

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary

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Promoting improvements
in policing to make
everyone safer

Zoë Billingham BA Hons (Oxon)

HM Inspector of Constabulary

By email:

Chief Constable Stephen Kavanagh
Essex Police

1 February 2017

Dear Steve,

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

Further to HMI Cunningham's letter dated 12 October 2016, I am writing to inform you of our assessment of your force's compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme. The revisit was carried out between 3 November 2016 and 21 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 force was not complying with one feature of the scheme: providing opportunities for the public to observe the use of stop and search powers. I am pleased to confirm that our recent revisit has found that the force is now complying with this feature of the scheme. Our detailed assessment is set out at annex A.

Yours sincerely

Zoë Billingham
HM Inspector of Constabulary

Annex A: 2016 BUSS scheme revisit assessment for Essex Police

Providing opportunities for the public to observe the use of stop and search powers	
The force is compliant	
BUSS scheme feature	2016 HMIC assessment
Providing opportunities for the public to observe the use of stop and search powers (compliant)	<p>The force has a ride-along scheme, promoted on its website and through posters placed in public areas. Members of the public who are over 16 years old can apply to participate in the scheme.</p> <p>The force gathers observer feedback which is collated and reviewed quarterly. It uses feedback to learn and improve procedures.</p> <p>The force has measures in place designed to ensure the safety of observers.</p>