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Dear Colleague,

Putting the pride back into Cleveland Police

Today is a momentous day for both Cleveland Police and the wider Cleveland communities.

I am immensely proud to be able to inform you personally that the Chief Inspector of His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) has outlined his assessment in addressing the concerns raised by HMICFRS in 2019 and he has confirmed that Cleveland Police have been removed from national oversight arrangements (special measures) from today.

In 2019, the Force was placed into special measures after becoming the only force in the country to be rated inadequate in all six pillars of its inspection.

Back in May 2021, the Force was still struggling to gain traction in improving its causes of concern, despite significant efforts by many of the officers and staff within it. As the incoming PCC, I saw it as my duty to restore public confidence and pride in Cleveland Police by providing a clear strategic direction, increased accountability and greater support for the hard-working teams that form our organisation.

Leadership and resourcing were key issues, and, in a tough economic environment, I must thank the public of Cleveland for their support through precept funding, which has allowed me to provide the Chief Constable with additional resources across all areas of the Force.

My appointment of new Chief Constable Mark Webster, in April 2022 gave the Force a renewed focus, delivering against all priorities set out in my police and crime plan. His outstanding leadership and unwavering dedication are some of the key reasons the Force is in this positive position today.

The establishment of his new leadership team has been instrumental in introducing a local policing model – providing a much-improved service for our victims and communities, and a better working environment for the dedicated officers and staff in Cleveland Police.

Whilst the Chief Constable, his officers, staff, and volunteers can rightly take enormous pride in this announcement today, I also want to thank everyone in my team in the OPCC. Together we have reset and reformed every aspect of our office – including strengthening

our scrutiny and accountability programme and implementing a unique independent complaints procedure which is set to be one of the best in the country.

Our Violence Reduction Unit (CURV) has got off to a flying start, my online policing app (COPA) is fundamentally changing how people provide additional information to their police force and we've secured millions in additional grant funding to support Cleveland Police through improving community safety, support victims and address the root causes of crime and anti-social behaviour.

This is a very good day for all of us who passionately believe in our area and who want to make it the success it deserves to be. This is the foundation our Force needs to move forward, and it allows us to put the past firmly behind us.

As we build on these foundations, I can assure you that this is just the start of even greater things to come. I am determined to see Cleveland Police as one of the best performing forces in the country, a beacon for excellence, and best practice. Cleveland will be a place where residents and businesses feel safe, and they will be secure in the knowledge that their force is one they can rely on and can be proud of.

Yours sincerely,

Steve Turner

Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner