

Chief Constable Sara Thornton CBE QPM
Chair of the National Police Chiefs' Council
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6th July 2018

Dear Sara

Illegal traveller encampments

I hope this finds you well.

I gather that the NPCC has set a standard for Police Forces around the country for their response to illegal traveller encampments. West Berkshire has suffered a number of such encampments this summer which have resulted in considerable problems for local residents.

My concern is around the threshold at which the Police will use Section 61 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 to require travellers to move on. It seems that there is an unwillingness to use this legislation even when travellers have broken padlocks or forcibly removed barriers to access. When I have challenged officers I have been told that their reluctance stems from guidance issued by your organisation.

Can you confirm that you have issued guidance and that this is the basis for a shift in policy away from the use of section 61 powers of eviction? It would be a great help to see the guidance you have issued.

I look forward to your reply.

Yours sincerely



Richard Benyon