



Peter Todd
Assistant Inspector of Constabulary

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To all Chief Constables and Chairs of Police Authorities

Dear Colleague

JOINT INSPECTION OF POLICE CUSTODY CONDITIONS

During 2008/09, HMIC and HM Inspectorate of Prisons have jointly inspected the custody conditions of a number of police forces and Metropolitan Police boroughs. These inspections are part of a six year programme during which every force and borough will be inspected. To date, all inspections have been subject to prior notification to the relevant forces.

With effect from 1 July 2009, this programme will be extended to include a mix of announced and unannounced inspections, and to accommodate re-visits to any forces where previous inspections may not have covered all facilities or where particular concerns were highlighted.

In preparation for these changes, and to support the on-going programme, HMIC and HMI Prisons have agreed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, a copy of which is attached. The MOU is designed to set out clearly the procedures for both announced and unannounced inspections and to explain the expectations of all involved parties.

Chief Constables are requested to make copies of this MOU widely available to senior managers, custody officers and force duty officers, who may find themselves the first point of contact for a joint team on an unannounced inspection. It will also be placed on the websites of both inspectorates, for ease of reference.

I believe that the attached document is self-explanatory but if you require any further clarification or explanation please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

PETER TODD
Assistant Inspector of Constabulary