

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER

Minister's Office Block B,
Castle Buildings
Stormont Estate
Ballymiscaw
Belfast
BT4 3SG
Tel: 028 9076 5725
DOJ.MinistersOffice@justice-ni.gov.uk

Matt Parr CB
HMICFRS
Waterside Court
471 Kirkstall Road
LEEDS
LS4 2QB

Our ref: CORR-0357-2021

2 April 2021

Dear Matt,

HMICFRS EFFICIENCY AND EFFECTIVENESS INSPECTION 2020-21

I am writing to invite HMICFRS to undertake the 2020-21 inspection of the efficiency and effectiveness of the PSNI, in line with the requirements of the Police (Northern Ireland) Act 1998.

I have received a request from the Northern Ireland Policing Board that this inspection should take the form of “a thematic inspection into the PSNI’s handling of the funeral of Mr Bobby Storey – its operational decision making, application of the law in the context of the COVID regulations, and review the PSNI’s policy and procedures around police engagement with event organisers and others, and consistency of approach given the findings of the Public Prosecution Service (PPS) statement of 30 March 2021”.

Given this context, the inspection should:

- assess whether the approach taken by the PSNI to the events surrounding the funeral of Mr Bobby Storey was within the parameters of national policing standards, in the context of COVID-19 health protection regulations; and
- offer relevant learning to assist in policing of COVID restrictions through the ‘four Es’ approach in coming months.

FROM THE OFFICE OF THE JUSTICE MINISTER

As you are no doubt aware, there is a high level of public and political interest in the events in question. In the interests of maintaining public confidence in policing in Northern Ireland, therefore, I would ask you to complete the inspection by no later than 14 May.

I understand that the inspection will be delivered at a maximum cost of £175,000, following discussions earlier this year with my officials on the overall budget for this year's inspection.

I am content to commission the 2020-21 inspection on this basis, and should be grateful if your team would proceed accordingly.

This letter has been copied to the Chair and Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Policing Board and to the Chief Constable of the PSNI.

Yours sincerely,

NAOMI LONG MLA
Minister of Justice

cc. Doug Garrett, Chair of the Northern Ireland Policing Board
Amanda Stewart, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Policing Board
Simon Byrne, Chief Constable

Please ensure that you quote our reference number in any future related correspondence.