

Appendix A

Questions to the Police and Crime Panel from the public

Background

Ms Fleming submitted a Freedom of Information request to the Police and Crime Panel on 3 June 20. The FOI asked the following question:-

“Please provide full details with any results of any scrutiny undertaken to date by the Commissioner’s office of any potential racial bias in the issuing of FPNs by Herts Constabulary in enforcement of Covid lockdown measures”.

The Police and Crime Commissioner’s office responded on 8 June 20 with the following answer:-

“Please be advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner's office is not currently undertaking any scrutiny of potential racial bias in the issuing of FPNs by Herts Constabulary in the enforcement of COVID-19 lockdown measures as requested in your email. There are therefore no details available to send to you.” (A copy of the FOI response letter is attached as appendix A (1)).

Ms Fleming responded to the PCC on 8 June 20 with the following:-

“The below article shows that members of the BAME community have been disproportionately impacted in the issuance of lockdown related FPNs in London.

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jun/03/met-police-twice-as-likely-to-fine-black-people-over-lockdown-breaches-research>

Given the Commissioner's role in holding the Chief Constable to account, and clear public concern around policing and racial equality, please provide details of what measures the Commissioner's office is taking to monitor the relationship between policing and racial equality in the local area”.

The Police and Crime Commissioner’s office responded on 10 June 20 with the following answer:-

“Please be advised that the Police and Crime Commissioner's office holds no information on measures taken to monitor the relationship between policing and racial equality in the local area as requested in your email”. (A copy of the FOI response letter is attached as appendix A (2)).

The covering email with the FOI response said:-

“Please note though that although the Commissioner’s office does not currently have any measures in place, I can advise that discussions and meetings on this issue are currently in progress”.

QUESTIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

- 1. In relation to the FOI response Ms Fleming received dated 8 June 20, Ms Fleming's question to the Police and Crime Panel is:-**

"Should the Commissioner's office be carrying out scrutiny of policing and racial equality in the area?"

- 2. In relation to the FOI response Ms Fleming received dated 10 June 20, Ms Fleming's question to the Police and Crime Panel is:-**

"You will see I was informed the Commissioner's office does not currently take any measures to monitor policing and racial equality. However, I see that the Commissioner's office has a Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel which analyses disproportionality. The report notes that black people are some 4.7 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than a white person, with white people less targeted than any other group.

As someone who was evidently interested in disproportionality, does the panel consider I was provided with an honest answer in being told there are no measures to monitor racial equality? It appears to me that there are, but the results are not favourable".

- 3. Third question for the Panel**

"In addition, I wish to be informed if the panel considers it acceptable that in the PCC response to the Panel it is claimed that "informal" scrutiny of potential racial bias in the issuance of FPNs was being carried out but that the PCC's office considered it acceptable to tell me in the FOI response that there was "no scrutiny". The reason it is claimed this was acceptable is because it was not "formal" scrutiny although my request was for "any scrutiny".