



October 26, 2020

Mr. Jahvon Delaney  
Chair, Justice Strategy Working Group  
African Nova Scotian Decade for People of African Descent Coalition  
49 Wilfred Jackson Way  
Cherry Brook NS B2Z 1A8

Dear Mr. Delaney:

**Re: Follow up to discussion related to historic street check data**

Thank you for your letter dated September 18, 2020.

In response to the community's concerns and a request by the Board of Police Commissioners, Halifax Regional Police has agreed to retain historic street check data indefinitely at this time and we are looking into ways to make the process of releasing this data to interested individual more accessible. As such, the previously mentioned purge date of December 20, 2020 is no longer in effect.

DPAD has suggested that the custody of street check data be transferred to a third party, who would also be responsible for providing access to the data to applicants. In an effort to explore this further, at a meeting on October 1, 2020, HRP discussed this proposal with Ms. Tricia Ralph and Ms. Carmen Stuart of the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC). Due to the fact there are risks associated to an external agency possessing the collected data, the OIPC has advised that they are not in a position to be that third party. For example, on occasion, collected street check data will contain sensitive third-party information as well as information pertaining to ongoing police investigations.

As additional context, street check data is currently only accessed through FOIPOP applications because of its clear requirements governed by legislation. Upon receipt of a FOIPOP application, a designated Access to Information or FOIPOP Coordinator is responsible for processing the application. Decisions are made on possible severing or vetting of the information prior to releasing it to the applicant. On many occasions, the information can be released without

applying any exemptions or vetting. During this process, legislated exemptions are considered in order to protect personal privacy and avoid potential harm to individuals or businesses. Applicants also have the right to file an appeal known as Request for Review with the OIPC. Because of these considerations and requirements, at this time, there is no appropriate external agency available to retain street check data or to ensure safe and effective processing of future FOIPOP applications pertaining to street checks.

HRP shares DPAD's desire to consult with the affected communities, ANSDPAD-JSWG agencies, Board of Police Commissioners as well as the Department of Justice in making efforts to facilitate access to the historic data. Please note below our commitments as well as suggestions to that effect:

- HRP is committed to processing any current and future street check FOIPOP applications in an expeditious manner and free of charge to the applicant. HRP will continue to promote to citizens their right to request their own records through our communications platforms. Additionally, we would like to offer virtual education sessions which would be offered by a senior HRP member as well as HRP's FOIPOP staff to provide information to the community on how to access data, and, answer related questions. As discussed with Ms. Vanessa Fells a few days ago, we would appreciate any support DPAD and others can provide to promote this session; and should it prove to be useful, we would look at doing additional sessions. These sessions would also provide us an opportunity to hear community feedback directly to help us determine if there are any changes we can make to our processes within the confines of the legislative requirements to further remove access barriers.
- HRP is committed to implementing the recommendations encompassed within the Wortley Report to the fullest of our abilities and in a time effective manner. As part of that, I'm pleased to announce that HRP launched its inaugural African Nova Scotian diversity training program, Journey to Change, on October 19, 2020. Twenty sworn HRP members participated in a comprehensive Afrocentric curriculum. The course addressed historical elements of the Canadian slave trade as well as the unique history, struggles and generational trauma African Nova Scotians experienced in their nearly 400 years in Nova Scotia. The course is meant to provide insight into the community's lived experience and developing a deeper understanding of the struggles of the community, and how it affects police-community interactions and relationship. I would like to

commend the outstanding contributions of Mr. Robert Wright of DPAD to this training. His expertise, candour and courage sharing his own lived experience was an eye opener for many in the audience, and we are grateful for his engagement.

HRP looks forward to continuing to work alongside DPAD to help move policing forward in Halifax and Nova Scotia, and I am happy to discuss any of these items further with yourself or your staff.

Respectfully,



Dan Kinsella  
Chief, Halifax Regional Police

CC:

Ms. Natalie Borden, Chair, Board of Police Commissioners  
Ms. Tricia Ralph, Information and Privacy Commissioner, NS

