

BEV HUGHES
DEPUTY MAYOR
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER

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

20th September 2021

Dear Home Secretary

SUBJECT: HMICFRS INSPECTION - HOW LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES USE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE

I write in response to the recent HMICFRS inspection on how law enforcement agencies use sensitive intelligence.

When gathered, shared and used correctly, sensitive intelligence can play a key role in preventing and tackling serious and organised crime. It is important, therefore, that relevant agencies are equipped, both with national led guidance and policies and with appropriate technology and systems to enable an efficient and effective response.

The report makes 14 recommendations, for response by the Home Office, National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC), or the National Crime Agency (NCA). I would support these recommendations made by HMICFRS which seek to improve understanding and consistency. In particular, I would like to comment on the first few recommendations as follows:

I agree strongly with recommendation 1 and the need to further define the term 'sensitive intelligence', to help narrow the field of focus and enable responsible agencies to work to an agreed definition.

The ethos embedded within recommendation 2 is also to be supported, for the establishment of an accreditation process for sensitive intelligence units. As work continues to professionalise other aspects of policing, this accreditation will ensure high standards can be set and monitored at regular intervals.

In respect of recommendation 3, and the introduction of standard operating procedures for managing sensitive intelligence, this is an aspect that officers within my own force have advocated for some time. The process of managing sensitive intelligence can only be enhanced through the production of a

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consistent and evidence led set of operating procedures. I look forward to reviewing the response from the NPCC in this regard.

I have spoken with senior leaders at Greater Manchester Police regarding local operational processes and am assured that the good practice highlighted by the review will be incorporated into the future planning and oversight of its intelligence functions.

Yours sincerely



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

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