
KATE GREEN
**DEPUTY MAYOR
OF GREATER
MANCHESTER**

Rt Hon Suella Braverman
Secretary of State for the Home Department
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

4th August 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

SUBJECT: State of Policing: The Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2022

I write in response to the HMICFRS Annual Assessment of Policing in England and Wales 2022 report.

The first annual report of the Chief Inspector raises many important points, including how police forces can remain effective, efficient and legitimate in the face of ever increasing operational and resource demand, and the continued challenge of public trust in policing, both in certain communities, and in response to certain crimes.

I was particularly pleased to see the Chief Inspector directly reference the significant improvements that have been seen in Greater Manchester Police (GMP) since Chief Constable Stephen Watson's appointment in May 2021. Whilst we are pleased at the improvements that have been made, the Mayor and I are committed to ensuring that progress continues, and Greater Manchester Police continues its journey to becoming the best performing police force in the country.

Within his report, the Chief Inspector makes three specific recommendations.

- 1. By 30 September 2023, the National Police Chiefs' Council lead on stop and search, working with the College of Policing and academia, should commission further primary research to quantify the deterrent value of stop and search and the causes of disproportionality in its use.***

I support this recommendation.

In 2022, GMP conducted 24,452 stop and searches, compared to 9147 in 2021 (rise of 167%). Following those stop and search encounters, GMP arrested 3378 people in

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

2022, compared to 1045 in 2021 (223% increase). c.53% of those Stop and Searched were White, c.11.5% were Black and c.15% were South Asian.

Whilst the increase in the use of the power and the subsequent arrests reflects GMP's more proactive approach to policing, and it is pleasing that the proportion of complaints has not increased, it is clear there remains an imbalance in the ethnicity of those stopped and searched when compared to the wider Greater Manchester (GM) ethnicity figures, with the potential to affect public confidence in policing in some communities. My office is already working closely with GMP to understand the drivers of this disproportionality, and further understanding of the deterrent value of stop and search and causes of its disproportionate use based on national research would be welcomed.

- 2. By 31 December 2023, the Home Secretary should review the present limitations in the legislation concerning the Inspectors of Constabulary and establish whether measures to resolve them should be introduced to Parliament.***

I support this recommendation and set out my reasons below.

- 3. By 31 December 2023, the Home Secretary should re-establish the involvement of the Inspectors of Constabulary in the selection and appointment of police chief officers and determine whether legislative changes should be introduced to Parliament.***

I would wish to see further engagement and discussion with PCCs regarding this recommendation and expand on my reasons below.

I also comment on several other points made by the Chief Inspector.

Theme 1: The police aren't always focusing on the issues that matter most to the public, and charge rates are far too low.

Public perception and victim experience

In the last 12 months, the GM Police and Community Safety Survey has found that 60% of respondents are confident of getting help from GMP in an emergency, and 40% are confident of getting help from GMP in a non-emergency. We know public confidence in our police forces is an ongoing issue and improving this remains a key priority for the Chief Constable, the Mayor and myself. We are currently developing a GM Victim survey, built on the 12 Victim Code of Practice principles, to enhance our understanding of the victim experience here in GM and drive improvements in policing, as well as in the wider Criminal Justice system. We have been working with Home Office officials to ensure our survey will complement the Victim Experience Survey currently in development by your department.

Factors affecting police performance

The introduction of Right Person, Right Care will help in freeing up much needed police resource. However, the capacity of mental health services to meet demand is of concern and must be strengthened to ensure that decisions on police attendance do not impact on individuals' safety or generate unmanageable demand and pressure in another emergency or health services.

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

Theme 2: The police aren't always getting the basics right

Responding to the public and investigating crimes

We know the failure to respond promptly to crimes and incidents is one of the biggest drivers affecting the public's confidence in the police. Improving response times has been a priority for GMP, and since 2021, through Operation Castle, the Force has led the way nationally on the policy to send an officer to every single domestic burglary. In the 12 months to February 2023, GMP solved 68.7% more residential burglaries than in the previous year, whilst the number of people arrested on suspicion of burglary in Greater Manchester rose by 42.1%.

