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**Zoë Billingham BA Hons (Oxon)**  
HM Inspector of Constabulary

20 September 2016

Alec Wood  
Chief Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

Dear Alec

**HMIC Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme revisit assessment**

Further to HMI Mike Cunningham's letter dated 23 June 2016, I am writing to inform you of our assessment of your force's compliance with the BUSS scheme. The revisit was carried out between 24 June 2016 and 5 August 2016, and included a review of your website and force documentation and consultation with relevant staff. Thank you for the assistance provided by your staff for this revisit.

HMIC's 2015 legitimacy inspection found that your force was not complying with three features of the scheme in 2015.

I am pleased to inform you that our revisit found that the force is now complying with all features of the scheme.

Our detailed assessment is set out at Annex A.

Yours sincerely

**Zoë Billingham**  
HM Inspector of Constabulary

cc. PCC  
Force Liaison

**Annex A: 2016 Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme revisit  
assessment of Cambridgeshire Constabulary**

<b>BUSS scheme feature</b>	<b>2016 HMIC assessment</b>
<p><b>Recording and publishing the full set of outcomes including showing the connection between outcomes and objects</b></p>	<p><b>The force is compliant with this feature</b></p>
	<p>The force records and publishes the full range of stop and search outcomes. It also records and publishes whether the outcome of searches were connected to the object(s) searched for.</p> <p>The data are published on the police.uk website. However, the force could do more to make the data easily accessible to the public. Currently, the link to the data from the force's website merely leads to the Home Office website, rather than the Cambridgeshire Constabulary Stop and Search Overview page on police.uk.</p>
<p><b>Providing opportunities for the public to observe the use of stop and search powers</b></p>	<p><b>The force is compliant with this feature</b></p>
	<p>The force has a lay observation scheme, Operation Insight, promoted on its website. Members of the public can apply to participate in the scheme. However, applicants must first provide information on why they are interested in applying and then explain "in no more than 500 words" why they wish to apply for an Operation Insight attachment, what they hope to gain from it and any research they have conducted.</p> <p>Furthermore, applicants who include sufficient explanation or rationale in their application are then interviewed at the police station or by Skype.</p> <p>These requirements are likely to discourage people from applying.</p> <p>The force gathers feedback from the observer and uses this to improve procedures.</p> <p>The force has measures in place designed to ensure the safety of observers.</p>
<p><b>Implementing a community complaints trigger</b></p>	<p><b>The force is compliant with this feature</b></p>
	<p>The force has implemented a community complaints trigger, activated if there is a significant rise in the amount of complaints received about stop and search, or if there is a significant change in proportionality of those stopped and searched, or an incident gives significant cause for concern amongst communities, or any other issue which the force deems appropriate.</p> <p>When the trigger is activated, the force explains its use of the</p>

	<p>powers to independent scrutiny groups.</p> <p>The force's website includes details of how to make a complaint. People stopped and searched by officers using mobile data terminals are provided with a receipt which includes details on how to complain. Not all officers have such terminals, but all officers are instructed during training to inform the person on how to make a complaint.</p>
<p><b>Reducing stop and search encounters made under section 60, Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The force is compliant with this feature</b></p> <p>The force's procedures for searches authorised under section 60 are compliant with the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme.</p> <p>However, one of its two recently authorised section 60 operations did not involve communication with the public prior to the use of the powers as there were "no identifiable person(s) in the area that the police can readily liaise with". While this may have been appropriate in the circumstances, there was no evidence of communication with the public after the use of the powers.</p>
<p><b>Monitoring the use of stop and search powers, with particular regard to the impact on black, Asian and minority ethnic people and young people</b></p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The force is compliant with this feature</b></p> <p>The force monitors data in respect of ethnicity and age.</p> <p>However, analysis and subsequent monitoring could be enhanced by monitoring data on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the reason for searches (e.g. drugs) by ethnicity and age;</li> <li>• the outcome rates (not just the arrest rate), by ethnicity and age;</li> <li>• the rate at which the item searched for is found, by ethnicity and age; and</li> <li>• individual officer/team data – totals, outcomes and find rate, by ethnicity and age.</li> </ul>