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Office of the
**Police & Crime
Commissioner**
West Yorkshire

My Reference: OPCC/MBW/JED

Your Reference:

21 April 2015

The Rt Hon Theresa May MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DP

Dear Home Secretary

I am writing in response to the HMIC's thematic inspection report; stop and search powers 2: Are the police using them effectively, which was published in March 2015. Ensuring that the stop and search powers are used appropriately by the police is a crucial priority and is reflected in my plan. It is an area which I continue to work with the Chief Constable on, and I regularly review the force's use of this power. As I am sure you are aware West Yorkshire Police joined the Government's Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSS) in December and have committed to the geo-mapping of stop and searches. I see these as positive steps in making the use of these powers more transparent and accountable and am supportive of such reforms.

With regards to the recent inspection; my team and I are working closely with the force to ensure that the recommendations provided (in the debrief and the inspection report) are implemented. However, I would like to note that many of the recommendations appear to be dependent on the College of Policing establishing a range of guidance and standards of professional practice, and would hope that future inspections into the fairness and effectiveness of police powers and feel that this inspection report supports the work that we are doing in West Yorkshire to improve our use of stop and search.

Yours sincerely

Mark Burns-Williamson
Police and Crime Commissioner for West Yorkshire

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