

An Inspection of Undercover Policing in England and Wales October 2014

Background

Widespread concern about undercover policing for a number of years has driven the need for this inspection. It considers the effectiveness of the arrangements in place in all police forces, to carry out, manage and scrutinise undercover operations. The inspection covered all national and regional policing units, and the National Crime Agency.

This report is a national thematic it does not include reference to Devon and Cornwall and a separate Force report has not been published.

Police & Crime Commissioners Response

I welcome the report describing the results of Her Majesty of Inspectorates inspection of the effectiveness of the arrangements in place to carry out, manage and scrutinise undercover operations.

Undercover policing is an important tactic to help officers bring dangerous criminals to justice and keep communities safe. Used correctly and lawfully it is an extremely powerful tool and is effective in the obtaining of evidence and the identification / arrest of offenders.

Devon and Cornwall Police fully supports the use of undercover operations to effectively assist in the prevention and detection of crime.

I was pleased to see that overall, undercover police officers carry out their roles professionally and with great courage, and I am confident that Devon and Cornwall adheres to this standard.

HMIC made 49 recommendations that are either generic to all forces or applicable to national organisations for example; the National Undercover Working Group and the College of Policing.

I will work with the Chief Constable to ensure that all of the report recommendations relevant to Devon and Cornwall are implemented locally and scrutinised by my office.