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Home Secretary

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Sir Thomas Winsor
Her Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary
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14 March 2021

Dear Sir Tom,

Following the tragic killing of Sarah Everard and the unofficial vigil held in her memory on Clapham Common on Saturday 13 March, under powers in Police Act 1996, section 54(2B) I wish to commission HMICFRS to undertake a bespoke thematic inspection into the Metropolitan Police Service's handling of this event – its operational decision-making, application of the law in the context of the COVID regulations and its engagement with those at Saturday's event and the wider public.

I would be most grateful if this could be prioritised within your current programme and for you to report your findings within two weeks. My officials will be in touch to agree the details but please advise an alternative date, should this present a problem.

I am grateful for your recent report on policing protests and the lessons that brought to our collective attention but would like a more specific and detailed look at these recent events.

I am also keen that your 2021/22 inspection programme has sufficient flexibility to cover relevant priorities around Violence against Women and Girls and my officials will be in touch separately on this matter.

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP