

Katy Bourne OBE
Sussex Police & Crime Commissioner

Tel: 01273 481561
Email: pcc@sussex-pcc.gov.uk
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk

The Office of the
Sussex Police &
Crime Commissioner
Sackville House
Brooks Close, Lewes
East Sussex, BN7 2FZ



**Sussex
Police & Crime
Commissioner**

Councillor Bill Bentley
Chairman
Sussex Police & Crime Panel
County Hall
West Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ

13 July 2020

Dear Councillor Bentley

Annual Report 2019/20

Thank you for your letter dated 2 July 2020.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Sussex Police & Crime Panel for their positive feedback about my Annual Report 2019/20 and the progress that was demonstrated against the policing and crime objectives contained within.

As discussed at last month's Panel meeting, I have continued to question Sussex Police on their appropriate use of stop and search powers at my webcast monthly Performance & Accountability Meetings (PAMs). At the PAM on 19 June 2020, the Chief Constable reiterated that the Force understands the significance that any negative perceptions around the disproportionate use of these powers can have on members of the public. This is also something that is recognised to be an issue for policing locally and nationally.

Sussex Police is determined to ensure that each stop and search interaction with members of the public is conducted fairly, lawfully and ethically. The Force remains resolute in its commitment to build on the established engagement it has with local Black, Asian, and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities and is examining its stop and search processes, alongside the use of other policing powers, to better understand the outcomes achieved. This PAM session is archived and can be viewed on my website through the following link:
www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/get-involved/webcasting/

I can also confirm that an 'Equality and Diversity Summary' report was presented to my Joint Audit Committee in December 2019 which provided an outline of the activity undertaken by Sussex Police in this important area. The report set out how the Force meets its responsibilities under the Equality Act 2010 and the further actions required to improve the representation of BAME individuals throughout the workforce – including within any new cohorts of police officers joining the organisation. This report is published on my website and can be viewed through the following link:

www.sussex-pcc.gov.uk/about/transparency/joint-audit-committee/

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Thank you for your helpful suggestion – I will ensure that a section about 'Diversity, Equality and Inclusion' is added into the final version of the Annual Report 2019/20 and all future annual reports produced by my office which sets out the information highlighted. This approach will ensure that I am able to demonstrate better the progress made in respect of equality and diversity in Sussex.

The office and I remain completely committed to ensuring that the policing and crime concerns of the public are appropriately articulated and that our new Chief Constable has everything required to deliver efficient and effective policing locally.

I look forward to continuing to build on our collective achievements during 2020/21.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katy Bourne', written in a cursive style.

Katy Bourne OBE
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