



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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Cc: HMICFRS

Our Ref: JC/jpi

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Dear Home Secretary

Cyber: keep the light on. An inspection of the police response to cyber-dependent crime

I am writing to you in response to the above report and must apologise for my delay in doing so. It is pleasing to see that overall, the report mostly found a 'positive picture' of the national, regional and local response to cyber dependent crime.

At the time of the inspection HMICRS identified that sixteen forces and three regional units didn't use volunteers to tackle cyber-dependent crime. One area for improvement arising from the inspection report is for all chief constables to evaluate the use that their force makes of cyber specials and volunteers to ensure that they are used effectively.

West Mercia Police is one of the forces without a cyber volunteer scheme, however I am assured that the force is now seeking to address this. The force has recently drafted a new cyber crime strategy which contains a specific commitment to develop a network of Cyber Protect Volunteers and work has begun to progress this. In addition the force is actively involved in regional discussions to provide a regionally supported volunteers scheme.

The force has a Strategic Cyber Crime Board, supported by a West Mercia Cyber Crime Partnership Group, led by my office. The partnership group recently ran a successful cyber crime prevention training day aimed at small and medium enterprises. The training was facilitated by a digital security specialist who sits on the group and gave his time in kind.

The role of the partnership group in developing a volunteer network is identified in the draft strategy and we are now looking to see how this can be progressed to enable individuals, communities and business with the tools to help keep themselves safe.

I will continue, as Commissioner, to hold the force to account around the effective tackling of cybercrime and invest further resources in giving the tools to the community to safeguard against it



John Campion
Police & Crime Commissioner
West Mercia