



Dr Suzanne Shale
London Policing Ethics Panel

DAC Laurence Taylor
Metropolitan Police Service
New Scotland Yard
Victoria Embankment
London
SW1A 2JL

8th November 2022

Dear Dr Suzanne Shale,

I welcome London Policing Ethics Panel Interim Report on More Thorough searches where Intimate Parts are exposed (MTIPs). I am grateful for the opportunity the MPS has had to be part of the review process and for the acknowledgment within the report that efforts have already been made by the MPS to improve the ways in which these searches are carried out.

As an organisation we are committed to learning from experience and strive to get things right first time, improving trust through higher standards. We share the common goal of building and improving confidence through ethical policing. The MPS recognises the significant impact of MTIPs and we continue to work hard to balance the policing need for this type of search with the considerable impact it can have, especially on young people.

Whilst ensuring we have very clear control over this type of search, through the introduction of new measures across the MPS, we remain open to further recommendations such as those included within your report, which will assist in ensuring stronger grounds and justification are recorded by officers prior to an MTIP search and better explanations and understanding are provided to the individual prior to any MTIP search.

Child Q highlighted to us a number of areas where our use of MTIP searches was wrong. We got it wrong with Child Q and we have got it wrong with other searches of this nature. It was this that led us to change our practices, scrutiny and management of the use of this tactic and we have seen some significant improvements as a result.

While we understand the impact on any individual and we are continually improving our practices to MTIPs overall, we are particularly focused on searches of those U18. The trauma caused by an MTIP search on a child is clear and while we have made a number of changes to our processes, we have more to do. The MPS is scoping a child centric approach that will incorporate the wider use of policing powers and not solely on MTIPs or stop and search more widely but we have already set very clear direction that the child must be the first consideration when using any intrusive tactic of this nature.

We accept the recommendations made by the panel. Many of the recommendations cover specific areas of improvement work that are already currently underway but will be enhanced by the additional points raised.

In conclusion, I found the report to be balanced, considered and well thought through, from many perspectives. I thank you for the panel's time, input and commitment in assisting the MPS to provide a better service to Londoners through fuller consideration of the impact of using one of our most intrusive powers.

Kindest regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Laurence Taylor", written over a horizontal line.