

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY  
PEEL: POLICING LEGITIMACY 2017: AN INSPECTION  
OF CHESHIRE CONSTABULARY  
RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME  
COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE**



I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectors' report, published 12 December 2017, which has assessed Cheshire Constabulary as good in all areas of legitimacy.

The legitimacy of a police service is crucial in ensuring the public have confidence in local policing and is fundamental to the principle of policing by consent. Therefore, it is very positive to see that Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) as part of their 2017 inspections have assessed Cheshire Constabulary as good in the legitimacy with which it keeps people safe and reduces crime.

Residents will be pleased to read that their police service is found to be good at treating all of the people it serves with fairness and respect, at ensuring its workforce behaves ethically and lawfully and good at treating its workforce with fairness and respect. It is also positive to note that the constabulary has been found to show clear leadership and has established methods of seeking external challenge and feedback from the public to influence its operation. I have noted the observations made by inspectors regarding improvements that can be made to the way the constabulary works with its independent advisory group and this is something I support. I am assured by the constabulary that steps have already been taken with the Independent Advisory Group to improve governance and joint working arrangements.

I also welcome the Inspectorates recognition of the significant improvements in performance in stop and search monitoring in recent years and I expect the same level of performance to be established in monitoring of all types of use of force.

It was particularly pleasing to note inspectors' findings that the constabulary is considered excellent at addressing disproportionality in its workforce and that both an ethical culture and knowledge of ethical decision making is being developed and maintained throughout the workforce. As I outlined last year I believe there is always more to be done in this area and it will continue to be a focus for me as I work with the constabulary to deliver my Police & Crime Plan.

Whilst there are no specific recommendations for the constabulary, the Inspectorate make some observations where improvements can be made, including ensuring members of the public who make complaints are provided quality and timely updates, and I will be maintaining close oversight to ensure that any areas for improvement are acted upon.

HMIC have again found the constabulary to be a well performing police service and I would like to thank all the members of our police family – officers, staff and volunteers, for their hard work and dedication in keeping us safe.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "David Keane".

6 February 2018