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Dear Theresa

**RE: HMIC Inspection Findings and Review of Stop and Search**

I welcome this report, and appreciate the opportunity to comment on both the Suffolk Constabulary inspection report and the national report '*Stop and Search Powers: Are the police using them effectively and fairly*'.

I am aware that the Constabulary, in conjunction with partner organisations, has undertaken extensive work over the last 5 years to improve community confidence in relation to the use of Stop and Search. The Constabulary and I remain committed to supporting, and working with, the Stop and Search Reference Group to enable independent scrutiny of the Force's use of Stop and Search.

While the Constabulary has been proactive as outlined above, it is fair to say its focus has been to ensure that the power is used fairly with justified grounds; and on trying to understand, and impact on, disproportionality in its use of Stop and Search. The Constabulary accepts that it is a low user of the power and there is scope to focus more on the extent to which Stop and Search is used as an effective crime fighting tool to prevent and detect crime.

I have asked the Constabulary to ensure that future monitoring reports continue to highlight any disproportionality in the use of Stop and Search but also focus on the extent to which the use of Stop and Search is intelligence led, and tactical, in attempting to prevent and detect crime.

I will also work with Suffolk's ACPO lead for Stop and Search to consider how the recommendations made in the national report could be addressed in Suffolk, although I am pleased to advise that clear processes are already in place for supervising, and monitoring, the use of Stop and Search.

Yours sincerely

Tim Passmore  
Police and Crime Commissioner

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