

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
Northern Region

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Michael Cunningham QPM
HM Inspector of Constabulary

20 September 2016

By email:

Mr Simon Byrne QPM
Chief Constable
Cheshire Constabulary

Dear Simon,

HMIC Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme revisit assessment

Further to my letter dated 23 June 2016, I am writing to inform you of our assessment of your force's compliance with the BUSS scheme. The revisit was carried out between 24 June 2016 and 5 August 2016, and included a review of your website and force documentation and consultation with relevant staff. Thank you for the assistance provided by your staff for this revisit.

HMIC's 2015 legitimacy inspection found that your force was not complying with four features of the scheme in 2015.

I am pleased to inform you that our recent assessment found that the force is now complying with all features of the scheme.

Our detailed assessment is set out at Annex A.

Yours sincerely

Michael Cunningham
HM Inspector of Constabulary

cc. PCC
Force Liaison

**Annex A: 2016 Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme revisit
assessment of Cheshire Constabulary**

| BUSS scheme feature | 2016 HMIC assessment |
|--|---|
| Recording and publishing the full set of outcomes including showing the connection between outcomes and objects | The force is compliant with this feature |
| | <p>The force records and publishes the full range of stop and search outcomes. The data are published on the police.uk website.</p> <p>However, the force could do more to make the data easily accessible to the public. At the time of the revisit assessment, the link to the data from the force's website led only to the police.uk homepage, rather than to the Cheshire Constabulary Stop and Search Overview page.</p> |
| Providing opportunities for the public to observe the use of stop and search powers | The force is compliant with this feature |
| | <p>The force has a lay observation scheme promoted on its website, which also includes a copy of the policy.</p> <p>The force gathers feedback from the observer and uses this to improve procedures.</p> <p>The force has measures in place designed to ensure the safety of observers.</p> |
| Implementing a community complaints trigger | The force is compliant with this feature |
| | <p>The force has a community complaints trigger, activated by each complaint it receives about stop and search.</p> <p>When the trigger is activated, the force explains the detail behind its use of the power to the independent advisory group and the force stop and search scrutiny panel.</p> <p>Information about the trigger is published on the force's website. Details of how to make a complaint about stop and search are also included on the website.</p> <p>The 'Know your rights' leaflet which officers give to people stopped and searched includes information about how to complain or provide feedback.</p> <p>The force also instructs officers to tell those people they stop and search how to make a complaint.</p> |

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| Reducing stop and search encounters made under section 60, Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 | <p style="text-align: center;">The force is compliant with this feature</p> <p>The force's policy and procedures in relation to searches authorised under section 60 are compliant with the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme.</p> |
| Monitoring the use of stop and search powers, with particular regard to the impact on black, Asian and minority ethnic people and young people | <p style="text-align: center;">The force is compliant with this feature</p> <p>The force monitors data on ethnicity and age.</p> <p>However, analysis and subsequent monitoring could be enhanced by the inclusion of data on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the reason for searches (e.g. drugs) by ethnicity and age; • the outcome rates (not just the arrest rate), by ethnicity and age; • the rate at which the item searched for is found, by ethnicity and age; and • individual officer/team data – totals, outcomes and find rate, by ethnicity and age. |