

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey



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Response from Kevin Hurley, Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey to the HMIC report on the Legitimacy strand of PEEL

I am pleased to receive this report from HMIC and to see that in the area of legitimacy and ethics of Surrey Police, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary has graded the force as "good" overall as well as awarding individual "good" gradings for each of the three areas that cover ethics, public engagement and the use of the stop and search and Tasers.

This is a well-deserved report which reflects the hard work done by Surrey Police to meet the needs of the local communities whilst taking good care of its own staff. Two policing priorities among the six identified by Surrey residents include being able to have their say on policing and to see a police force with high standards. This report reflects positively on those aims.

Having high ethical standards is key for policing and I am pleased that the inspectors have recognised the introduction of the code of ethics, positive local engagement, fair and appropriate use of Tasers and compliance with most aspects of the Best of Use of Stop and Search Scheme.

Following the publication of the report, the Home Secretary has written to me asking me to cover the Stop and Search scheme in this response. In this letter the Home Secretary identified Surrey as one of 19 forces failing to comply with all of the requirements of the Best Use Scheme and asked for details of how full compliance will be achieved.

I am pleased to report that my office took immediate action to look into this and found that Surrey was not fully compliant in only one aspect of the scheme – the recording and publishing of outcomes following a stop and search. The HMIC report found that Surrey Police did not publish data and did not provide a link to the police.uk website. We found that there was a link on the Surrey Police website; however, it was not obvious or easy to access. I have hence requested that data is not only provided on the



force website but that it is visible and accessible to the public and I am pleased to report that this has been actioned. Full data and the link to police.uk can be accessed here:

<http://www.surrey.police.uk/About-Us/Our-policies-and-procedures/InfoItemId/164>

Surrey Police is now fully compliant with the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme.

In terms of other areas highlighted for improvement in the report, I am aware of the length of time to resolve complaints and have recently scrutinised force performance in this area and discussed the need for more local resolution. I will discuss the potential for publishing data on the use of Taser in Surrey.

Kevin Hurley
Police and Crime Commissioner for Surrey

