

**Q4. Do you have any other comments regarding the proposed new powers (on drones, lasers or corrosive substances)?**

**200 word limit.**

There has been a marked increase in the number of recorded corrosive substance attacks, the use of drones and laser pointers to commit offences. Whilst these crimes have not had a significant impact to our communities in Northumbria, I welcome the extended powers to protect the public. However, I am committed to ensuring the use of stop and search in Northumbria is based on evidence and intelligence in order to support force priorities and any disparities are minimised.

The force has an established system of independent scrutiny which enables issues and concerns to be highlighted at an early stage and we envisage this would continue in regard to new powers.

Our independent scrutiny includes involvement from SIAG who scrutinise all stop and searches with our Black Asian Minority Ethnic (BAME) Communities, accessing body worn video footage and the record of the search. Feedback is used to assist in officer training regarding unconscious bias and highlighting officer safety issues when conducting searches.

Northumbria Police work with BAME communities, including those from refugee/asylum seeker organisations and young people to explain the process, listen to their concerns and gain greater understanding of cultural barriers in order to use the tactic appropriately and respectfully.