



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

CC: HMICFRS

9 June 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

PEEL 2021/22: Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy An inspection of West Mercia Police

I am writing to you in response to the above HMICFRS inspection report published in April this year. This report has highlighted a number of areas where the standard of policing in West Mercia is below what our communities and I expect and it was particularly disappointing to see that the force was assessed as 'requires improvement' in three areas of policing. The report also highlights the force's innovative approach to early intervention and prevention, which demonstrates what West Mercia Police is capable of.

On publication of the report I called an Extraordinary Holding to Account meeting with the Chief Constable. This required her to submit a briefing document in advance setting out how the force is responding to the one area of concern, recommendations and areas for improvement identified in the report. This was used to facilitate the meeting and enabled me to challenge and scrutinise the force on behalf of West Mercia's communities.

While it is clear from the meeting that there is more work to be done, I am reassured that steps are being taken to address the areas identified. A summary of the briefing document, outlining the force response along with the notes from the Holding to Account meeting have been submitted to the West Mercia Police and Crime Panel for their next meeting. A copy of the Panel report and notes are enclosed with this letter.

As Commissioner I have a clear role to play in ensuring West Mercia Police responds to the findings in this report. On behalf of our communities, I will continue to hold the Chief Constable to account to ensure that these improvements are made as swiftly as possible. Through the latest budget I have targeted my investments to improve the service and deliver the best for the public,

including an increased investment for investigating crime, which was one of the areas assessed as requiring 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 and Crime Commissioner
West Mercia