

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Alan Hardwick
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Date: 14th March 2016
Our Ref: AH/asw/kc/HMIC-2016-004

Ms Zoë Billingham
Her Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary, Eastern Region
HM Inspectorate of Constabulary
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By email to: Danny.Hayes@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Dear



HMIC Police Legitimacy PEEL Inspection 2016

I am pleased to present my comments in response to the above Report within the meaning of s55 (5) of the Police Act 1996. This letter will be copied to the Home Secretary and published on my website.

I am pleased by the overall grading of "Good" received by the Force for the extent to which it is legitimate in the way it keeps people safe and reduces crime. This judgement reflects the effort made to create and maintain an ethical culture throughout the Force.

I noted with interest that your inspectors found that officers and staff spoke clearly about policing Lincolnshire with PRIDE (professionalism; respect; integrity; dedication; and empathy) as this has certainly been my experience when meeting officers and staff across the County.

I am very pleased that this ethical approach is further identified, in the way that the Force deals with complaints from the public in a fair and consistent way that is free from bias.

I am further heartened by the findings relating to the variety of ways in which the Force engages and communicates well with the communities it serves. I am especially pleased that an initiative I have personally championed, the use of volunteers, is described as "commendable".

Clearly there are always opportunities to improve Force performance and the Report identifies where these can be made in respect of better compliance with the "Best Use of Stop and Search" scheme. On this matter I have sought assurance directly from the Deputy Chief Constable, the details of which are contained in Appendix A to this letter. I will continue to closely monitor progress in this area.

Importantly, the Force use of Taser is judged to be fair and appropriate. This aligns with my belief that properly controlled and proportionate use of force by Lincolnshire officers is a crucial element in policing the County legitimately by consent.

Overall I welcome the Report and the findings it presents, which I will use to support my continuing work in driving up standards across the Force.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan', followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Alan Hardwick
Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

Atch: Appendix A - "HMIC-2016-004 20160314 Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme - Force Response"

cc: The Rt Hon Theresa May MP – Home Secretary
CC Neil Rhodes – Lincolnshire Police