



HERTFORDSHIRE

CONSTABULARY

T/Deputy Chief Constable

☎ Direct Line: 01707 354390

✉ E-mail: Alison.Roome-Gifford@herts.pnn.police.uk

06 February 2014

Mr David Lloyd
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hertfordshire
Harpenden Police Station
15 Vaughan Road
Harpenden
Hertfordshire
AL5 4GZ

Dear Commissioner

In response to crime recording, I share your concern that confidence in the reporting and recording of crime is crucial to ensuring confidence in policing more generally.

I am conscious that negative stories in relation to crime recording elsewhere have the potential to damage confidence locally.

Officers and staff do not join the Constabulary intent on failing to record and investigate crimes properly. 100% compliance with NCRS cannot be guaranteed but I believe that we have sufficient checks and balances in place to ensure accurate crime recording once the incident is reported.

The Constabulary has clearly defined responsibilities and expectations for crime data integrity that are communicated to staff. The National Crime Recording Standards are embedded in the day to the day to operational business of the force.

Acting with professionalism and integrity is at the core of the Constabulary's ethos and I set clear standards for ethical and professional recording of crime and I have a high level of confidence in our statistics.

Unethical decision-making is not endemic within the Constabulary. Mistakes are made but this is through inexperience, naivety or misunderstanding of the complexities of the NCRS.

Hertfordshire Constabulary has a robust auditing process by a dedicated internal audit team, which is a continuous process and the results reported to senior officers at monthly

Police Headquarters, Stanborough Road, Welwyn Garden City, Hertfordshire, AL8 6XF

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reviews. If mistakes are found they are highlighted and rectified. Any learning is picked up and fed into training programmes around NCRS compliance.

We employ a Force Crime Registrar (FCR) who reports to the Deputy Chief Constable, to ensure that the Home Office Counting Rules and the NCRS are upheld accurately and consistently. The FCR is the final arbiter for the audit process, the interpretation of the counting rules and detections. The FCR is here to ensure consistency in both the process and decision making within force.

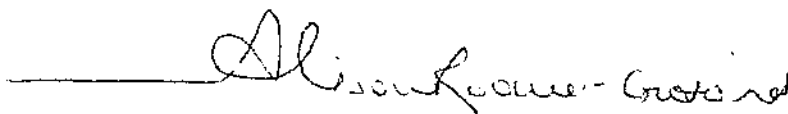
I acknowledge that there is concern about the divergence between police recorded crime figures and survey results, but the direction of travel for each has been downwards and in fact the latest set shows that the survey suggests a greater reduction than the police recorded crime.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will be undertaking a Data Integrity Inspection in Hertfordshire in March 2014 which will bring to bear rigorous external scrutiny in this critical area.

Accurate crime data is not only essential in holding police accountable for the work they do in the on-going fight against crime, but also it is vital in ensuring that I and the Chief Officer Team are able to ensure that our police officers and staff are deployed to the right place at the right time; and that victims of crime are provided with the support to which they are entitled.

I attach a copy of the NCRS Police, Crime and Data report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Alison Roome-Gifford". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal line that extends to the left.

Alison Roome-Gifford
T/Deputy Chief Constable