

**DECISION NOTICE**

**Decision author and proposer:** Vicky Sugars, Assistant Director, Police, Crime and Fire team, GMCA

<b>Subject/ Title:</b>
Independent inquiry by Dame Vera Baird KC, into the experience of women and girls who are arrested and taken into custody by Greater Manchester Police.

<b>Type of decision:</b>			
<b>Deputy Mayor's decision</b>		<b>Chief Officer's decision</b>	X

**In all cases this will need to be approved by the Director Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire.**

<p><b>The decision is that:</b></p> <p>Funding of an additional £20,000 be provided to engage Dame Vera Baird KC to conduct an independent inquiry into the experience of women and girls arrested and taken into police custody in GMP, at the invitation of the Mayor.</p> <p>The inquiry will be concluded in June 2024.</p> <p>Funding will be provided from the Police and Crime Community Safety Budget.</p>
<p><b>The reasons for the decision are:</b></p> <p>The purpose of this independent inquiry is to explore the experience of women and girls who are arrested and taken into police custody, particularly in respect of maximising their rights, their safety and their dignity. It will particularly focus on the appropriate use, or otherwise, of strip searches and intimate searches, removal and replacement of clothing. The inquiry will explore and seek to understand the experiences of three women, whose accounts have recently been featured on national television, and how widespread their experience may be. The inquiry will also examine the fitness of current GMP policy and procedures arising from these accounts.</p> <p>The funding will enable the inquiry to be undertaken independently and by someone with nationally recognised expertise and experience in this field. This will give the independent inquiry credibility and enable it to be conducted expeditiously.</p>

**This decision will contribute to priorities of the Greater Manchester strategy in the following ways:**

This is essential to supporting victims and increasing public confidence, particularly with women and girls. This is a key priority of the Police and Crime Plan.

**Procurement comments**

No procurement concerns. This is a one-off requirement and there are no other suppliers in the market with the same breadth and experience.

**Financial comments:**

Funding will be provided from the Police and Crime Community Safety Budget.

**Legal comments:**

A contract will be drawn up that will cover the legal considerations.

A data sharing agreement is in place between the GMCA, GMP and Dame Vera Baird KC and legal and IG expertise has been sought.

**Risk Assessment:**

A Terms of Reference for the review has been drawn up that covers wider matters.

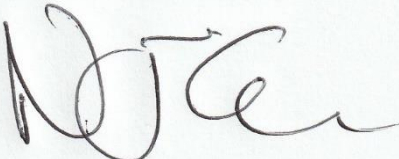
**Is safeguarding of children relevant and has this been considered:**

Yes, and safeguarding matters are considered in the Terms of Reference.

**Is safeguarding of vulnerable adults relevant and has this been considered:**

Yes, and safeguarding matters are considered in the Terms of Reference.

**Agreed by Director – Police, Crime, Criminal Justice and Fire**



**Signed.....**

**Date.....23<sup>rd</sup> May 2024.....**

**Agreed by GMCA Treasurer**

**Signed.....**

**Date.....**

**Agreed by Deputy Mayor**

**Only required for a Deputy Mayor Decision on amounts of £50,000+**

**Signed: .....**

**Date: .....**

**Contact Officer:**