

PEEL - Police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy: An Inspection of Cheshire Constabulary

RESPONSE OF JOHN DWYER, POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE

I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) PEEL inspection report, published 7th July 2022 which sets out the findings of the inspection of Cheshire Constabulary's effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy.

After being returned to the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner in May 2021 following my first term of office between 2012 – 2016, significant changes have been made to the senior leadership team including the appointment of a new Chief Constable. Together, we share a vision and commitment to delivering an outstanding police service.

One of my most important roles as Police & Crime Commissioner is being responsible for holding the Chief Constable to account for maintaining an efficient and effective police service in Cheshire. We have already improved since the publication of the report, and the Constabulary are now arresting more offenders, achieving more positive outcomes and safeguarding vulnerable people. The areas for improvement are being addressed at pace which I will continue to closely monitor.

The report rightly notes that our 101 and 999 service required improvement and this was a priority in my Police and Crime Plan. I have made a significant investment in improving our public contact offer, which is already bringing down abandonment rates and reducing call waiting times.

However, I am pleased to see the neighbourhood policing model highlighted and praise given to the problem solving approach employed by officers which will continue to reduce anti-social behaviour, prevent crimes and protect the most vulnerable. The Constabulary received recognition for having an inclusive workforce which represents its communities.

With strong leadership, our people are key to delivering an outstanding police service and since taking office we now have more police officers than ever in Cheshire. These extra officers and other investments will enable us to address some of the areas for improvement and I have the Chief Constable's assurance that we can achieve this.

I believe we have the foundations now firmly in place to improve and consolidate our performance to achieve our ambition of being outstanding.

John Dwyer
Police & Crime Commissioner
17th August 2022