



# Home Office

Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF  
[www.homeoffice.gov.uk](http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk)

10 January 2014

Dear Chief Constable,

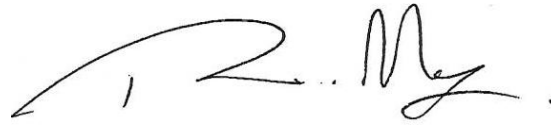
## **RECORDING OF CRIME FIGURES**

The evidence clearly shows that police reform is working and crime is falling. Recorded crime has fallen by more than ten per cent since June 2010, and the independent Crime Survey for England and Wales shows crime at its lowest level since the survey began in 1981. As I have said numerous times, you and your officers should take huge credit for that achievement.

We can therefore be sure that crime is falling, but it is vital that recorded crime statistics are as robust as they can possibly be. I am sure you will be aware of the recent allegations that some officers, in some forces, are not recording crime correctly or to agreed standards. I am sure you are also aware of the Public Administration Select Committee's inquiry into the accuracy of crime statistics. While many of the allegations we have heard relate to historical practices, it is vital that everybody in policing does what they can to ensure that crimes are recorded accurately and honestly.

Following last year's inspection of crime recording in Kent, which was instigated by the local Police and Crime Commissioner, I approved proposals put forward by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary to assess the quality of crime recording in every force. HMIC will publish an update in April and a full report in Autumn. In the meantime, I would like every Chief Constable in the country to make sure that crime recording in your force is as accurate as possible, and any suspicion that officers are misrecording crime figures is investigated.

I am copying this letter to Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary, Police and Crime Commissioners and the Chief Executive Officer of the College of Policing.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. May', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the left.

**The Rt. Hon Theresa May MP**