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Rt Hon Theresa May MP Home Secretary 2 Marsham Street London SW1P 4DF

27 July 2015

Dear Home Secretary,

As required within Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996, I write in response to the inspection undertaken by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, "Online and on the edge: Real risks in a virtual world".

I am satisfied with the progress that the Force is making in respect of Child Sexual Exploitation. The Force has created a Digital Communications and Cyber Crime Unit which combines collective force knowledge and investigative assets relating to digital media and cyber-crime. The Unit have been asked to provide their expertise and have assisted other forces in this field.

I am aware that the HMIC Child Protection inspection report identified delays in progressing investigations in around 40% of cases examined. I welcome the Force's decision to increase the number of detectives in the Protecting Vulnerable People Unit, in response to the substantial increase in workload. The Chief Constable has assured me that the Force maintain a high level of scrutiny of all sexual offences, including child abuse cases, at Force Performance meetings.

I will continue to apply a high level of scrutiny to this area at Policing Accountability Board and will monitor the Force's progress against the recommendations made in the report.

A copy of this response is published on my website.

Yours sincerely,

Christopher Salmon

Police and Crime Commissioner

Christopher Salmon

Cc: Wendy Williams

HM Inspector of Constabulary, Wales and Western Region