



Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London SW1P 4DF

Cc: HMICFRS

Our Ref: JC/jpi

9 October 2020

Dear Home Secretary,

Roads Policing: Not optional An inspection of roads policing in England and Wales

I am writing to you in response to the above report which contains six specific recommendations and three additional areas for improvement for all police forces to address. West Mercia's Chief Constable Anthony Bangham is the national lead for Road Safety and Roads Policing and welcomed the report which he hopes will reinvigorate the police commitment to road safety.

Safer roads is a force priority for West Mercia Police and there is a Roads Policing and Road Safety Strategy in place along with well-established working relationships with partner agencies. Overall I am reassured that the force is able to demonstrate it has the structures and process in place to comply with the majority of the improvement areas identified in the report. For example, the force has a Roads Policing Strategic Assessment in place to support an intelligence-led approach, embedded across safer neighbourhood and road policing teams. In addition, West Mercia was an early adopter of Op Snap and has a dedicated officer to review all submissions and if a prosecution is present they have excellent links with the traffic process unit to ensure action is taken.

Part of my own budgetary commitment to ensure an additional 215 officer posts were created within the force will see nineteen additional roads policing officers recruited to support the resources needed to effectively policing the strategic network.

While there are many positives the force recognises there is more to be done. One area for improvement within the report is around the awareness and understanding the changes in the Professionalising Investigation Programme, and the force has invested in a full time trainer to drive improvements in this area.

As well as a force priority road safety related issues are a concern across many of West Mercia's communities and one of the most prevalent issues I am asked to address as Hindlip Hall, Worcester, WR3 8SP. Tel: 01905 331656 Email: opcc@westmercia.pnn.police.uk
Web: www.westmercia-pcc.gov.uk Twitter: @WestMerciaPCC Facebook: West Mercia PCC

Police and Crime Commissioner. Too many people are still being killed or seriously injured on roads in West Mercia. Seeing this number reduce consistently is a key commitment and something I have prioritised as Commissioner since 2016.

As well as making significant additional resources available to the Chief Constable to support the recruitment of additional roads police officers, I have also invested in a number of initiatives aimed at getting to the root cause of dangerous driving behaviours, as well as providing free driver awareness sessions as part of my Road Focus campaign.

As Commissioner I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account, to ensure road safety remains a priority and the force continues to implement best practice in line with the HMICFRS report.

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