

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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Alan Hardwick
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

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20th August 2013

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**Comments on recent inspection report:
Lincolnshire Police's response to the HMIC Inspection of Stop Search**

I am pleased to present my comments on the above report within the meaning of s55 (5) of the Police Act 1996. I will publish this letter on my website and also forward a copy to the Home Secretary.

I welcome your report and the findings you present. Stop and search is an important tool in the prevention of crime and it is essential that the Police use these powers in an appropriate and effective manner. I fully support the use of stop and search as a legitimate police tactic and I am also committed to a police service that is fair and equitable.

As always, Lincolnshire Police contributed to the HMIC inspection in a completely open and supportive manner. I note that the driver for the inspection was based on inner city riots experienced in other force areas last year. The Force is not complacent but some of the concerns expressed in the report are less evident in this county. There were no specific recommendations in the Lincolnshire report but we do acknowledge the generic concerns observed in the national report.

Albeit a small sample size, I was pleased to note that the HMIC survey responses from the Lincolnshire public demonstrated more confidence in the use of stop search by Lincolnshire

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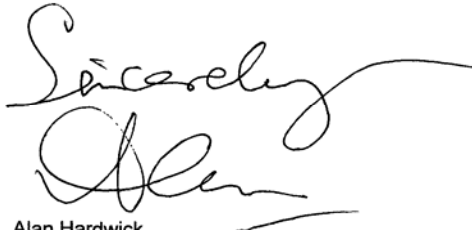
Police than was experienced nationally and that the overwhelming majority understood and supported its use for preventing crime, catching criminals, controlling the streets and gathering criminal intelligence. Of particular note were the positive comments about the way in which Lincolnshire officers were shown to be courteous and considerate whilst conducting searches.

The HMIC was particularly keen to comment on the link between stop search and preventing and detecting crime. During the inspection Lincolnshire Police experienced probably the largest fall in crime of any force in the country (down 15%) and an improvement in detecting and resolving crime (above 30%).

Lincolnshire Police tend to use stop search powers less than most forces in England and Wales and this led to some constructive challenges by the inspectors that the Force and I will consider.

There were no adverse issues where Lincolnshire Police was found to be markedly different from the majority of Forces across the country however; both the Force and I will be looking at a number of areas as part of our commitment to continuously improve our service. I commissioned Lincolnshire Police to develop a Stop and Search Action Plan following your report which I will monitor alongside my standard Stop and search briefing that I receive on a quarterly basis from the Force. The Action Plan addresses the concerns and recommendations made in your report. Superintendent Kieran English is the new Force lead for Stop and Search and his work will be overseen on a strategic level by DCC Keith Smy.

I note that HMIC intends to revisit forces within the next 18 months to assess progress made against the recommendations and I look forward to this.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Alan Hardwick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Alan Hardwick
The Police and Crime Commissioner for Lincolnshire

cc: Chief Constable Neil Rhodes, Lincolnshire Police
Deputy Chief Constable Keith Smy, Lincolnshire Police
Superintendent Kieran English, Lincolnshire Police
The Rt Hon Theresa May MP, Secretary of State for the Home Department
