

**HER MAJESTY'S INSPECTORATE OF CONSTABULARY  
AND FIRE AND RESCUE SERVICES**



**David Keane**  
Police & Crime  
Commissioner  
for Cheshire

***Fraud: Time to Choose. An inspection of the police  
response to fraud***

**RESPONSE OF DAVID KEANE, POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR CHESHIRE**

Given the significant increase in the volume and complexity of fraud, I welcome Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Service (HMICFRS) report, published 02 April 2019, which sets out the findings of the inspection of the police response to fraud.

It should be noted that this is a national report following the inspection of 11 police forces in England and Wales, all nine regional organised crime units, the National Crime Agency, Action Fraud, the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau and Europol between March and July 2018. Although Cheshire Constabulary was not one of the 11 forces visited by the inspection team, I agree that there is a specific '*need for a national policing strategy that clearly articulates roles and responsibilities of policing at local, regional and national levels*'.

The long term life changing impact of fraud upon victims can be devastating, with financial losses often causing psychological and emotional distress. Regardless of whether fraud is committed against individuals or businesses, the harm from fraud is not just limited to the direct harm caused by each offence. As outlined in the report, the proceeds from fraud can also be used to fund serious organised crime and, in some cases, terrorism.

I note that HMICFRS has recommended that '*by 30 September 2019, Chief Constables should publish their force's policy for responding to and investigating allegations of fraud (in relation to both calls for service and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau disseminations for enforcement)*'. I fully support this recommendation and having discussed the inspection report with the Chief Constable, I have been assured that work is ongoing to ensure that Cheshire Constabulary complies with this recommendation, as well as the five areas for improvement.

I have also asked that Cheshire Constabulary has a clear understanding of the local picture by identifying the true scale of the demand and working in collaboration with partners to, as far as possible, ensure that there is an efficient and effective policing response to victims of fraud. This will, however, require adequate resources at a local, regional and national level to increase the capacity and capability of policing to ensure the prevention and intelligence led investigation of fraud. It is imperative that victims of fraud, in particular the most vulnerable victims within our local communities, are provided with a consistent and proportionate policing response.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'David Keane'.

David Keane  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
24 May 2019