



Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP  
House of Commons  
London  
SW1A 0AA

Cc: HMIC

Our Ref: JC/jpi

2 May 2017

Dear Home Secretary,

### **HMIC PEEL Inspection Reports: PEEL: Police Effectiveness 2016**

I am writing to you in response to the HMIC PEEL Effectiveness inspection report for West Mercia released in March 2017.

The overall judgement of the effectiveness inspection is that West Mercia Police is 'good' at keeping people safe and reducing crime. This is an improvement on last year's assessment and follows on from similar good assessments received in the legitimacy and efficiency inspections.

This progress needs to be sustained and seen as the base which we now build from, rather than what we settle for. There is undoubtedly still progress to be made and improvements to be achieved in order to deliver communities that are safe and feel safe. I will be pushing to ensure the force delivers on this in the weeks and months ahead.

At the latest of my monthly holding to account meetings with the Chief Constable I sought assurance on the work being done to understand the force's use of outcome category 'Evidential difficulties; victim does not support police action'. I am satisfied that this is being addressed and evidence of supporting activity has been submitted to HMIC in an action plan, a copy of which has been sent to my office.

Overall I am reassured to see the progress that has been made by the force, but there remains much still to do to ensure West Mercia Police continues to improve its service to the public and I will monitor progress against the areas for improvement.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Campion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

John Campion  
**Police & Crime Commissioner**  
**West Mercia**