In the same period, the force recorded 688 fewer residential burglaries. This is despite improved compliance with national standards, which has resulted in increased recording across many crime types. Getting such policies and processes right is critical to both improving public confidence as well as reducing the number of victims (both first time and repeat). GMP are now taking the learning from Operation Castle and looking to replicate it where possible in the force-wide response to other high harm crimes.

Operation Vulcan specifically targets the Cheetham Hill area of Manchester, and through multi-agency partnership working has seen almost 50% reduction in public order offences, including harassment and violent disturbance, 60% reduction in vehicles crimes, and 50% reduction in theft from person. In July 2023, Operation Vulcan produced the largest single haul of counterfeit goods ever recovered in the UK - 580 tonnes of items including clothes, drugs and illicit tobacco. GMP's approach to tackling serious organised crime is significantly reducing the impact criminals have on our communities and shows the public the force is responding to their concerns.

Police don't collect and analyse data well

Following the introduction of iOPS in Greater Manchester Police in 2019, the force has faced significant issues in its ability to understand the data it collects and use it to drive improvement. Substantial investment is being made to address this, and I continue to support the Chief Constable in ensuring that GMP has the effective systems it needs to secure improvements in the force's data collection and analysis.

Disproportionality across policing remains a priority concern for the Mayor and me. We will shortly publish GMP's second Achieving Race Equality Report. This will provide transparency in respect of GMP's performance and support a review of practices where clear racial disproportionality is identified.

Theme 3: Governance, Leadership and Workforce Reform

A modern governance structure for a modern service

I agree that the National Police Chiefs Council's (NPCC) national decision-making processes should be strengthened to support the collective interests of policing and the public. Examples such as Operation Castle and Operation Soteria demonstrate that whilst some local divergence is needed to respond to local problems, where there is clear evidence to suggest a single approach to an issue produces better outcomes for victims, the NPCC should have to powers to instruct all forces to adopt it.

GMCA, Broadhurst House, 56 Oxford Street, Manchester, M1 6EU

<u>BOLTON</u>	<u>MANCHESTER</u>	<u>ROCHDALE</u>	<u>STOCKPORT</u>	<u>TRAFFORD</u>
<u>BURY</u>	<u>OLDHAM</u>	<u>SALFORD</u>	<u>TAMESIDE</u>	<u>WIGAN</u>

I appreciate the acknowledgement in the Chief Inspector's report of the Mayor's support for GMP during the 'engage' process; and endorse his comments in relation to the need for resources and support for those forces placed in the 'engage' process to enable them to exit it as swiftly as possible.

I also support his comments regarding the need for action in response to recommendations made following an inspection. They should be mandatory with a robust and clear follow up process in place to ensure that police forces are taking responsibility for improving points of service failure. In that connection, I welcome the suggestion of moving to an annual report style response from Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) to HMICFRS. Recommendations from HMICFRS are often complex and are unlikely to be implemented and produce tangible results within the existing 56-day response window. An annual reporting structure would help to provide a more rigorous framework to support PCCs in our local scrutiny function, improve police forces' understanding of scrutiny, and strengthen the crucial role it plays in improving public confidence in the police.

I note the proposal in relation to the Chief Inspector's involvement in the recruitment process for Chief Constables. The appointment of a Chief Constable is one of the key roles of the Police and Crime Commissioner and ensures that the Chief Constable is responsive to the local community. PCCs should be conducting due diligence on candidates during the recruitment process, and identifying the leaders they feel are right to take their police force forward to meet local needs and priorities, and it's not clear what an "independent assessment of the suitability" would entail and how it would be tailored to any particular force and PCC. Nonetheless, PCCs could clearly benefit from the insight of the Chief Inspector into the demands of the role of Chief Constable and knowledge of potential candidates, and I would support further consideration of how this proposal might be taken forward in conjunction with PCCs.

In conclusion, the Mayor and I will continue to work with Greater Manchester Police and HMICFRS to ensure that the public in Greater Manchester are being served by the best police force possible, and where future points of improvements are identified, a robust and proportionate level of scrutiny is applied to ensure the necessary improvements are made in a timely manner.

Yours sincerely



Kate Green
Deputy Mayor of Greater Manchester