

Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP
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Your ref: n/a
Our ref: SH
Date: 06 October 2023
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Dear Home Secretary

I write in response to the HMICFRS inspection report: **Homicide prevention: An inspection of the police contribution to the prevention of homicide.**

I acknowledge the three recommendations made in this report and understand that two (recommendations 2 and 3, shown in the appendix to this letter) are directly applicable to Essex Police, and all forces.

The Chief Constable has provided a detailed response to me regarding the two recommendations applicable to all Forces and assured me that they have been added to the force's register of HMICFRS recommendations. I am pleased to see that Essex Police is compliant with recommendation 3 and is and is working towards compliance with recommendation 2, with an expectation of becoming compliant ahead of the deadline set.

With regard to recommendation 2 (*By 31 August 2024, chief constables in England and Wales should devise an approach to make sure their force can, on a sufficiently frequent basis, produce an analytical report concerning its death investigations.*) Essex Police currently uses a paper-based report when recording details of unexpected deaths in the community. It is hoped that within 6 months this process can be digitised and work is underway to explore how this might be able to link with the Coroner Service's system, as this would provide additional benefits if achievable.

With regard to recommendation 3 (By 1 December 2023, chief constables should make sure their force can quickly identify lessons from homicides and serious violence incidents. The process should be capable of involving partner organisations when appropriate, so that lessons can be learned more widely.) Essex Police is already compliant with this recommendation.

Essex Police has worked hard to reduce the homicide rate in the county and it is very pleasing to see that the report references Essex Police' rapid debrief process for homicide and near misses. I hope that the inclusion of the rapid debrief process in the NPCC's Homicide Prevention Framework, as smarter practice, will encourage wider implementation across the country.

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

Cc Ben-Julian Harrington, Chief Constable, Essex Police

Encs

Appendix A – Recommendations

Recommendation 1

By 1 December 2023, the Home Office should make sure that forces can provide it with relevant, detailed information on each homicide either via the online portal or through another secure method. The Home Office should update its guidance to police forces accordingly.

Recommendation 2

By 31 August 2024, chief constables in England and Wales should devise an approach to make sure their force can, on a sufficiently frequent basis, produce an analytical report concerning its death investigations. This will help the force to:

- better understand the pattern of death reports across the force area, drawing on force data and information gathered by other organisations, including the NHS and local authorities; and
- identify any linked series of death reports.

Recommendation 3

By 1 December 2023, chief constables should make sure their force can quickly identify lessons from homicides and serious violence incidents. The process should be capable of involving partner organisations when appropriate, so that lessons can be learned more widely.