

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary
Northern Region



Promoting improvements
in policing to make
everyone safer

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Michael Cunningham, QPM
HM Inspector of Constabulary

By email:
Chief Constable Michael Barton, QPM
Durham Constabulary

1 February 2017

Dear Michael,

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

Further to my letter dated 12 October 2016, I am writing to inform you of our assessment of your constabulary's compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme. The revisit was carried out between 3 November 2016 and 28 November 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 constabulary was not complying with two features of the scheme: recording and publishing outcomes, including the connection between outcomes and objects and introducing a community trigger. I am pleased to confirm that our recent revisit has found that the constabulary is now complying with these features of the scheme. Our detailed assessment is set out at annex A.

Yours sincerely

Michael Cunningham
HM Inspector of Constabulary

Annex A: 2016 BUSS scheme revisit assessment for Durham 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 constabulary records the full range of outcomes and also identifies if there is a connection between the outcome and the object searched for.</p> <p>All outcome data and the connection between outcomes and objects are published on the police.uk website. There is a useful link on the constabulary's stop and search webpage directing the public to the data on the police.uk website.</p>
Implementing a community complaints trigger	The force is compliant with this feature
	<p>The constabulary has introduced a community trigger. Every complaint made about the use of stop and search powers activates the trigger. Additionally, any member of the public concerned about any aspect of the use of the powers can also activate the trigger.</p> <p>When the trigger is activated, the constabulary explains the use of the powers to the strategic independent advisory group.</p> <p>Every person stopped and searched is given a card with the constabulary website address. Information on how to make a complaint is available from the constabulary's website.</p>