



METROPOLITAN
POLICE

TOTAL POLICING

Territorial Policing

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Dear Baroness Jones,

Thank you for your letter dated 28th February 2014 with regard to your report '*An investigation of the Met's new approach to stop and search*'. I have considered the report and would like to update you with our response to its findings and recommendations.

Firstly may I thank you for acknowledging the significant changes we have achieved since the introduction of the 'Stopit' programme in 2011. We have long recognised the impact that stop and search can have on communities and your report quite rightly raises the point that a strategic change of this nature must be reflected in people's experiences on the street. In short we must ensure that all of our efforts to deliver stop and search in an effective and fair manner are understood at all levels and deliver positive and tangible results in terms of people's satisfaction and confidence.

It is clear from your report that we are not yet at that stage but I want to assure you that we will continue to make every effort to meet the recommendations made, particular with regard to the quality of the encounter which must be a theme running through all our activities. Stop and search, whilst an individual and discretionary power for officers to consider is nonetheless a coercive power and fair treatment must be a prerequisite if we are to ensure and maintain confidence in its use. Much of our ongoing work is focused on this and the delivery of our five-hour Behavioural Detection Training programme to all borough officers, up to and including the rank of inspector, will commence in April 2014.

In general terms we accept all of your recommendations and I can update you on work that is already underway in some of the critical areas.

Recommendation 1 - five hundred body worn video devices are due to be piloted in nine boroughs starting imminently. The recording of all stop and search encounters will be mandatory for those officers equipped with cameras and an evaluation of the results by the College of Policing, supported by MOPAC, will be made available for scrutiny. The Monthly Monitoring Mechanism and MPS quarterly stop and search performance scrutiny meeting examines the performance of all operational teams, including the Territorial Support Group, and a review is being undertaken to determine the practical feasibility of recording vehicle stops.

Recommendation 2 - the supervision of stop and search has been subject to a review recently and we have made changes to ensure examination of stop and search activity at local senior leadership team level. These senior officers are in turn held accountable for the activity and outcomes of their officers by the ACPO lead for stop and search and independent specialists including representatives of the IPCC and MOPAC are included in those challenge sessions. The MOPAC appointed Community Monitoring Network is already given access to stop and search records to evaluate the quality, integrity and 'ethical use of police powers' described in them and we are exploring ways of extending the membership of this group to introduce additional independent scrutiny.

Recommendation 5 - the MPS is working with the College of Policing to review information given to those stopped, its most appropriate format (e.g. printed or electronic) and how to incorporate easy to understand guidance outlining individuals' rights and routes to complain, through the involvement of independent bodies if possible.

Recommendation 9 - youth engagement models have been trialled in a number of boroughs, you will undoubtedly recall the impressive presentation by Southwark's Second Wave group at the recent House of Lords event chaired by Baroness Massey, and these involve officers hearing the first hand the experiences of young people. We are evaluating the most effective elements of each of these in order to set some core principles for local youth engagement without becoming too prescriptive and risk damaging local innovation.

We will continue to refine our response to the recommendations together with those we received following the review by HMIC published in July 2013 and taking account of the imminent Home Office guidance. This is being managed through a designated Programme Board chaired by Commander Adrian Hanstock and includes representatives of the relevant statutory and voluntary groups.

The report makes reference to the fact that the Met is at a crossroads in its relationship with some Londoners. I recognise the significance of this statement and am grateful for the work undertaken by the Police and Crime Committee members to help restate the current opinion on the use of stop and search in London.

I hope I have been able to give you some reassurance of our commitment to building on the significant changes we have already made in a relatively short time and that the recommendations outlined in your report are under active consideration.

I look forward to updating you in due course on the further progress made.

Yours sincerely,



Adrian Hanstock
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Crime & Criminal Justice and Roads Policing