

Lord Bew
Committee on Standards in Public Life
Room GC.07
1 Horse Guards Road
London
SW1A 2HQ

[sent by email]

13 September 2018

Dear Lord Bew,

Intimidation in Public Life Review

Thank you for your letter concerning the Committee's recommendations from its review of intimidation in public life. You will recall in my letter of 8 January I explained that Assistant Commissioner Mark Rowley had agreed to lead on addressing the committee's recommendations in his capacity as the national lead for Parliamentary and Diplomatic Protection. Before his retirement, AC Rowley passed the matter to Commander Adrian Usher of the Metropolitan Police, who leads the Parliamentary Liaison and Investigation Team. I have recently received the following updates from Commander Usher in relation to the two recommendations made to the NPCC:

- 1. The National Police Chiefs Council should ensure that local police forces have sufficient training to enable them to effectively investigate offences committed through social media. Local police forces should be able to access advice and guidance on the context in which MPs and Parliamentary candidates work.**

All Police forces have access to the "Researching, Identifying and Tracing Electronic Suspects" training course, provided by the College of Policing. The course content is current. Local Police forces receive



quarterly reports from the Parliamentary Liaison and Investigation Team (PLaIT), the first of which was circulated in April 2018. Local forces continue to receive advice and guidance on the context in which MPs and the Parliamentary candidates work by the establishment of a designated Single Point of Contact (SPOC) in each force area with a direct link to PLaIT team.

2. The National Police Chiefs Council, working with the Crown Prosecution Service and the College of Policing, should produce accessible guidance for Parliamentary candidates giving clear advice on behaviour they may experience during a campaign which is likely to constitute a criminal offence.

The NPCC, CPS, Parliamentary Security Department, Electoral Commission and the CPNI have so far had two meetings to discuss the content of the guide and the input of each partner. Drafting sessions comprising a smaller group (NPCC and College of Policing) were held on 31 August and 7 September. A first draft of the guide will be circulated to the wider group and the media team for consultation before publication.

You will no doubt welcome further updates on these recommendations as progress continues. I would invite you to again contact me directly, or alternatively please direct any queries to Commander Usher at New Scotland Yard, 1-8 Richmond Terrace, London, SW1A 2NJ. I know his team remain committed to addressing the important issues identified by your review.

Yours Sincerely,



Chief Constable Sara Thornton CBE QPM
Chair, National Police Chiefs' Council