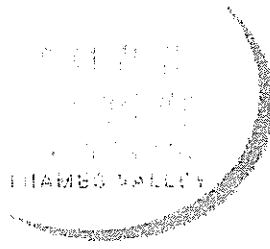


<b>TITLE</b>	<b>Female genital mutilation</b>
<b>FOR CONSIDERATION BY</b>	Health and Wellbeing Board on 13 February 2014
<b>WARD</b>	None Specific



**Anthony Stansfeld**  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

Date: 21 October 2013  
Our Ref: AS/LMR

Dear

I am concerned that it is likely that Female Genital Mutilation is being carried out within some areas covered by Thames Valley Police. There is clear evidence that it is happening on a large scale nationally, and we would be naive not to believe it was occurring within the Thames Valley.

I regard it as sexual abuse of under age children and, as such, should be reported to the Police by hospitals and by GPs when it is known to have occurred, whether the act was carried out within the UK or whether the child was sent abroad. I would be interested to know if there are any existing policy and best practice guidelines issued to responsible persons and bodies in your area.

I would ask that you bring this matter, and your existing policies and guidelines, if appropriate, to the attention of all within the NHS that may come across this practice. I do not regard patient confidentiality to be an issue if the patient is a child. I will also be looking at cases where it is found to have occurred and not been reported by those that should have done so.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Stansfeld  
Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley