



4 October 2022

**POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER RESPONSE TO THE HMICFRS PEEL  
SPOTLIGHT REPORT: 'THE POLICE RESPONSE TO BURGLARY, ROBBERY  
AND OTHER ACQUISITIVE CRIME: FINDING TIME FOR CRIME'**

This report considers how forces are responding to Serious Acquisitive Crime, which includes offences such as burglary, robbery and theft. These are crimes of devastating impact and the harm caused cannot be underestimated. I am pleased to note evidence of innovative practices being implemented to tackle crime reduction and prevention. However, I concur with the concluding remarks of the report that the basics of high-quality investigation and victim service are imperative.

As Police and Crime Commissioner, the priorities within my Police & Crime Plan reflect the key themes outlined in this report – a focus on crime reduction and victim service. Therefore, I support the two recommendations made to better align with national guidance and improve investigative standards and supervision. South Wales Police were assessed in the HMICFRS PEEL inspection 2021/22 as having a particular strength in preventing and investigating crimes. I will ensure oversight in the continued performance in this area and provide scrutiny in terms of dedication towards victim service and bringing offenders to justice. It is important that people feel safe in their homes and communities and have trust and confidence in policing.

Furthermore, I am committed to working towards a whole-system approach alongside the Chief Constable and our local and regional partners. Our work in tackling the root causes of crime and aggravating factors of reoffending within our communities has seen a significant investment of resources and tangible results in reducing offending and preventing crime.

## Rt Hon Alun Michael JP OStJ FRSA

Comisiynydd yr Heddlu a Throseddu De Cymru  
Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales



The Chief Constable summarises his views on the report as follows:

*‘South Wales Police acknowledges the findings and recommendations made within the report and is fully committed to improving its response to burglary, robbery and theft. The force has recently appointed a dedicated Serious Acquisitive Crime strategic lead who will ensure continued focus and scrutiny in this important area and oversee the implementation of the recommendations locally. This additional focus seeks to build on the foundations of our Programme Synergy work-stream, that aims to enhance our investigative capability and improve our investigative outcomes. This we feel is already evidenced in South Wales Police having the highest outcome rate nationally for residential burglary. Our focus now turns to learning from the report and using its content to continue to improve the service to our communities in other areas of acquisitive crime.’*

I am grateful for the Chief Constable’s comments and the commitment to working towards the recommendations in the report. It is clear that any recommendations that involve process improvement for investigation standards and service for victims of Serious Acquisitive Crime are necessary and welcomed. I will use my Scrutiny & Accountability Board to track progress against this matter.

**Rt Hon Alun Michael**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for South Wales**