

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

Our ref:TP/VS

19 April 2022

Dear Home Secretary

**RE: Joint Thematic Inspection of the police and CPS response to rape: Phase 2**

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this joint inspection. Suffolk Constabulary has provided an update on the three recommendations for the police to directly act upon, which is attached. The response from the Constabulary reflects the desire to work effectively with the CPS and criminal justice partners with respect to progressing cases of rape allegations.

Some of the issues outlined in the wider report, while not recommendations for the PCC, impact on the work of the PCC. In relation to Recommendation 3 our PCC looks forward to the results of the MOJ mapping exercise and we support the need for demand led provision with adequate funding in place to address this. This will hopefully also ensure transparency for the public in relation to what is funded centrally through the Rape Support Fund and the services locally commissioned by the PCC.

In relation to Recommendation 5, in our experience, having lead commissioners can be a useful point of national advocacy for victims in terms of challenge to national policy, but we would urge some caution around the level of bureaucracy caused to local services. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, and those service providers we commission, should ensure we are utilising our resources to best support local need. The model the government has adopted regarding lead commissioners can divert some of our limited capacity into feeding national workstreams and national data products, with limited feedback or learning which can be used locally.

I will, as part of my oversight role, monitor the activity to respond to the police recommendations, and continue to work with the MoJ to effectively support local victims of sexual violence.

Yours sincerely



Tim Passmore, Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk