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Mr Paul Cain  
Independent Member on the  
Police and Crime Panel  
Borough Hall  
Cauldwell Street  
Bedford MK42 9AP



19<sup>th</sup> December 2013

Dear Paul

Thank you, as Chair of the Task and Finish Group, for providing me with the Review of the Estates Strategy of Bedfordshire Police report which sets out the findings of the Group and the recommendations of the Panel.

The purpose of the Task and Finish Group was to undertake a scrutiny role to inform the decisions I will be taking in the coming months that impact on the Police Estates and, as importantly, the public's access to the police. I am pleased that you received the cooperation of my supporting officers thereby enabling you to complete this comprehensive review.

At my Executive Board meeting on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> December I considered a draft Estates Action Plan and first draft of a Public Accessibility Strategy. In light of the responses to the public consultation and the report you have provided I have given a clear steer on the Action Plan and draft Public Access Strategy presented. This is to ensure that when I consider this at the February Executive Board, along with the implications on the Medium Term Financial Plans, they set out an enhanced level of service to that currently experienced through improving the range, convenience and effectiveness of access points, in line with the potential your report highlights.

I accept and support the eight recommendations that the Panel have set out in its report. As you have rightly identified communication will be critical to the effective delivery of improvements in the public's access to the police and policing services. I have sought innovative means of relaying key information to the public and also partners, including informing frontline police services and frontline partners of any changes.

I appreciate the amount of work that the Task and Finish Group, supported by Bedford Borough staff, put into undertaking this comprehensive review in a relatively short period of time and I hope that this supportive element of your role can continue to develop to inform, and no doubt on occasions challenge, my decision making.

I think there is a real opportunity for the Panel to deliver added value to the public and I intend to highlight the Panel's work when talking to Commissioners' in other parts of the country.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Olly Martins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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**Olly Martins | Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire**

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