

1 August 2023

Ref: AB/KW/VLR

The Home Secretary  
His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services

Dear Home Secretary and HMICFRS

**Response from Dr Alan Billings, Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire to the HMICFRS Report: An inspection of how effective police forces are in the deployment of firearms.**

I welcome the report and findings of this National Thematic Inspection on an important and what is a high-risk area of policing.

The report provides a generally positive picture for this aspect of policing and so gives me some additional assurance over and above that which I seek from South Yorkshire Police locally.

There are some welcome positive findings including the fact that firearms officers are well trained with an effective national training governance structure in place. Positive too is the finding that officers are well equipped and have good access to specialist resources if needed (for example counter-terrorism specialists).

The areas for improvement do mirror some of the areas of focus more widely than firearms deployment locally in South Yorkshire. This means that these areas are already being considered as part of our strategic planning and budgeting process with South Yorkshire Police. It also means that I am holding to account and seeking assurance from the police in these same areas through my internal meetings with the force, through the Independent Ethics Panel that I convene and publicly through my Public Accountability Board meetings. These include the quality and availability of supervision, supervisor training and continuous professional development, recruitment and selection processes and resource and demand management.

In addition, the recommendations for all Chief Constables detailed in the report have been accepted by my Chief Constable and as PCC I have clear oversight of the implementation of these recommendations and updates from lead police officers to whom each of the recommendations have been allocated for progression.

All good wishes



Dr Alan Billings  
South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner