

SUBJECT: STOP AND SEARCH – UPDATE
Report of the Chief Constable

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. This report outlines the Force’s current position in relation to the use of stop and search powers. It provides an update regarding ongoing work, the Home Office Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme, and future developments. It also provides performance data in relation to how stop and search powers have been used over a rolling 12 month period including surge activity.

RECOMMENDATION

2. That the Police and Crime Commissioner uses this report to scrutinise Force activity in respect of the use of ‘Stop & Search’ powers.

POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

3. The impact of Stop and Search on communities can be significant and the relaxation of the best use of stop will have a further impact on those communities .
4. In March this year WYP were one of a number of Forces where the rules around section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act were relaxed. This empowers officers to stop and search anyone in a designated area without needing reasonable grounds for suspicion if serious violence is anticipated.
5. The Home Secretary has lifted 2 conditions in the voluntary Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSS) by:
 - reducing the level of authorisation required for a Section 60 from senior officer to inspector
 - lowering the degree of certainty required by the authorising officer so they must reasonably believe an incident involving serious violence ‘may’, rather than ‘will’, occur.
6. The Police and Crime Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account to ensure Stop and Search activity is used appropriately, proportionately, in the pursuit of a legitimate aim and in a way that can be explained by the searching officer to the person stopped.

KEY INFORMATION

7. The attached report is part of the PCCs scrutiny.
8. The PCC has previously met with HMIC to discuss his oversight and scrutiny of Stop and Search and he continues to work with HMIC on this matter.

9. The PCC has a responsibility to raise awareness of individual's rights if they are stopped and searched by police.
10. The PCC has an ongoing feedback page on website in relation to 'Stop & Search', details of Stop and Search in West Yorkshire can be found on www.Police.UK

ATTACHMENTS

- [Chief Constable's Report - Stop and Search](#) (PDF 486KB)
- [Appendix A - Stop and Search Statistics](#) (PDF 379KB)