Rt Hon Priti Patel MP

Home Secretary

2 Marsham Street

London

SW1P 4DF

20th July 2021

**Re: Policing domestic abuse during the pandemic**

Dear Home Secretary

I write with regard to the above-mentioned report, which is welcomed by myself and Chief Constable Claire Parmenter. We welcome the external scrutiny provided by HMICFRS and are pleased to see that the review has identified that policing recognised the risks to those who felt trapped in their homes with their abusers during the national and regional restrictions that were implemented throughout the Covid-19 Pandemic. There is little doubt that these restrictions have put some victims of domestic abuse at greater risk.

Unfortunately, we have continued to see cases of domestic violence occur during the pandemic and victims need help now more than ever. The Chief Constable has been keen to ensure that there has been a collaborative response with our partner agencies in supporting victims of domestic abuse. As PCC I have also invited specialist organisations to bid for additional funding to ensure that the most vulnerable in our communities receive the support they need.

In relation to the three recommendations that HMICFRS have generated for Forces from the aforementioned review, the Chief Constable has confirmed that a Detective Chief Inspector has been assigned as the organisational owner for implementing the three recommendations across the Force and is supported by and reports into the Strategic Vulnerability Board. The recommendations also form part of the Force’s existing HMICFRS governance structure against which progress and performance is regularly scrutinised by the T/Deputy Chief Constable.

The detailed work will align with an ongoing review of end to end crime within the Force, including the work of the Vulnerability Desk and Secondary Risk Assessment Unit who deal specifically with victims of domestic abuse. These officers are in daily contact with IDVAs and other specialist providers and ensure victims are appropriately risk managed through daily discussions and MARAC processes.

This inspection is timely and aligns with recent scrutiny undertaken by my office into use of outcomes, victim withdrawal and provision of service to victims. It is vital that both the Force and funded providers re delivering the best possible service to protect and support domestic abuse victims and their families.

I trust that the above provides reassurance regarding the commitment of the Force to address the recommendations. I will of course be seeking ongoing progress updates from Chief Constable Parmenter and her senior management team to enable me to fulfil my ongoing scrutiny of this area of work in Dyfed Powys.

A copy of this response is available on my [website](http://www.dyfedpowys-pcc.org.uk/en/accountability-and-transparency/force-performance/hmic/).

Yours sincerely



**Dafydd Llywelyn**

**Police & Crime Commissioner**

Cc: HMI Wendy Williams

 Chief Constable Claire Parmenter