

**Theresa May**  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
London, SW1P 4DF

14 March 2016

MOPAC14032016- 22983

*Dear Theresa,*

### **HMIC Peel Inspection of the Metropolitan Police Service 2016**

I am writing following the release of the Peel Inspections of the Metropolitan Police Service 2016. As these reports have been released in my last weeks as Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime in London, I thought it appropriate to offer you some of my reflections on the value of inspection in relation to policing. In making these comments, I am able to draw upon my experience of other public services, especially Local Government, and my experience of inspection in that environment.

Firstly, let me be clear, I support the principle of an independent Inspectorate that oversees the police and focuses on key strategic issues and provides assurance. The HMIC value for money profiles, crime reduction comparisons with most similar forces and "deep dives" into crime recording have all proved extremely useful and insightful.

In that context, I approach the HMIC PEEL Assessment programme with some trepidation. I fear that it could become the policing version of the Audit Commission's Comprehensive Performance Assessment. The CPA led, in my view, to the creation of a rigid and graded performance framework with the implicit assumption that there is a "one size fits all". Public safety challenges, as local authorities, vary dramatically across force areas. Specifically, in London, there are nearly three times the number of organised crime groups per million population in London than the England and Wales average (217.5 vs. 74.7), as the HMIC report of police effectiveness highlights.

Also, I believe that such a risk sits ill with the vision and determination that you have shown to create and support independent Police and Crime Commissioners able both to hold the police to account and to understand the different needs of their own geographical areas. I think it is important to find the right balance between this enhanced mechanism for assuring local accountability and the national inspection framework.

I believe that the Met police are London's "first" public service, in every sense of that word. Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy matter. Crime in the capital has fallen

dramatically in recent years. Between 2000-01 and 2014-15, the total number of offences logged by the force plunged from 994,233 to 709,174, a reduction of 29%. Murders fell from 171 to 93 - the lowest figure since the 1970s, though it has edged up in the past nine months.

I am also proud that the Met have risen to the challenge of austerity and made substantial savings - nearly £600 million - whilst keeping police officer numbers at around 32,000.

Confidence in the UK's biggest police force increased to a record level in 2014. The relationship between Londoners and their police service can be fragile. Public confidence in the Met collapsed to an historic low in the wake of the 2011 riots. By the middle of 2012 barely one in two people thought the Met were doing a good job in London. Since the Mayor's Office for Policing And Crime (MOPAC) was created, we have brought greater transparency and oversight to the Met than ever before. Public confidence in the Met police has now recovered since the 2011 riots and two thirds of the Met are "doing a good job" in policing London. Public confidence in local policing has risen from 54.8% in 2008 to 63% today which is a 15% increase. The Met has risen from 27th place in the league table of 43 forces in 2012 to 18th and we are working hard increase it further. Confidence in local policing is now above 60% in 27 of London's 32 Boroughs.

The Met is also responding to the challenge of being more representative. It is now more diverse than ever, and recent initiatives including London only recruitment have seen a significant change in intake and overall impact. In 2001, just 4% of the Met's officers were from BAME communities and 16% were female. Today that stands at 12% and 25% respectively. The latest intake of recruits has recruited nearly 30% BAME and 27% female police officers. There is still a long way to go but today the Met is the most diverse police force in the country by far and has more than twice the number of BAME officers (12% vs a national average of 5.6%) as compared with the England and Wales average.

The roll out of body worn video cameras is making our officers ever more accountable and mobile devices mean less time in the office and more time out on the beat, helping to stamp out crime and keep Londoners safe. 22,000 cameras (the largest deployment in the world) will be rolling out to officers across the city over the course of 2016. 92% of Londoners surveyed during the pilot of this technology agreed it would make officers more accountable. In October the Met will also roll out 20,000 tablet devices following pilots in Lewisham and Hammersmith & Fulham.

MOPAC is holding the Met police to account more effectively than the Metropolitan Police Authority. Public confidence and the Met's use of intrusive tactics such as Taser and stop and search are scrutinised regularly at MOPAC's public Challenge meetings. MOPAC's Intrusive Tactics Dashboard provides the latest data on the use of stop and search, Taser and other tactics, and is accessible to anyone and everyone 24hours a day. MOPAC provides detailed data on public confidence in policing, city-wide and by Borough, through its Confidence Dashboard and Neighbourhood Confidence Comparator, all of which are also available on our website.

I hope that this letter both illustrates my pride in what has been achieved, and my acceptance that there is more to do. Experience tells me to be cautious too about comparative data. It is my view that the data set on stop and search focusing on per 1000 population number is not as effective as a focus on the arrests pursuant to stops and that, therefore, it does not readily support the recommendation in the report that the Met should " be given the confidence to use this policing tactic correctly".

In summary, whilst I welcome much about the Peel reporting framework, I would strongly urge that the HMIC inspections seek to provide assurance and move away from graded reports informed by narrative judgements. I do not believe that creating a performance league table for policing in England and Wales will be as effective as providing me and my fellow Police and Crime Commissioners with the data with which to hold their Chief Constables and forces to account

Yours sincerely,



Stephen Greenhalgh  
**Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime**

P.S. Thank you for your leadership and  
support!

