



**Philip Seccombe TD**  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
Warwickshire Office of the PCC  
3 Northgate Street  
Warwick  
Warwickshire  
CV34 4SP

Tel: 01926 412322  
Email: [OPCC@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:OPCC@warwickshire.pnn.police.uk)

Our Ref: - PCC19 04/03  
Your Ref: - Fraud: Time to Choose

24<sup>th</sup> May 2019

HMICFRS and HOME OFFICE  
[section55responses@homeoffice.gov.uk](mailto:section55responses@homeoffice.gov.uk)

Dear Inspector / Minister,

As the Police and Crime Commissioner for Warwickshire I am providing the following response to 'Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services' (HMICFRS) and the 'Secretary of State for the Home Office' in respect of the national thematic report 'Fraud: Time to Choose, published on the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2019. This is pursuant to my obligations under Section 55(1) of the Police Act 1996.

### **1. Local Policing Body's Comments**

I welcome the report and would like to convey my thanks to HMICFRS for its production and recommendations. The report expressed clear concerns over the priority fraud is given by government and police forces, but also expressed an understanding of why fraud may not be considered a priority for some organisations. It also identified that the current model of local investigations supported by national functions is the right one, but that the police need a much more coordinated national approach with clear roles and responsibilities, clear operating procedures and a commitment to provide resources for the long term.

I concur with the Inspectorate's observations and support the view that the current position should be allowed to prevail and that improvements must be made.

### **2. Comments from the Chief Constable**

The report contains a significant number of recommendations which are largely aimed at the NPCC Coordinator for Economic Crime. The two recommendations that are relevant to forces are captured below: -

- **Recommendation 2**

By 31 March 2020, the National Police Chiefs' Council Coordinator for Economic Crime and chief constables should ensure that forces have processes in place to accurately and efficiently report fraud outcomes to the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau.

- **Recommendation 9**

By 30 September 2019, chief constables should publish their force's policy for responding to and investigating allegations of fraud (in relation to both calls for service and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau disseminations for enforcement).

In summary the areas identified for improvement by the Chief Constable are: -

1. Improve the way their force uses the National Fraud Intelligence Bureau monthly victim lists to identify and support vulnerable victims and others who require additional support;
2. Ensure their forces improve the identification and mapping of organised crime groups in which the principal criminality is fraud;
3. Ensure that fraudsters are included among those considered for serious organised crime 'prevent' tactics, including by local strategic partnership boards and through integrated offender management processes;
4. Increase their force's use of ancillary orders against fraudsters; and
5. Ensure that their force complies with the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime when investigating fraud.

Warwickshire Police supports the recommendations contained within the report and work is already taking place under the leadership of ACC Geoff Wessell to look into the recommendations and other areas of improvement identified, albeit not formally recorded as actions by HMICFRS.

These will be placed on the HMICFRS tracker and will be overseen through the new Warwickshire Police governance process currently being developed in preparation for the termination of the Alliance with West Mercia Police in October 2019.

### **3. Any comments from the local policing body on the CC's comments.**

The Chief Constable is supportive of the report and the recommendations contained within and has provided his assurance that the recommendations will be implemented within the suggested timescales.

I will scrutinise the progress made by the force in achieving these recommendations and monitor the improvements made by Warwickshire Police in its management of fraud, holding to account the Chief Constable in the process.

This response will be published on the website of the Warwickshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) within the proscribed 56 day timeframe starting from the day on which the report was published.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Philp Secombe', written in a cursive style.

**Philp Secombe TD**

Warwickshire Police and Crime Commissioner