

The Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London

Our ref:TP/VS

27 May 2021

Dear Home Secretary

RE: HMICFRS Inspections: Policing in the Pandemic (*published April 2021*).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these inspection reports, one of which relates to the pandemic and the second relates to the impact on custody during the pandemic. While the inspections are not specifically about Suffolk Constabulary, some of the recommendations identified fall to be addressed by Chief Constables. These are highlighted in the attached response from Suffolk Constabulary, along with the action being taken.

The inspection on custody is relevant to my role to provide an Independent Custody Visitors Scheme. Throughout the pandemic my office has worked with volunteers and custody staff to ensure safe practices. I have been reassured that the Test, Track and Trace process is being followed by the force and Independent Custody Visitors.

Independent Custody Visitors are aware of the changes from 17 May with regard to custody records whereby children and vulnerable adults should no longer receive remote legal advice in interviews. This must now be in person. Any other adults must give informed consent to receiving remote legal advice and this must be recorded in the custody record. This is routinely checked by Independent Custody Visitors.

I will continue to review progress against the recommendations through my oversight role in holding the Chief Constable to account.

Yours sincerely



Tim Passmore
Police and Crime Commissioner