



## Police and Crime Commissioner Response to HMICFRS report on:

### Fraud: Time to Choose - An inspection of the police response to fraud

Published April 2019

<https://www.justiceinspectorates.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/fraud-time-to-choose-an-inspection-of-the-police-response-to-fraud.pdf>

This report, published at the beginning of April 2019, puts forward 16 national strategic recommendations involving other external bodies, with one specific recommendation focused at chief constables (*Recommendation 9 - "By 30 September 2019, chief constables should publish their force's policy for responding to and investigating allegations of fraud (in relation to both calls for service and National Fraud Intelligence Bureau disseminations for enforcement")*).

At the present time, Thames Valley's Economic Crime Unit are writing an overarching fraud policy which will include revised priorities, and be cognisant of other national strategic policies. I will consider the force's initial response to the HMICFRS Fraud report at my forthcoming public facing meeting on 25 July 2019, details of which will be subsequently published online.

In the interim, however, I am also reassured of other on-going force activities - such as Operation Signature - which complement the new fraud policy. This overarching safeguarding approach is a review of victim data provided by the National Fraud Investigation Bureau to improve the identification of vulnerability, provide an enhanced response, and sign-post to support services.

My own office (OPCC), is undertaking an independent internal audit to provide assurance on the effectiveness of the governance, risk management and control arrangements that are in place within the Fraud Investigation and Response process. Findings of this audit will be published in due course.

5 July 2019