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West Midlands Police and Crime Panel

September 16, 2016

Dear Sean,

I'd like to thank you and the panel for your scrutiny of my Annual Report 2015/16. Your oversight and input has been invaluable.

I welcome the panel's suggestions as to how the Annual Report can be improved and have carefully considered your suggestions.

The performance statistics will be measured year on year in future Annual Reports so we can monitor and track crime trends, such as whether the recent rise in burglary is temporary or more permanent. This will be possible because the new Police and Crime Plan will cover my whole term of office. What is important to remember however is that crime across the country is rising in general but here in the West Midlands that increase is half the national average. For more information on this, visit our website [here](#).

When it comes to how our social media presence or custody visitors help with our work with the public, hopefully paragraphs such as *"The office's social media activity is part of the Commissioner's duty to consult, giving people notice of, and allowing them to comment on, any decisions that may affect them"*, *"Our enhanced Twitter engagement has resulted in schools visits and meetings between the Commissioner and members of the public"* and *"There are now more than 100 custody visitors in the West Midlands, giving up their free time to ensure those held in police cells are treated appropriately. There is a team for each LPU and the volunteers spend hours independently reviewing custody safeguarding for both detainees and staff"* go some way to demonstrating that.

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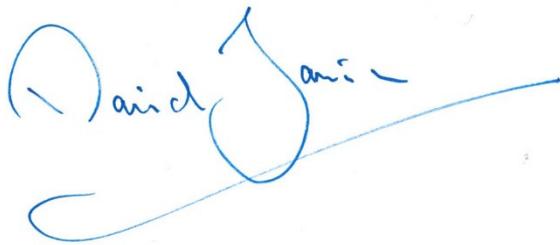
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In regards to your point about more 'out-of-hours' custody visiting, we are always looking to broaden and improve the service on offer and will look into this, while always bearing in mind this is a service provided by volunteers and frequent visits in the early hours may not always be possible or practical. In reference to the under-five-minutes visits, we find that when there are no issues to be raised in custody, a visit of this timeframe is sufficient, although I will continue to monitor this. Finally, I am sure you join me in being hugely impressed and grateful for the excellent work our custody visitors undertake.

In terms of the suggestion of occasional poor preparation of cases for prosecution by the police that was raised, I intend to take a more leading role in this and will be working with the police to ensure a more efficient service, as stated in my new Police and Crime Plan. This is something I will be monitoring closely.

In the coming weeks, I will publish my final Annual Report. I am grateful for the panel's suggestions and assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David Jamieson". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a long, horizontal blue line that extends across the width of the signature.

David Jamieson

Police and Crime Commissioner

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