

<u>OFFICE OF POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER</u>	
TITLE:	Stop and Search: Interim Report
DATE:	Friday 2nd August 2013
TIMING:	Routine
PURPOSE:	For monitoring
1.	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
1.1	This report is for information and to note the development of the Stop & Search Implementation Plan - August 2013.
2.	<u>INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND</u>
2.1	In 2012 and 2013 HMIC carried out an inspection in all 43 police forces of England and Wales to determine the effectiveness and fairness of the police use of their powers to stop search people. Gwent had already commenced a renewed focus on this area following work completed by invitation by NPIA in 2012. This report builds on the issues raised in the original report dates 25 th April 2013.
2.2	HMIC visited Gwent Police in February 2013, during which the inspection noted that a new force policy on stop and search had been introduced. They acknowledged a procedural document incorporating the recommended updates and learning from the previous work with the IPCC and the NPIA gleaned from the 'Next Steps' programme.
2.3	The HMIC published the National and Local Reports on 9 th July 2013, Stop and Search Powers: Are the police using them effectively and fairly? and Gwent Police Stop and Search 2013 respectively. This report seeks to sign post the actions to taken to capture and respond to points raised now and in the future.
3.	<u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u>
3.1	The National Report - Stop and Search Powers: Are the police using them effectively and fairly? Has identified 10 recommendations for the Police Service. The majority of these recommendations are directed at the College of Policing and Chief Officers' Council to collectively develop and implement standardised approaches. The other elements of note are referenced in ' Gwent Police Stop and Search 2013 '.
3.2	HMIC now operate a style of report writing for each Force that has moved away from a list of recommendations. However, the report has a series of references that amount to recommendations and can be assumed to be bench mark points for future visits that assess progress following publication. In the Gwent specific report a total of 13 elements were identified to which a response is now provided. The 'Stop and Search Update July 2013' (Annex A) provides a detailed response to each point and are cross referenced to the Stop and Search Implementation Plan August 2013 (Annex B).
3.3	The updates in Annex A demonstrate that considerable efforts have been made since the NPIA visit in 2012 to improve our approach to Stop and Search. New Policies and Procedures have been adopted, which have been

	re-enforced with organisational messages to staff. The Implementation Plan has evolved in response to continued focus, yet there is still work to be completed, particularly in relation to the role of mobile data in the capture and analysis of Stop & Search information.
4.	<u>NEXT STEPS</u>
4.1	The Force will implement the recommendations highlighted by the recently published HMIC National and Local Reports and incorporated into the Stop & Search Implementation Plan (12.3 – Annex B). Progress will be monitored against the identified actions and targets dates.
4.2	A Review initiated by ACC Symes will seek to identify the links between the effective use of Stop & Search and Policy & Procedure to demonstrate understanding and compliance. This collaborative work between Service Development and Community Safety will be undertaken during September / October 2013. The findings of this review will be subject of the next six monthly update in March 2014.
5.	<u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
5.1	There is no cost implication associated with these recommendations.
6.	<u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
6.1	There is no specific staffing or personnel implication associated with this report.
7.	<u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u>
7.1	The report demonstrates that the force is currently on a relatively firm legal footing in respect of stop and search. Implementation of the recommendations will further enhance this and mitigate against the potential for any litigation which may be brought against the force.
8.	<u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u>
8.1	It is recognised that stop and search activities have the potential to have a significant impact on community confidence, particularly if the tactic is perceived to be used in a discriminatory manner. HMIC and previous NPIA findings indicate no evidence of discriminatory or prejudicial practices influencing Gwent Police's approach to stop and search.
8.2	This report has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Single Equality Scheme and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.
8.3	In preparing this report, consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.
9.	<u>RISK</u>
9.1	The on-going work in relation to stop and search is designed to minimise any risk to the Force in respect of failure to comply with legislation and the impact on public confidence of poor use of powers and procedures.

10.	<u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u>
10.1	Stop and Search data is public facing and is published on the force internet site. The continued improvement in our Policy and Procedures and our response to concerns raised by communities is dependent on our efforts to engage communities in this work. The Implementation Plan recognises the need to further develop in association with elected policing bodies and the IAG opportunities for all elements of our community to shape our approach to Stop & Search.
11.	<u>CONTACT OFFICER</u>
11.1	Chief Superintendent Julian Knight – Head of Neighbourhood Policing & Partnerships
12.	<u>ANNEXES</u>
12.1	Stop and Search Update July 2013 (Annex A)
12.2	Stop and Search Implementation Plan August 2013 (Annex B)

For OPCC use only

Office of the Chief Constable

I confirm that **Stop and Search: Interim Report** has been discussed and approved at a formal Chief Officers' meeting.

It is now forwarded to the OPCC for **monitoring purposes**.

Signature:

Thomas J. Dutton

Date: 8 August 2013

	Tick to confirm (if applicable)
Financial The Chief Financial Officer (PCC) has been consulted on this proposal.	
OPCC (insert name) The Chief Executive has reviewed the request and is satisfied that it is correct and consistent with the PCC's plans and priorities.	✓
Legal The legal team have been consulted on this proposal.	N/A
Equalities The Equalities Officer has been consulted on this proposal.	✓

Chief Executive/ Deputy Chief Executive:

I have been consulted about the proposal and can confirm that financial, legal, equalities etc... advice has been taken into account in the preparation of this report.

I am satisfied that this is an appropriate report to be submitted to the Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent.

Signature:

S A B

Date: 13/08/13

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

Date:

John L. Jones
19.8.13.