



The Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Home Secretary  
Home Office  
2 Marsham Street  
LONDON  
SW1P 4DF

John Dwyer

Clemonds Hey  
Oakmere Road  
Winsford  
Cheshire  
CW7 2UA

Date: 23 March 2016

Our Ref:  
JD/PCC/

Your Ref:

Tel: 01606 364000  
Fax: 01606 364006

Email:  
police.crime.commissioner@cheshire.pnn.police.uk

Dear *Theresa*

## BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH SCHEME

I refer to your letter dated 10 February 2016 and my initial response of 11 February. As I indicated in that response, I was extremely concerned by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary's findings about the use of Stop and Search and implementation of the Best Use of Stop and Search in Cheshire.

I immediately raised the issue with Simon Byrne, the Chief Constable and have held him to account to ensure improvement at the earliest opportunity. I promised to write to you again to update you on Cheshire's adherence to the Scheme. I am now pleased to report that the Constabulary has made great strides to improve its level of compliance:


- The Constabulary implemented a new process for recording Stop Search encounters in March 2016. This process enables all of the information required under the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme to be captured and published;
- A stop and search 'ride along' scheme was implemented in February 2016 to enable the public to witness stop and search encounters. The scheme is advertised on the websites of the Cheshire Constabulary and my Office and the public can apply to participate in the scheme on line. A resident of Warrington became the first member of the public to participate in the 'ride along' scheme on 5 March 2016;
- The Constabulary agreed a 'community trigger' policy in relation to Stop and Search in February 2016. The policy is published on the websites of the Cheshire Constabulary and my Office and the public can apply to activate the community trigger through an on-line form; and

- The Constabulary monitors the use of Stop and Search through the Public Encounters Board. This Board has been developed to include a variety of public encounters where police powers are used and includes representation from staff networks, my Office and the public.

The Constabulary has also continued to take steps to improve awareness of the legal grounds required to undertake fair and legal stop and search encounters. In addition to the training provided to frontline officers, a bespoke training package has also been delivered to police sergeants which ensures that all supervisors are aware of their responsibility to monitor compliance with the code of practice and equality legislation and that they are able to carry out their duties in this regard.

The Constabulary has now refocused its efforts on the Best Use Scheme and has driven through the necessary improvements to meet the Scheme's requirements. I am aware that HMIC will be undertaking follow up visits and I am confident that you will be able to lift Cheshire's suspension from the Scheme as soon as they have visited. I look forward to you re-instating the Constabulary in the Scheme at the earliest opportunity.

Yours sincerely



John Dwyer  
Police & Crime Commissioner

cc M Cunningham, HM Inspector, Northern Region  
S Byrne, Chief Constable