

Appendix A.

Force response to the letter from the Home Secretary dated 10 February 2016.

Force suspension from the “Best Use of Stop and Search” Scheme

I am writing further to the letter from the Home Secretary dated 10th February 2016 and thank you for the opportunity to respond. As always, Lincolnshire Police contributed to the HMIC inspection in a completely open, honest and supportive manner. Whilst disappointed with the results I would like to stress my commitment to addressing the issues raised and ensuring full compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme.

Lincolnshire Police is in the process of introducing both mobile data terminals and body worn video cameras to frontline operational officers and this will have a very positive impact on improving both our data quality and monitoring of stop and search encounters. I am confident that the roll out of both these technological innovations will rectify the observations contained within the HMIC report.

The Force does recognise the importance of stop and search as an important tool in the prevention of crime and that it is essential that officers use these powers in a fair, effective and appropriate manner. The role undertaken by supervisory officers is key to driving the improvements in terms of using this police tactic legitimately. Following the HMIC inspection, the Chief Officers of Lincolnshire Police have delivered front line supervisor seminars in relation to stop and search. In addition there is now a robust Inspector led monitoring and review plan embedded in Force processes.

At the time of the inspection, our ride along scheme was subject to review and consultation with our Independent Advisory Group. This has now been completed and the ride along scheme is in place.

The Force was compliant as regards the community trigger complaint and searches conducted under Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act.

The Force does already have an action plan in place to address the necessary aspects and areas of improvement for stop and search, which I will actively monitor.

I note that HMIC intends to revisit the Force during the summer and whilst confident we will show significant improvements by then, the full benefits of your government’s investment in technology will be illustrated by the complete roll out of mobile data / body worn video cameras by September 2016. I would invite HMIC to review us once this roll out is complete and hope that our suspension from the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme can be lifted.