



**Anthony Stansfeld**  
Police & Crime Commissioner  
for Thames Valley

Date: 26<sup>th</sup> July 2016  
Our Ref: AS/CR

Dear Sirs

I wrote to all the 9 Health and Well Being Boards in the Thames Valley 3 years ago voicing my concerns that little was being done to stop FGM, and asking what measures were being put in place to stop this practice in their respective areas.

I recently attended a meeting of the Home Affairs Select Committee. The Chairman, the Right Honourable Keith Vaz MP, pointed out that progress to stop FGM was lamentable, and that not one single successful prosecution for perpetrating FGM had been achieved. The fault appears to lay in the almost total lack of reporting by doctors and others within the Health Service who came across this practice.

There is a mandatory requirement to report FGM. In the Thames Valley, the Police have only received 3 reports, and all involved people who were foreign nationals at the time and the offence occurred abroad. Yet given the demographics of the communities within Thames Valley I would expect the numbers reported to be significantly higher.

It appears that the mandatory requirement to report FGM is not being observed. The Home Affairs Select Committee communicated that there will be provisions put in place to prosecute people in positions of trust who do not report FGM. That this should be necessary is regrettable, but the present requirement without sanction is clearly not working.

Could you look at the reasons why, in your area, there has been no reporting to the Police of recently occurring FGM. I do not believe that, in the Thames Valley this is not occurring, and people who should be reporting it are failing to do so. FGM is child sexual abuse, as the UN has recently said, and therefore it must be reported.

Yours sincerely

Anthony Stansfeld  
Police & Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley