

Agenda Item: 13 – Marked ‘‘To Follow’’

To: Scrutiny and Audit Committee

From: Chief Constable

Date: 25th May 2010

STOP SEARCH REPORT

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to inform the Committee of the direction of travel with regard to annual monitoring of ‘All Stops’ proportionality.

2. Background

- 2.1 Police Forces have a duty to conduct reviews of all stops to check disproportionality as stated in practice advice on stop and search.
- 2.2 The Committee will recall that a review paper was presented to the Scrutiny and Audit meeting in May 2009. However, since that time lead Members have linked with the Constabulary and been briefed on legislation on Stop and Search and All Stops, and provided with a package which included current training packages delivered to new Officers and PCSO’s. Any concerns identified since the paper or from meetings held with lead members have been raised with the Constabulary’s Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Department which have implemented action to resolve these issues.

3. Data and Recording of ‘All Stops’

- 3.1 Members will be aware that as part of the desire to reduce bureaucracy, the organisation took the decision (on the back of national ACPO guidance) to cease recording ‘encounter’ only checks on ‘all stops’ forms. Instead, an entry in the pocket note book of an officer is made following each encounter. In the case of where a search is required a form is completed and the data captured by force systems.
- 3.2 Whilst it had been anticipated that data would have been provided to support this report, during the validation of the data, a number of inconsistencies were found in data sourced from different systems. Regrettably, the result is that this report cannot include comment around the number of searches completed at Force or divisional level. The problem has been diagnosed and a solution identified to be taken forward by the ICT department.

It is anticipated that data will be available for the Police Authority Scrutiny Committee in September, which is when the annual return data is normally presented to the Committee. An update on progress will be presented to the Performance Panel in August.

4. Matters to Note

- 4.1 A meeting was held with the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) who are currently overseeing 'Next Steps' Stop Search pilots in Dorset, Merseyside and the Metropolitan Police Service. Next Steps is a diagnostic tool assisting Forces to focus on the effective use of stop and search. A PA Member attended this meeting which sought to address some of the issues raised around Stop Search processes and disproportionality.
- 4.2 The NPIA had previously examined Cambridgeshire Constabulary's data on stop search and concluded that the Force had no serious issues regarding disproportionality.
- 4.3 It was agreed that Cambridgeshire Constabulary would seek to implement the principles from Next Steps as it is recognised that this would provide a more accurate picture of stop search in the county and form a good basis for taking this work further in a more meaningful way.
- 4.4 On 19th May 2010 the new Home Secretary has announced to the Police Federation conference that 'stop forms' would be scrapped and that the 'stop-search' procedures would be simplified. Full details of the changes are awaited.

5. Recommendation

- 5.1 The Constabulary are confident with the progress made in this area and await the release of detail regarding the recent changes announced by the Home Secretary. It is recommended that the Committee is reassured that subject is being appropriately managed.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Source Document (s)	Contact Officer	Location
	T/Det Supt Tony Ixer (01480) 428054	Cambridgeshire Constabulary Hinchingsbrooke Park, Huntingdon, Cambs, PE29 6NP.
<p>Originating OfficerACC</p> <p>Is it considered that this report contains 'exempt information' and should be considered in private? No</p> <p>No</p> <p>If the answer is "YES", please state the nature of the exempt information and the relevant clause in Part 1 of revised Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972.</p> <p>.....</p> <p>The attached report has been cleared with the undermentioned Officers: (delete as appropriate)</p> <p>Chief Executive/Chief Constable/Treasurer</p> <p>Others</p> <p>Submitted on19th May 2010.....</p> <p>A report will not be sent to the Authority unless this box has been satisfactorily completed and all necessary consultation carried out - the responsibility for which rests with the originator (except for consultation with the Chairman and this will be undertaken by the Chief Executive).</p>		