



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Date: 18th Jan 2024

His Majesty's Inspector of Constabulary
His Majesty's Inspector of Fire & Rescue Services
6th Floor Globe House
89 Eccleston Square London
SW1V 1PN

Dear Mr Wilsher,

I write to you on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland regarding your publication 'Report on the Criminal Justice Alliance's super-complaint – Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and independent community scrutiny of Stop and Search' released on the 15th December 2023.

I write to send assurances that this publication has been acknowledged and that work has begun with Leicestershire Police to gather their current position against the report.

Stop and Search is an incredibly important aspect of our community scrutiny, for both public assurance and to ensure that the Force are handling these correctly and compliantly, providing learning and feedback to effect change. Within our Ethics and Transparency Panel which I attend with the Chief Executive Officer, Stop and Search has been scrutinised in a variety of formats. A detailed paper on the legitimacy of Stop and Search was scrutinised by the Panel at the September 2023 meeting. The report provided an insight into stop and search arrests and outcomes with an in-depth focus on disproportionality which was discussed in detail and constructive challenge and feedback provided by the Panel.

As mentioned in your publication, it is essential that the community scrutiny panel members reflect the adversely affected population in relation to Stop and Search. I am confident that our Ethics and Transparency Panel pays due regard to this requirement and that all our panels strive to accurately reflect the communities which they serve. It is also essential to effective community scrutiny, as outlined in your report, that these panels are chaired independently from the PCC, the Force and any other relevant body. I can confirm that our Ethics and Transparency Panel is chaired by a vetted member of the public (all panel members under-go vetting routinely), independent from any policing body, to allow for effective scrutiny and to provide independent, honest and constructive feedback to the Force for their consideration.

Further to this, I am also pleased to confirm that we have made significant progress with our Ethics and Transparency Panel in terms of access to data, especially in relation to the regular review of body-worn video footage. To date, the Panel have reviewed six incidences of body worn video footage in closed sessions in their quarterly meetings, all of which have involved an element of Stop and Search. The footage is presented to the Panel by an Inspector from Leicestershire Police and consists of Niche occurrences that have already been reviewed at the Force's Use of



Force Scrutiny Panel. This reflects Leicestershire Police's willingness and openness for community scrutiny and constructive challenge, providing panel members with greater transparency and understanding of issues and the rationale behind complex decision-making faced by both the Force and the public in this area of policing. The review of body worn video footage has been welcomed by both the Panel and the Force, seen as an opportunity for learning where necessary and promoting good practice by Leicestershire Police. The Ethics and Transparency Panel will consider this super-complaint during the summer of 2024 with an opportunity to discuss the report with a representative of Leicestershire Police, by which point the PCC will have discussed the report in our governance meetings, allowing the Force representative to feedback updates of this discussion.

Leicestershire celebrates many cultural diversities which the force is proud of. With this diverse landscape, it is understood by the Force that these diversities should be considered across all aspects of policing on all levels, both on the front line and in staff roles, to provide the right support to communities who can feel disproportionately affected by the Police. The Commissioner and I echo the comments within the report on the importance of ensuring that the use of section 60 Stop and Searches are legitimate, proportionate and fair and we will review these recommendations with the Chief Constable in our scrutiny activities.

As with all relevant HMICFRS publications, I have ensured that this publication is incorporated into our Corporate Governance Framework to allow for an opportunity of discussion between the PCC and the Chief Constable, to identify any areas of strength and any opportunities of support from the PCC and myself. This is scheduled for March 2024.

Yours sincerely,

Rani Mahal
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland