



Anthony Stansfeld
Police & Crime Commissioner
for Thames Valley

Date: 2 September 2013
Our Ref: AS/GE

Dear Home Secretary,

THAMES VALLEY RESPONSE TO HMIC

Please find enclosed my response to HMIC's report on '*Stop and Search Powers: Are the Police using them effectively and fairly?*'

Yours sincerely

Anthony Stansfeld
Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley

Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF



HMIC Inspection Report: “Stop and Search Powers: Are the police using them effectively and fairly?”

Published 9 July 2013

Background

As a result of renewed public concern about the police use of stop and search powers, the Home Secretary had commissioned the HMIC to carry out an inspection of all forces in England and Wales which took place between December 2011 and April 2013. The report in relation to this inspection was not published until July 2013 and was accompanied by non-public individual reports on each Force.

The national report concluded that police use of stop and search powers was too often ineffective in tackling crime and procedurally incorrect, thereby threatening the legitimacy of the police.

PCC Response

I have confidence in the Chief Officer leadership for stop and search in Thames Valley. Given the Force had worked closely with the Equality and Human Rights Commission on stop and search issues during 2011-12, it was well-placed to respond to matters raised as result of both the national report and local inspection.

The Chief Constable’s Management Team has subsequently endorsed a number of specific recommendations arising from this HMIC report. Some of this work will further enhance activities already set out in the 2013/14 Force Delivery Plan. Other key areas will address issues including: transparency and openness of data; processes for maximising activities against crime hotspots; and enhanced scrutiny to ensure greater compliance, including involvement of the Independent Advisory Group.

Whilst there are no PCC specific recommendations within the report, there is acknowledgement that PCCs will play an important role in overseeing the effective and fair use of stop and search powers in the future. I will monitor the Force’s stop and search recommendations through my Performance Framework. HMIC intends to revisit the police within the next 18 months to assess progress made against these recommendations.

To view a copy of HMIC’s report click here

<http://www.hmic.gov.uk/publication/stop-and-search-powers-20130709/>