



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

Mr Richard Taylor

5 September 2008

Dear Mr Taylor

Further to my letter of 4 August, I have received the attached reply from DS Hill about the All Stops recording trial.

I am still awaiting a reply from the Home Secretary.

Yours sincerely

David Howarth
Member of Parliament for Cambridge

Encl

Subject: Letter

C Julie Spence (Richard Taylor)

uk

Date: Thu, 28 Aug 2008 11:53:03 +0100

To: howarth.casework@googlemail.com

Dear Mr Howarth,

I write in response to your recent letter to Chief Constable Julie Spence asking for information about the All Stops recording trial. Please excuse this particular mode of communication, however both the Chief Constable and I have had overlapping periods of leave and I am conscious that your enquiry is now some three weeks old. Please accept my apologies for the lateness of this response.

As I'm sure you are aware, Cambridgeshire has one of the fastest growing populations in the country, with an ever increasing complexity associated with not only diversity of culture but also the range of languages spoken. These variables have a direct impact on an array of policing issues and require constant oversight to ensure an equality of service provision.

As the lead on Citizen Focus for the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), Mrs Spence is also acutely aware of the impact police driven processes have on the citizen in terms of their levels of satisfaction. Inconvenience and a perception of unfair treatment are both issues that impact negatively on the citizen's experience of policing.

There is no doubt that communication difficulties encountered during the form completion element of a stop and encounter, causes a disproportionate level of delay to residents in this county who do not have English as their first language. It could be argued that this police driven process has a direct impact on some sections of the community which is unequal and therefore quite unjustifiable in the circumstances.

It is for these reasons and in the spirit of reducing unnecessary bureaucracy that a trial was commenced that negates the need for officers to complete Stop and Encounter forms, where the stop itself does not result in a search. Officers will still be required to record basic details but the completion of the Stop and Encounter form will not be necessary thus saving time both for the officer and the individual subject of the encounter. This initiative commenced on the 1st of April and was due to conclude on 30th June this year but has been extended further to allow for the completion of appropriate results analysis which will assist Mrs Spence in assessing whether the benefits to the citizen outweigh the loss of performance data in this area. It is anticipated that a decision will be made on the future of All Stops recording mid way through next month.

We have had extensive communication with Mr Taylor where we have explained the rationale and objectives of the trial. We hope that this further information will comfort him that this trial is being properly regulated, analysed and will inform decisions relative to processes for the future.

Please feel free to contact me directly if I can assist you further.

Kind regards,

Jeff Hill
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Head of Citizen Focus and Volume Crime
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