
BEV HUGHES

**DEPUTY MAYOR
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Rt Hon Priti Patel,
Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

9th September 2020

Dear Home Secretary

**SUBJECT: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Crime and Fire and Rescue Service (HMICFRS)
Thematic Spotlight Report: The Hard Yards - Police to Police Collaboration**

I write in response to the recent HMICFRS inspection report that reviewed police to police collaboration.

Collaborative working, when done well, can provide the police service with a number of positive outcomes. The public are able to benefit and receive consistent and effective responses from the police while savings are generated to protect existing, much needed services. Through times of austerity, effective collaboration can be a valuable and meaningful response to ongoing resourcing challenges. Indeed Greater Manchester Police (GMP) are included in no less than five collaborative arrangements within the north west region.

I was pleased to see that the HMICFRS inspection report acknowledged the positive work of the North West Underwater Marine Unit. It would be challenging, both in capacity and capability, for local policing areas to provide this service individually. However, collectively the arrangement works well and continues to be reviewed regularly to ensure long-term benefits are realised.

The report makes one recommendation in relation to Chief Constables, which I will address below:

HMICFRS Recommendation - If forces haven't yet implemented an effective system to track the benefits of their collaborations, they should use the methodology created by the NPCC, the College of Policing and the Home Office.

Greater Manchester Police is included in a number of active collaborations across the north west. This includes arrangements covering Motorway Patrols, Underwater Search and Armed Police Training.

An Assistant Chief Constable from Cheshire Constabulary has been appointed as the North West ACC with responsibilities for these collaborations in addition to the Regional Organised Crime Unit (ROCU).

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

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I believe this will allow for greater strategic ownership across the collaboration portfolio in the north west region and ensure a consistent approach to future improvement and development.

In support of this work a North West collaboration action plan has been developed to monitor and progress the recommendations and areas for improvement as set out within the HMICFRS report. A senior officer has been identified for each action and will be responsible for driving the required improvements.

I would also like to make specific reference to the governance arrangements in respect of the North West Motorway Patrol Group. I can confirm that monthly strategic governance structures are now in place, chaired by the relevant ACC. In addition, a new Strategic Plan will provide further clarity on decision making arrangements and proposals for new regional management board meetings continue to be considered.

In addition, I would like to comment on the existing national structure of the ROCUs. Whilst I am pleased to see strong police to police collaboration in the north west in tackling serious and organised crime, I would like to see reforms around process and governance to provide that level of confidence and consistency across the police service. This should be reinforced with a long-term funding commitment from the government to develop this capability without impacting on local police resources.

Yours sincerely



Rt. Hon Baroness Beverley Hughes
Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester
Policing, Crime and Criminal Justice