

Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP
Home Secretary
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Please ask for: Mr. Martin Surl
Our Ref:
Your Ref:
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Date: 20 August 2018

Dear Home Secretary,

**RESPONSE TO HMICFRS NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION POST-INSPECTION REVIEW
- Gloucestershire Constabulary – 29 January - 2 February 2018**

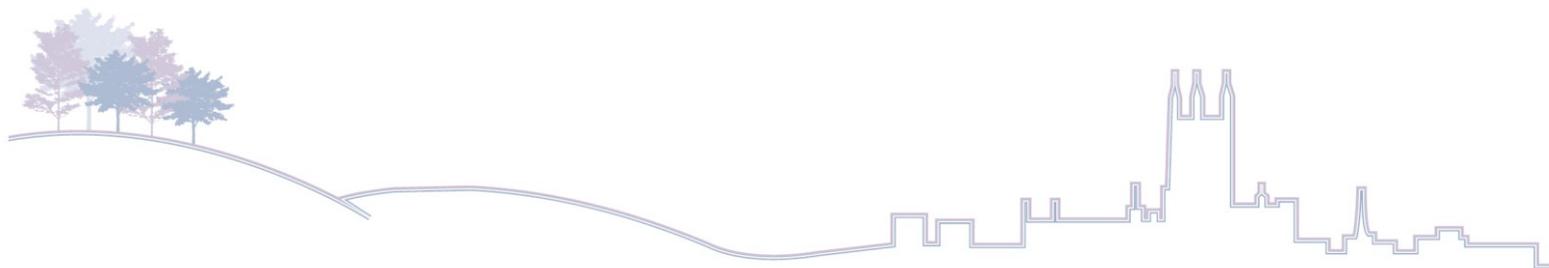
I write in respect of the HMICFRS report in relation to the above inspection. I have carefully studied its findings published on 22 May 2018 and having discussed the report take this opportunity to comment on its findings.

I was particularly pleased to note the many areas of positive improvement identified by the inspectorate during their review. I was especially pleased to note their conclusion that overall the Constabulary had

- Recognised that it needs to improve in certain areas;
- Understands what it is required to do;
- Taken some important and positive steps to address the recommendations from the 2017 report; and
- Recognised that there remained more to be done to improve its protective practices and outcomes for children.

I have discussed the latest report and its findings with the Chief Constable for Gloucestershire and his officers and staff. I have also formally sought the Chief Constable's comments on the report and in particular the HMI's recommendations and these are now to be found on my website at www.gloucestershire-pcc.gov.uk. I will continue to monitor the Constabulary's progress in delivering its plan and will hold the Chief Constable to account for its successful implementation.

I note that since the inspectors carried out the review the Constabulary has taken action to improve its approach to the tracing of missing children and the training of custody staff in relation to the detention of children. I am also pleased to have been able to use money raised by increasing the Council Tax precept to employ additional detectives, MASH decision makers and administrative staff to increase the resilience and capacity of the staff working in



this difficult area. More work remains to be done but I am confident that as we continue to work with partners and learn from others in the field the Constabulary's effectiveness in protecting vulnerable children will continue to improve.

In summary, I remain grateful to the inspectors for their work in highlighting the issues in this county and for their constructive recommendations. I am re-assured by the Chief Constable's response and the plans he has developed and will continue to monitor the force's progress. I will continue to work with senior leaders of the County Council and others to address the wider issues continue to beset child protection in Gloucestershire.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MAS', with a horizontal line underneath.

Martin Surl
Police and Crime Commissioner

cc. Ms Wendy Williams, HMICFRS