



Rt Hon Theresa May MP  
Home Secretary  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

9<sup>th</sup> March 2016

Dear Home Secretary

I am pleased to send my formal response to HMIC's inspection of Northamptonshire Police titled 'PEEL Police Legitimacy 2015' as required by statute. The response will be made available online and I will also be sharing this with HMIC.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Adam Simmonds', with a horizontal line underneath.

**Adam Simmonds**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner**



### **HMIC: PEEL Police Legitimacy Inspection 2015**

As part of its annual inspections into police effectiveness, efficiency and legitimacy (PEEL), I welcome HMIC's legitimacy inspection of Northamptonshire Police which judges Northamptonshire Police to be 'Good' at treating people fairly and equally.

Throughout 2015, HMIC's PEEL (Police Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy) inspection programme assessed the culture within Northamptonshire Police and how this is reflected in the Force's public engagement, use of tasers and compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme.

Northamptonshire Police received a 'Good' rating across the overview measure of 'how legitimate is the force at keeping people safe and reducing crime?', as well as receiving the same rating across the key HMIC questions of 'to what extent does practice and behaviour reinforce the wellbeing of staff and an ethical culture?', 'how well does the force understand, engage with and treat fairly the people it serves to maintain and improve its legitimacy?' and 'to what extent are decisions taken on the use of stop and search and tasers fair and appropriate?'

The HMIC report found that:

- The chief officer team took seriously the need for an ethical and inclusive workforce, and allegations against officers and staff were generally dealt with fairly and consistently
- It is clear that local teams engage positively with the public
- The force is complying with most of the features of the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme, and use of tasers is fair and appropriate,

I am pleased to see that the HMIC Legitimacy Report has identified that Northamptonshire Police treat people fairly and equally. The report reflects the hard work we have carried out in engaging with communities in the county to understand their views and opinions around the work of Northamptonshire Police and in particular around the use of Stop and Search powers – an area which as a county we have been a national leader on.

I will ensure Northamptonshire Police take note of the suggested areas of improvement in the report.

In relation to Compliance with the Best Use of Stop and Search scheme, HMIC deemed Northamptonshire Police to be non-compliant in relation to two areas. I have been informed by the

Chief Constable that the following procedures for Stop and Search are subject to the following actions:

**Recording and publishing outcomes:** All outcomes are recorded and published in full on the Northamptonshire Police website, accessible to the public. In addition, the force creates a summary to explain the figures to add clarity for anyone who is not at ease with analysing figurative data.

**Providing opportunity for the public to observe officers using their powers:** Although the force has provided this facility for a number of years, it is acknowledged that this was not publicised effectively. This has been remedied and the force website now provides all the information needed for members of the public to apply to patrol with Northamptonshire Police.



Adam Simmonds

Northamptonshire Police and Crime Commissioner