

Acting Chief Constable Simon Edens Response to HMIC Report into Stop and Search:

“Leicestershire Police welcomes the HMIC inspection report which reflects the progress that has been made by the Force since it was inspected in 2012.

“That progress has also been reflected in a report published by the Equality and Human Rights Commission in June 2013 reported that five Forces, including Leicestershire, had improved the way its stop and search tactics were being used.

“The force has worked hard to ensure the tactic is used fairly. Today’s HMIC report identifies a number of strengths in Leicestershire including strong leadership and supervision; regular audits; internal and external scrutiny of the Force’s stop and search procedures; its ongoing work with DeMontfort University, who are researching the reasons given by officers for stopping individuals, and robust monitoring processes.

“On average, in a 24 hour period, eleven people are searched across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland and around 20 per cent of Leicestershire Police’s stop searches result in positive outcomes such as issuing fixed penalty notices, giving street cautions and the force is making, on average, 640 arrests per year which is 2% above the national average.

“However the force is aware that there are recommendations in the report that are pertinent to all forces including Leicestershire such as a better understanding of the effectiveness of stop search as a crime fighting tool; a better understanding of how stop and search can affect public trust and the use of technology to modernise the stop search process. These recommendations form part of ongoing and future work streams.”

Police and Crime Commissioner, Sir Clive Loader’s, response to HMIC Stop and Search report:

“I too welcome this report. Leicestershire Police Force has significantly raised its game in its use of Stop & Search and, although there are several areas where further improvement is required (for example increasing even further its effectiveness, and in deeper engagement with young people), it is pleasing to see how much progress has already been made.

“I note, in particular, that the Public Survey results for Leicestershire Police place them better than the national average in almost every aspect of how this vital crime-fighting tool is perceived. So, whilst there is still work to be done, I congratulate the Force on its progress thus far.”