



**THE UK BORDER AGENCY RESPONSE TO
THE INDEPENDENT CHIEF INSPECTOR'S REPORT
ON A UK BORDER AGENCY ARREST TEAM (BEXLEY,
GREENWICH & LAMBETH)**



The UK Border Agency thanks the Independent Chief Inspector (ICI) for advance sight of his report.

The UK Border Agency response to the recommendations:

1. Recommendation 1: Ensures compliance with the relevant legislation, codes of practice and guidance relating to the search of a person following arrest.

1.1 Accepted

1.2 The UK Border Agency will seek to implement in January 2012 a comprehensive refresher training package, focusing specifically on legislation, powers and procedures.

1.3 Arrest trained UK Border Agency staff are trained by the National Policing Improvement Agency to search arrested persons with regard to legislation under Part III of the Immigration Act 1971 or para 25B of Schedule 2 Immigration Act 1971. The UK Border Agency will take steps to expand the guidance to officers to record the rationale for a search in their pocket note books. This requirement is already included in the UK Border Agency national business assurance framework. The Business Assurance Framework has been revised to acknowledge the importance of this issue and Professional Standards for Enforcement (PSE) will be giving renewed importance to the need to record the reasons for a search of person. Following the publication of the Independent Chief Inspector's report on a UKBA Arrest Team in May, PSE has undertaken to assure all arrest teams around the UK before 31 March 2012 and they will be highlighting deficiencies in this area to local managers via the report of each assurance visit.

2. Recommendation 2: Ensures compliance with the guidance relating to the records an arrest team must complete

2.1 Accepted

2.2 Further training will be undertaken in conjunction with Professional Standards for Enforcement (PSE), concentrating on improving consistency and quality of records, with regular monitoring and review nationally.

2.3 Pocket Notebook entries are referred to in Enforcement Instructions Chapter 61.11.2. This topic was also reiterated in a series of national seminars held in every region following the last Independent Chief Inspectors Report on a UKBA Arrest Team. PSE has provided London and South East region with a check sheet to ensure the sufficiency and quality of visit packs which London Region is applying. Professional Standards for Enforcement are working with regions and are piloting a course with two Local Immigration Teams in November to reduce the number of MG11 witness statements required to be completed by arrest trained staff and to ensure that the standard of pocket notebook entries are improved to assist witness statements if required at a later date. The Premises Search Book procedures were also a part of the national assurance seminars delivered after the last Chief Inspector Report and form a part of the national business assurance framework that PSE score local arrest teams against.