

HMIC INSPECTION OF POLICE RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ABUSE

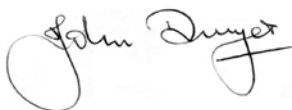
I refer to the report *Everyone's Business: Improving the Police Response to Domestic Abuse* published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary on 27 March 2014 and to the report *Cheshire Constabulary's Approach to Tackling Domestic Abuse* published on the same day, regarding the police response to domestic abuse and violence. I have considered these reports and have discussed the recommendations with the Constabulary.

The findings of the national HMIC report give me grave concerns and I am pleased to hear that the Home Secretary is giving her personal attention to this.

In Cheshire, I would like to reassure victims that the processes are in place and that the Constabulary take domestic abuse very seriously. Our statistics show that 40% of domestic abuse incidents in Cheshire arise as a result of alcohol abuse and we are working closely with other agencies, such as local authorities to tackle the root cause of the problem.

I welcome the recognition of the good partnership working between the police and other agencies, and the fact that Cheshire has processes in place to ensure victims are notified when offenders are released from prison, as well as the appreciation of the skill of call takers in the Force Control Centre when dealing with the first calls for help from victims.

I have noted the recommendations provided by the inspectors and will hold the Chief Constable to account for addressing them through an action plan which is being developed by the Constabulary.



John Dwyer
Police & Crime Commissioner