

Rt Hon Suella Braverman KC MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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30 March 2023

Dear Home Secretary

Roads policing and the Strategic Policing Requirement

We were very pleased that you included roads policing as a cross-cutting priority in the recent Strategic Policing Requirement. This is something that PACTS called for in our June 2020 report [Roads policing and its contribution to road safety](#). As you will know, it was also a recommendation of the HMIC&FRS inspection report published soon after, and the report by the Police Foundation in 2022.

Roads policing has the twin benefits of disrupting many forms of crime, often serious, while also preventing major harm. Our focus is on the latter: around 1,700 people die each year on the UK's roads, more than twice the number of deaths from homicides and terrorism combined. A further 25,000+ people are seriously injured. As the SPR makes clear, tackling these matters requires an intelligent, well planned and adequately resourced, nationally-coordinated approach.

Roads policing has suffered disproportionate cuts over the past decade with adverse consequences for road casualties and crime. We are encouraged, however, by the support for improved roads policing from the APCC (now led by Katy Bourne) and the NPCC, (Chief Constable Shiner) and we support the NPCC's National Roads Policing Strategy. The SPR will give this a powerful boost.

We recognise that the emphasis in the SPR is on tackling serious crime such as terrorism and serious and organised criminality. We understand this, being a Home Office document. We would point out, however, that traffic crime which routinely leads to such high levels of death and injury is also "serious" and around two-thirds are estimated to involve a traffic offence. We believe that strengthening the roads policing capacity as set out in the SPR will enable both to be better achieved, in accordance with the four activity pillars of the National Roads Policing Strategy which the SPR references.

We are keen to see this new guidance adopted by police forces across the country as soon as possible. Tracy Catlin of your Department kindly gave a presentation on the SPR and roads policing to the PACTS Council of Members meeting in Westminster earlier in March. She outlined the ways in which it should be taken forward.

I think they can be summarised as:

- implementation by Chief Constables and PCCs in England and Wales;
- having the capabilities identified in the SPR;
- PCCs to have regard to the SPR in their police and crime plans;

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- Guidance by the APCC;
- HMICFRS to consider the SPR through its PEEL programme and inspections. The Home Office to engage with HMICFRS on these matters.

(For reference, I have appended them in full below.)

We also look forward to the outcomes of the joint Home Office/Department for Transport/NPCC review of roads policing (launched 2019), and the related Roads Policing Review: Call for Evidence (launched 2020) - both now overdue.

PACTS would be very grateful to be kept informed of progress with implementation on these matters. We will do what we can to support them through our engagement with stakeholders, such as NPCC, APCC, DfT, the Transport Safety APPG and other parliamentarians.

It will be for my successor, Jamie Hassall, to follow up as I leave PACTS at the end of March. I am personally delighted that this outcome has been achieved before I go. My sincere thanks to you and all the staff involved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David G Davies', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David G Davies,
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cc Jamie Hassall, Executive Director Elect, jamie.hassall@pacts.org.uk

Appendix: Extract from Home Office presentation to PACTS Council of Members meeting, Portcullis House, Westminster, 9th March 2023.

- The implementation of the SPR is the responsibility of Chief Constables and PCCs in England and Wales.
- PCCs must hold Chief Constables to account for having, or having access to, the capabilities that have been identified in this document as critical to the planning of an effective and proportionate response to the national threats.
- PCCs are also required to have regard to the SPR themselves and there are now strengthened and clearer arrangements around how PCCs factor in the SPR when issuing or varying their police and crime plans.
- PCCs have the legal power and duty to set the strategic direction and objectives of the force through their police and crime plan which must have regard to the SPR.
- Guidance will be provided by the APCC, to support PCCs to detail how they have had regard to the SPR.
- HMICFRS independently inspects and reports on the efficiency, effectiveness and legitimacy of individual forces' performance through its PEEL programme and, through its programme of thematic inspections. Force compliance with the SPR will, in future, be looked at thematically. We will engage with HMICFRS as it develops its inspection programmes.