

## **RESPONSE OF THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF DEVON, CORNWALL AND THE ISLES OF SCILLY TO THE HMICFRS THEMATIC REPORT: *SHINING A LIGHT ON BETRAYAL: ABUSE OF POSITION FOR A SEXUAL PURPOSE***

### **Chief Constable's comments**

The Force welcomes the HMICFRS continued focus on this important area, which remains a priority in the Force. Much of that recommended by the HMICFRS will be acted upon by the Force following the setting of new standards, for example on information sharing on transferring forces by the NPCC Lead for Vetting and the College of Policing.

The Force has increased its counter corruption capability and continues to work closely with the HMICFRS to share its progress against the recommendations set.

Whilst we remain confident the vast majority of police officers and police staff will always act appropriately and ethically, we are ensuring we have the capacity to take swift, appropriate action when required.

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### **Police & Crime Commissioner's comments**

Effective policing relies on maintaining the confidence of the public. When a police officer or other person in authority abuses this position, it can have a serious impact on the public support. Thankfully, such occurrences are rare.

It is important that the police display the highest standards both individually and collectively as a police Force. Under the leadership of the Chief Constable, Devon and Cornwall Police sets clear expectations upon all police officers and staff to the highest standards of professional behaviour and adherence to the Code of Ethics.

Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly is a large urban, rural and coastal force with remote police stations and less supervision than more compact areas. The Force works hard to embed and maintain a consistent culture and the right ethical environment for its staff. Any deviations from this approach are dealt with robustly.

Our vetting is in line with the national standards.

The Force have completed a counter-corruption strategic assessment which uses a variety of information sources and which will drive changes identified.

The Force has adopted the National Police Chiefs Council strategy to tackle officers and staff who abuse their position for a sexual purpose. Supervisors receive training on the warning signs and the Force has an internal reporting line to encourage reporting.

The Force takes robust action against those found to be abusing their position.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alison Hernandez', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Alison Hernandez**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner**  
**Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly**  
**26 November 2019**