

**NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS
INSPECTIONS OF NORTHUMBRIA POLICE**

Inspection title	Disproportionate use of police powers - A spotlight on stop and search and the use of force
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NORTHUMBRIA PCC RESPONSE TO HMICFRS

I welcome the HMICFRS spotlight report focusing on the disproportionate use of stop and search and the use of force on Black, Asian and Minoritised people. This is an area which I take very seriously, not least due to the risk that poor practice can lead to loss of trust within communities served by police.

It is clear from the report that there is a need for the police to do more to ensure officers identify disproportionality, understand the reasons for it, take action to reduce it where required, and explain those reasons and actions to the public. I welcome the report's findings and the recommendations.

Northumbria Police have updated me on their current position and plans to improve practice in this area where required. The force currently have some pockets of excellent practice. For example, BWV is currently made available to an external scrutiny panel for stop and search and improvements to this process and membership of the panel are currently being considered by the new stop and search lead. Northumbria Police was highlighted as one of only five forces using BWV in this way and HMICFRS was supportive of this as good practice. In addition, the force has lower disproportionality for use of force compared to the national data presented within the inspection report. However, the force are equally committed to understanding any gaps in this data, and striving to improve practice across the board, rather than resting on their existing achievements.

I have been updated by the force on plans to improve. For example, the use of body worn video (BWV) is not currently mandated during stop and searches or use of force; however, it is recommended that officers do activate their personal issue BWV when engaging in the use of policing powers wherever practicable. This message is being reinforced in a forthcoming internal publication from Professional Standards Department and Force policy and procedure will be amended to reflect this. Work is also being undertaken to understand the impact an increase of BWV usage will have on storage capability. Further, the force continues to develop and deliver training for staff, including a digital package focussing on unconscious bias, which has currently been completed by 90% of staff since its launch in December 2020.

The force have assured me that they are committed to understanding the use of stop and search and use of force, and I will continue to monitor progress through my Scrutiny process. Stop and

search and use of force are core areas of business on my scrutiny agenda, with the force reporting to me on a regular basis.

I thank the inspectorate for this invaluable report.

Yours sincerely



Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria