



Cllr Steve Mackay  
Chairman, West Mercia Police and Crime Panel  
c/o Legal and Democratic Services  
Worcestershire County Council  
County Hall  
Spetchley Road  
Worcester  
WR5 2NP

Date: 31 July 2020

Our ref: JPC/JI  
Your ref:

Dear Councillor Mackay,

### **Draft Annual Report 2019/20 of the Police and Crime Commissioner for West Mercia**

Thank you for your letter outlining the Police and Crime Panel's response to my draft Annual Report 2019-20. In accordance with my statutory responsibilities this is my response to those comments, set out in the same order as your letter.

Public engagement – since being elected in 2016 I have actively engaged with our communities using a wide range of engagement platforms including newsletters, Q and A sessions, the confidence survey, via parish magazines and road show events. More recently during the coronavirus pandemic I have continued to reach out to communities and maintained my engagement activity where possible.

Hate crimes resulting in police action – the force has a specific policy and procedure in place to ensure a victim focused approach to the investigative of every report of hate crime. This requires every hate crime reported to have resources allocated to it within 48 hours.

The number of stop and searches conducted – in 2019/20 West Mercia Police undertook 4748 stop searches, of which 36.4% resulted in positive action.

Impact of Athena on sharing information - the benefits of the Athena project are being realised. Enhancements to its functionality are ongoing, including better management information that can be made available to partners. For example, changes to the search function enable staff in Harm Assessment Units to more easily identify children who are subject or witness to police-attended incidents of domestic abuse and notify schools as part of the Operation Encompass initiative.

I note the recommendation made by the Panel in respect of performance data and have amended the draft annual report to include an additional appendix showing the previous year data where applicable.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Campion". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

John Campion  
Police and Crime Commissioner  
**West Mercia**