

Police and Crime Commissioner for Dyfed-Powys response to:

Report on the Criminal Justice Alliance's super-complaint: Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 and independent community scrutiny of stop and search.

I acknowledge the recommendations outlined in this report and will monitor the Force's progress in implementing them. The super-complaint report was discussed at Policing Board on 12th of January 2024. This is the forum at which I hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of policing services across the Dyfed-Powys area.

I support the recommendation that asks the NPCC to consider a framework to help forces take a consistent approach to decision-making, minimise harm and evaluate their use of the power. I am aware that the Force is already putting measures in place to meet the recommendations in the report.

Dyfed-Powys Police do not often use Section 60 powers, as there are few large-scale events held in the force area. Section 60 was used twice in the past 12 months as a result of increased violence at protests held. Stradey Park Hotel in Llanelli (Carmarthenshire) where the Home Office planned to house asylum seekers. Dyfed-Powys Police had not used this power for a significant period of time prior to these two instances.

I have discussed stop and search with the Chief Constable regularly at Policing Board meetings and continue to monitor the Force's use of stop and search powers. The Force publishes their stop and search data annually on their website.

I was pleased that during the Force's most recent PEEL Assessment (2023-25), it was noted that: "The force encourages strong scrutiny and challenge of stop and search". Dyfed-Powys Police is rated as 'adequate' at using police powers and treating people fairly and respectfully.

Within the PEEL Assessment, it also stated: "The force understands and improves the way it uses stop and search powers through analysis and monitoring at force-level meetings. It can show that its use of stop and search is generally fair and effective. This helps to reduce crime. But the force should make sure that officers understand its strategic objective in increasing the use of stop and search".

The Force has already informed my office of work being undertaken in relation to the PEEL Assessment's areas requiring improvement. Further detail can be found in my response to the PEEL Assessment, published on my website.

The Dyfed-Powys Independent Advisory Group, consisting of members of the public from diverse backgrounds undertakes regular dip-sampling of the use of stop and search. In addition, my Quality Assurance Panel scrutinises the quality of Dyfed-Powys Police's contact with the public, in a transparent and independent manner, on behalf of the communities within the Dyfed-Powys area. My office is already undertaking a review of this Panel and will continue to ensure that all points within recommendation 8 have been duly considered. I will ask my office to provide a briefing at the Policing Board meeting on 11th of June 2024 to outline the work undertaken.

The Force has assured me that the recommendations set out within the super-complaint report will be monitored and progressed through the Ethical Use of Police Powers Group meetings. I will be asking the Force to provide an update on their work relating to these recommendations at a meeting of the Policing Board on the 11th of June 2024.

The Chief Constable and I will publish our responses as directed by the timescales directed in the report.