

17 October 2023

Ref: AB/KW/VLR

To: 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: A report into the effectiveness of vetting arrangements in South Yorkshire Police.

I am pleased to receive this timely report focussing on an area of policing that is clearly of public concern nationally as well as locally as a result of recent high-profile cases of vetting failures in some policing areas.

I can gain some assurance as to the arrangements in South Yorkshire given the adequate rating, however there are some areas that need continued focus.

Vetting is something that my Independent Ethics Panel (IEP) focus on. The Panel's work programme includes in depth scrutiny of the work of the vetting unit, with one of the panel members taking the lead for this area of policing. Work includes liaising with officers in the vetting unit and sampling individual cases to check on decision making and ensuring that correct vetting processes and procedures are being followed. Panel findings so far have provided me with additional assurance that vetting is being undertaken in line with policy and procedure in order to keep the public safe.

There are no specific recommendations to the force made in the report, however I note the area of improvement focussing on the correct levels of vetting. I know that South Yorkshire Police is committed to making further improvements in line with HMICFRS's suggestions. I will ask the IEP to monitor and provide assurance on progress over the coming months.

All good wishes



Dr Alan Billings
South Yorkshire Police & Crime Commissioner