

## Transcription - Part 2 PAM Teams Recording – 0:00 - 3:26 – 25 October 2022

Police and Crime Commissioner – Welcomes everyone back from break at 11:30

Police and Crime Commissioner: “I overlooked a question prior to the break, concerning the last item which I would like to reopen, the PEEL Report noted that there were stop and searches conducted which were unreasonable based on the grounds for those searches, could you comment on that issue and on how you intend to tackle it?”

Deputy Chief Constable: “May I pick that up Commissioner, I think the latter point of that question I will start with. What the HMI Report describes is a recording issue and as a consequence of a recording issue, the Chief mentioned in answer to an earlier question, HMI look at what is on our system as opposed to what is potentially happening on the ground, so what we’ve ensured we do is, not least with body worn video, we’ve looked at, as did HMI, look at a number of stop search encounters from the perspective of the body worn video and were satisfied that actually the grounds themselves we are looking at via body worns were good grounds, and let me be clear, stop search is a powerful tool used appropriately and fairly in the intervention of potential crimes being committed, potentially quite serious crimes, so HMI was satisfied, that when they were viewing our body worn video, i.e a true record of the interaction, that the grounds were positive grounds and they were being provided verbally to the person being stopped.

Where they challenged us, quite properly actually, was the way in which we were recording those grounds onto our, whether it be paper copy, or now onto our electronic system, were not as good as they ought to have been in terms of the way we recorded them, so as an organisation, we clearly respond to that sort of a challenge because good stop search, or in this case, stop searches are not being recorded, and we understand that has an impact on that confidence piece within our community.

So, as a consequence of that is, as you would expect us to do, we have a task and finish group looking at ways to both support the officers to record appropriately, they’ve got them in their head, are they recording them properly, so offering support to officers to do so. I would probably temper that a little bit, which is a point we’ve made before, all this takes time and every time we’re spending time doing reporting or recording is time we could be doing something else with our public, but we do see this as important so we’re spending time with our officers both in terms of training and supporting them, so they know what to put down on the record, through that task and finish group.

We’re also using technology to ensure that through the mobile application, we have OPTIK, that we use OPTIK every time. There is a slight challenge when officers are either using a paper record or OPTIK, we expect our supervisors to check in real time, to check the grounds and provide feedback straight away and clearly if you’re doing it on a paper record there’s a time delay as it transits the system whereas by putting it on OPTIK there’s a relatively immediate response.”