



The Rt Hon Priti Patel  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Via email

26<sup>th</sup> July 2019

### **HMICFRS report 'Fraud: Time to Choose'**

Dear Home Secretary,

I welcome the recent HMICFRS report 'Fraud: Time to Choose' which highlights both the growing demand being put on policing and the need for us to improve our response to it.

As the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Northamptonshire, I have been very clear that I want to make our county a hostile environment for those who wish to commit crime. The complex and often international nature of many fraud offences often means that officers struggle to meet the expectations of victims who understandably feel vulnerable and upset and are seeking some form of redress.

In the East Midlands, the Regional Organised Crime Unit (EMSOU – ROCU) supports investigations into people, drugs and firearms trafficking, cyber-crime, fraud and money laundering, as well as prison corruption. This important team also works closely with our Fraud and Financial Investigation team and they have a strong and positive working relationship.

As PFCC, I receive a great deal of correspondence from victims of fraud and their experiences of reporting it and the subsequent investigations. This has given me a deep insight into this important area of policing and the need to improve the service given to victims.

With this in mind, I have taken some positive action to support the force in dealing with cyber-enabled crime such as establishing the county's first cyber security forum. This new body is a network of IT directors, security managers and cyber specialists who meet every month to discuss current and emerging threats and trends in cyber-crime.

Thanks to the investment I have made in this area, the force now has the benefits of the collective knowledge and experience of the county's top IT experts and has also led to the development of 'cyber specials' who are supporting the force deal with this ever evolving type of crime.

In addition to this, I have also established the Northamptonshire Safer Communities Fund. This fund provides grants of between £3,000 and £10,000 for initiatives that support the aims of my Police and Crime Plan, including tackling online theft and fraud.

One successful scheme that I have supported so far is helping carer raising awareness of crime and fraud amongst older people. This fund has generated a great deal of interest and I am hopeful that similar schemes can be supported across the county in the future.

I will continue to work closely with the Chief Constable, the College of Policing and other partners to support the development of the Force's approach to dealing with Fraud. As part of the my Accountability Board rolling schedule of assurance, recommendation nine and the suggested areas of improvement as set out in the report will be incorporated and tracked accordingly.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Stephen Mold". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial 'S' and 'M'.

Stephen Mold  
Northamptonshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner

c.c. Sir Thomas Winsor