

Home Secretary  
c/o Gareth Redmond  
Head of Police Transparency Unit  
Home Office, Marsham Street  
London SW1P 4DF

15<sup>th</sup> June 2015

Dear Home Secretary

**North Yorkshire's Police and Crime Commissioner's response to HMIC's *'Stop and Search 2'* inspection, March 2015**

As you know, when used appropriately Stop and Search can be a powerful tool, albeit used much less than average in North Yorkshire because of the rural make-up of the force area and the type of offences routinely dealt with.

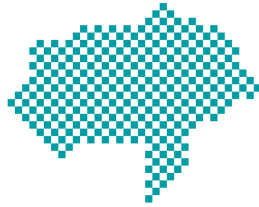
For clarity, North Yorkshire Police (NYP) has implemented the recommendations from the first Stop and Search inspection in 2013. For instance, training has been revised and delivered to operational officers, and supported by internal communications. The North Yorkshire Police website also has a dedicated area informing the public of key elements in relation to Stop and Search. Lastly, Stop and Search information is recorded in our intelligence system, Niche, so that the information is available for analytical work.

There is however one exception regarding the implementation of the 2013 recommendations. This is recommendation 9: Promotion of Stop and Search as a viable tactic in delivering safer communities and local plans. HMIC commented in its inspection report that the force does not proactively assess how Stop and search affects public trust, for example by the use of surveys of the general public, young people or those people who have been stopped and searched. As HMIC will know from the inspection, NYP does not have a high proportion of complaints regarding Stop and Search. The Joint Strategic Intelligence Assessment from 2013 identified that although the use of Stop and Search powers has led to reduced confidence in the police service nationally, this has not been evident within North Yorkshire. NYP has received four complaints regarding Stop and Search during the 12 month reporting period. With all the above in mind, the Chief Constable and I have decided that it is not reasonable for NYP to conduct a survey to understand how Stop and Search affects public trust. This is because it seems unreasonable given the local circumstances, and because the money and resources necessary for this work could be much better spent on meeting the priorities identified locally.

The recommendations from the Stop and Search 2 inspection are being managed appropriately, with progress being made in relation to each one. Again, however, concerns have been raised regarding the potential level of bureaucracy involved, and resources required, for recording all vehicle stops and the analysis of this data. This additional work of course has a financial impact. Furthermore, the disproportionate use of Stop and Search powers relating to an individual's ethnicity does not pose a

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significant issue for NYP, as demonstrated by the Stop and Search data for the period 1 April 2014 to 31 March 2015. As explained in the previous paragraph, NYP also receives very few complaints about the Stop and Searches they do undertake. The data indicates that Craven is the only district affected by any disproportionality as 15% of Stop and Searches involved individuals of an ethnic minority, which is at odds to the 4% of the population within Craven who are of an ethnic minority; this is being managed locally.

It will be clear from the above that the public impact from Stop and Search in North Yorkshire is limited and that the same concerns raised nationally are not necessarily applicable in North Yorkshire. However, the HMIC inspection has clearly been of use nationally, especially in metropolitan areas, and will help inform the future of Stop and Search locally.

Yours sincerely

Julia Mulligan  
**North Yorkshire's Police & Crime Commissioner**

