

To: The Home Secretary  
Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

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14 August 2017

Dear Home Secretary and HMIC

***Response from David Munro, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the HMIC and HMCPSP Report - 'Living in fear – the police and CPS response to harassment and stalking'***

I would like to thank HMIC and HMCPSP for producing this report. Police and others are still learning how to deal with reports of harassment and stalking, crimes which have a considerable impact on the lives of victims. As the recommendations made in the report show, we all have much to learn. But in Surrey, I am confident that the OPCC and Surrey Police are aware of their responsibilities, are responding well to the recommendations made and are willing to learn.

Given the importance of this topic, I have scrutinised the Chief Constable of Surrey Police on the recommendations made in the report and the response from Surrey Police. He has provided me with a full report and has responded to the recommendations made as follows:

**Recommendation 8:** Chief Constables should stop the use of Police Information Notices and their equivalents immediately.

**Response:** Following an internal review Surrey Police were one of the first forces to cease using PIN notices in November 2016. The HMIC have used Surrey as a best practice example in their report. It is stated on page 45 that this move along with other activity, has led to, *“an increase in the use of risk assessments, there were better crime recording practices and more thorough investigations, and there had been an increase in the involvement of partner agencies to help safeguard victims and their families.”*

**Recommendation 9:** Chief Constables should ensure that officers are aware of, and use appropriately, the powers of entry and search of stalking. Chief Constables should also ensure that adequate records of these searches are compiled for audit and compliance purposes.

**Response:** Significant internal communications were put out in November 2016 highlighting the legislation relating to stalking including the power to search with a magistrates warrant under S2 stalking offences. This has also been added to a new force policy, the intranet knowledge base, mobile apps for frontline officers and departmental training. Training covering this area is being delivered to all officers through the NCALT system and to investigative departments through Paladin (a stalking charity). A system to

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capture these searches for audit will be actioned in response to this recommendation using existing forms and IT systems.

**Recommendation 10:** Chief Constables should work with criminal justice partners to identify what programmes are available to manage offenders convicted of harassment and stalking offences in their respective force areas. In the absence of such programmes, they should review whether interventions could and should be established.

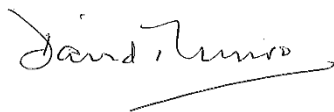
**Response:** In 2016, as part of a joint commission, Surrey Police began a pilot project across Surrey called 'Stepping Up'. Stepping Up enables adults who recognise they are using physical or emotional abuse within their relationships or use stalking behaviour to receive a tailored package of support. The Surrey against Domestic Abuse Partnership (SADA) has commissioned Kent, Surrey and Sussex Community Rehabilitation Company (KSS CRC) to deliver the domestic abuse intervention service, which aims to reduce offending to make survivors and their children feel safer. The perpetrator's current or ex-partner will be offered support from a dedicated link worker, who will work alongside specialist Domestic Abuse Outreach Services to help them make better choices for their family. Communications have been rolling out across the force and briefings being delivered to borough and custody management. A further review will be carried out of wider local and national services for managing stalking offenders (including the Hampshire Stalking Clinic, MAPPA and Surrey Probation) to identify opportunities to develop services in this area.

**Recommendation 11:** Chief Constables and CPS Area leads should monitor and ensure compliance with the National Stalking Protocol.

**Response:** The National Stalking Protocol (2014) is an agreement between CPS and ACPO as to how to successfully investigate and prosecute stalking offences. It focuses on early intervention and strict guidelines to maximise positive outcomes. In 2016 Surrey Police updated the force policy on stalking and harassment. This was completed in reference to the National Stalking Protocol and the 2009 College of Policing advice in the absence of any current APP guidance. Monitoring and auditing of cases files is planned and further work to ensure compliance in conjunction with the CPS will be commissioned.

As PCC I shall continue to scrutinise the force response to stalking and harassment through my regular scrutiny of Public Protection.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Munro', with a horizontal line underneath it.

**David Munro**  
Police and Crime Commissioner