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Wendy Williams
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary



20 September 2016

Chief Constable Suzette Davenport
Helen.corbett@gloucestershire.pnn.police.uk

Dear Suzette,

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

Further to HMI Mike Cunningham's 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. Our recent assessment found that, at the time of the inspection, Gloucestershire Constabulary was still not complying with two features of the scheme: recording and publishing outcomes, and monitoring the impact of stop and search, particularly on black, Asian and minority ethnic people and young people. Our detailed assessment is set out at Annex A.

I am aware that, since our revisit, your force has taken action to address these issues. You will see that we have referred to this progress in our assessment, so the Home Secretary can take this into account when making decisions on continuing scheme membership.

Yours sincerely,



Wendy Williams
HM Inspector of Constabulary

cc. PCC
Force Liaison

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

BUSS scheme feature	2016 HMIC assessment
<p>Recording and publishing the full set of outcomes including showing the connection between outcomes and objects</p>	<p>The force was not compliant with this feature at the time of the revisit</p> <p>The force records the full range of stop and search outcomes. However, at the time of the revisit, the force did not publish whether the outcomes of searches were linked to the object(s) searched for.</p> <p>The published data are on the police.uk website. There is a clear link from the force’s website to the Gloucestershire Constabulary Stop and Search Overview page on the police.uk website.</p> <p>We are aware that, since our revisit, the force has provided police.uk with data detailing whether the outcomes of searches were linked to the object(s) searched for and the force is now compliant with this feature of the scheme.</p>
<p>Providing opportunities for the public to observe the use of stop and search powers</p>	<p>The force is compliant with this feature</p> <p>The force has a lay observer scheme, called ‘patrol along’.</p> <p>The stop and search page on the force’s website includes information on this scheme.</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>
<p>Implementing a community complaints trigger</p>	<p>The force is compliant with this feature</p> <p>The force has a community complaints trigger which is activated if there is a significant rise in the number of complaints, a significant increase in disproportionality of those stopped and searched, an incident occurs that causes significant concern among its communities or any other issue the force deems to warrant activation.</p> <p>When the trigger is activated, the force explains its use of the power to the recently-formed stop and search scrutiny panel. Information about the trigger is published on the force’s website. Details of how to make a complaint about stop and search are included on the website.</p>

	<p>The force is working on an information leaflet including information on how to complain. The force instructs officers to inform those people they stop and search how to make a complaint.</p>
<p>Reducing stop and search encounters made under section 60, Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994</p>	<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>
<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>	<p style="text-align: center;">The force was not compliant with this feature at the time of the revisit</p> <p>The ethics committee monitors limited data on ethnicity but not on young people. The force has arrangements to monitor data on ethnicity and age at its performance and operations meeting in September 2016, which a chief officer chairs. However, at the time of the revisit, the meeting had not yet taken place.</p> <p>The force should consider monitoring 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. <p>We are aware that, since our revisit, the required monitoring has taken place and the force is, therefore, now compliant with this feature.</p>