

ANDY BURNHAM

**MAYOR OF
GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Rt Hon Amber Rudd MP,
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

30th August 2017

Dear Home Secretary

SUBJECT: Living in fear – the police and CPS response to harassment and stalking - A joint inspection by HMIC and HMCPSI – July 2017

I write in response to the above report that was published in July.

The report is both interesting and timely and highlights some key areas of concern around current practice in the recording of harassment and stalking crimes and the assessment of victims' needs. I share these concerns and support fully all the recommendations relevant to the police service. I am now working with Greater Manchester Police (GMP) to review the recommendations and, where necessary, implement effective change.

As the report found, the use of Police Information Notices (PINs) is too common and is not an appropriate outcome to protect the victim. The need to stop the use of PINs in Greater Manchester is acknowledged and work is currently underway to consider the options to remove this process whilst ensuring that officers are aware of how to effectively deal with such crimes moving forward.

This awareness raising will form part of a wider training plan for officers around stalking and harassment legislation, highlighting the powers that currently exist to support such investigations. A key element of this will inform officers of the power of entry and search to gain information and evidence. This is a positive action that GMP has not fully utilized previously, but which will be taken forward locally and accompanied by robust processes to manage records relating to the use of this power.

GMP's Assistant Chief Constable, Garry Shewan, is the national lead for stalking and harassment and, following this report, will review the stalking protocol with the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS). Once the protocol has been reviewed and updated, the GMP and CPS leads will ensure compliance with the protocol moving forward.

The report also made recommendations about the need for Criminal Justice agencies to work collaboratively to identify what programmes are available to manage offenders convicted of harassment and stalking offences. Whilst there are a number of programmes available in Greater Manchester for males convicted of domestic violence offences, there are currently no known perpetrator programmes available in relation to stalking and harassment locally. The resulting

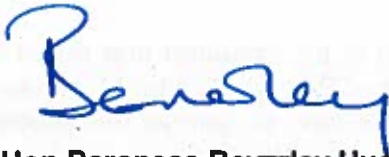
changes from the Transforming Rehabilitation programme have increased the complexity of developing behaviour change programmes, particularly as services managed through 'rate card' processes can lead to uncertainty as to who is responsible for driving, designing and commissioning such schemes.

In order to expedite this work locally, I am supporting the development of a task and finish working group that will review the data and devise some options for positive action. However, I would also like to see consideration given to the development of national standards, in conjunction with the relevant health bodies, for stalking and harassment behaviour change programmes where domestic abuse is not a feature.

From a victim's perspective, I am in the final stages of commissioning a Greater Manchester Victim Services Assessment and Referral Service, where stalking and harassment victims are able to receive independent support. As part of these new developments, Victim Services Co-coordinators will be based on each of the 10 local divisions and will help quality assure victim based processes and systems to ensure frontline officers recognize and respond to victims needs effectively. Commissioning options are also being developed for a Greater Manchester wide target hardening support which will include a package for victims of stalking and harassment.

Finally, I have recently received the findings of an independent review of stalking and harassment processes in Greater Manchester and will ensure any recommendations from these reports are brought together.

Yours sincerely,



Rt Hon Baroness Beverley Hughes
Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester
Police, Crime and Criminal Justice