

By email:  
[ian@belchamber.net](mailto:ian@belchamber.net)

24 October 2019

Dear Mr. Belchamber,

### **COMPLAINT: DORSET PEEL REPORT**

Thank you for your email dated 29 September in which you raise concerns about our recent inspection of Dorset Police.

2. Inspection staff from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) visit all 43 forces in England and Wales to gather information for its PEEL assessments in order to be able to report upon police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy. As part of those inspections they speak to police officers and staff, hold focus groups and interviews with partner agencies and other interested parties, carry out document reviews and collect data.
3. Inspection activity takes place throughout the year. Findings are thoroughly analysed, carefully moderated and then published. The inspectorate meticulously triangulates the evidence on which it makes decisions and is not selective about the information that it reports to the public. Our approach has been developed in close consultation with external reference groups which include representatives from the Home Office, College of Policing, academia and special interest groups. All graded judgments go through an extensive series of internal checks and challenges. Further information on inspection methodology, the criteria against which performance is assessed and question sets are available on our website.
4. The agency responsible for reporting on complaints performance is the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) which publishes national statistics annually. The IOPC website is available via the following link: <https://policeconduct.gov.uk/>.
5. In our 2018/19 Integrated PEEL inspections (IPA) we did not examine public complaints made against police. The specific areas that featured within the legitimacy component of this year's inspections included the use of police powers, such as stop and search and use of force, and workforce behaviour, including vetting and counter-corruption. I'm sure you will agree that these are important features of force performance that merit our scrutiny.
6. It is not possible to inspect every facet of police performance every year. This year's IPA inspections did not review Roads Policing. You may, however, be pleased to know that a more in-depth inspection of Roads Policing provision is shortly to commence in a few, but not all, forces in the country. Such inspections are referred to as 'thematics' and their specialist nature ensures that we conduct an in-depth evaluation of performance in that area.

7. Dorset Police is to be visited during the forthcoming Roads Policing inspection and I will ensure that the points you have raised on this particular subject will be passed to the person leading that activity. The force will also undergo the scrutiny of a crime data integrity inspection, the results of which will be published on our website.

8. I note that you cite media reports as the basis for some of your challenge. You will no doubt understand that the inspectorate does not include such material within its evidence-gathering activities, nor does it comment upon individual stories in the media, and I will not do so here. That said, the information you have provided will be passed to the Force Liaison Lead for Dorset Police so that it can be factored in to their regular interactions with the force.

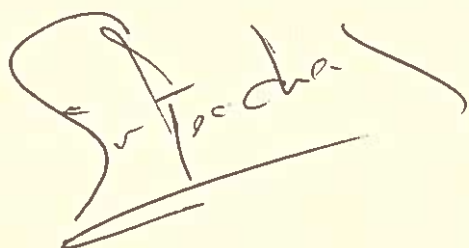
9. HMICFRS is an independent inspectorate defined under statute and is responsible for inspecting police forces' efficiency and effectiveness in providing policing. The inspectorate has no mandate to deal with individual complaints about a force or its personnel. Responsibility for dealing with the matters you raise remains with Dorset Police.

10. You may also wish to contact the police and crime commissioner (PCC) for Dorset, Martyn Underhill, who has a statutory duty and electoral mandate to hold the chief constable to account on behalf of the public. It is important for me to add here that the inspectorate does not inspect PCCs. You may have noticed that such information is not featured within our assessments.

11. For more serious matters, the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) may investigate. More information about how complaints are handled by the IOPC is available on its website and I have already provided you with the link to the website.

12. Finally, if you are interested in assisting us further with improving our reports, you may like to take part in the survey that is offered on our website at [www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs](http://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs). The closing date for this is 25 October 2019 and we would really appreciate your views.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Simon Peachey', with a long horizontal line underneath it.

**Simon Peachey**

Chief Operating Officer

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services