We have a collective responsibility to protect the public from terrorism. This is acknowledged in my Police and Crime Plan through reference to our duty to pay regard to the Strategic Policing Requirement (SPR). I receive regular updates on the force's compliance with the SPR through my Performance and Resources Scrutiny Board.

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

Counter Terrorism Policing

Recommendation 19.

The senior national coordinator should review the Registered Terrorism Offender Assessment Framework process to ensure that it is fit for police led cases.

Recommendation 20.

The senior national coordinator should work with the National Security Division and Joint Extremism Unit to develop and implement a risk assessment process for those tasked with visiting counter terrorism nominals in the community.

Recommendation 21.

The Head of Interventions (Prevent and Nominal Management) should ensure that guidance is issued to regional Counter Terrorism Nominal Management teams that sets out a consistent use of ViSOR to support Counter Terrorism Nominal Management