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Date: 10th April 2014

Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
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Dear Home Secretary,

As required within Section 55(5) of the Police Act 1996, I am required to comment on reports published by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC).

I write in respect to the recently published findings of the HMIC report entitled, "*Everyone's business: Improving the police response to domestic abuse*".

I fully support the report's recommendations in respect of improving the way the police identify, deal with, and offer support to victims of domestic violence. With Dyfed-Powys, we have already taken some steps to improve how domestic abuse is dealt with. Upon the take up office, I raised concerns with the levels of police cautions applied. This in turn led to a change in force policy that now only allows cautions to be applied to incidents of domestic violence in closely defined circumstances.

The message from the report is stark and concerning for victims. We clearly need to do more to encourage the reporting of domestic abuse and support victims through the criminal justice process. To this end, I am looking at how I can use my commissioning powers to promote reporting, and further understand local needs of domestic abuse victims through the commissioning of a dedicate survey. I'm also reviewing how we can offer victims a greater level of support through working better with voluntary and community groups."

Work is already underway within the force to take forward the recommendations detailed within the report. I will be scrutinising these developments closely over the coming months.

A copy of this response is published on my website.

Christopher Salmon
Police and Crime Commissioner

Cc: Drusilla Sharpling
HM Inspector of Constabulary
Wales and Western Region