

## National Black Police Association



### Press Release

## Response to 2016 Stop & Search Statistics (01.11.16)

The National Black Police Association welcomes the continued use and development of the police Stop and Search powers. The 2016 National Statistics released by the Home Office on 27 October 2016 reflect that hard work and the introduction of Best Use of Stop & Search. However, a reduction in the overall number of stop and searches has not altered the fact that members of the black, Asian, and minority ethnic community are disproportionately represented in those stopped. As the report notes, stops of white people fell by more than stops of BME people with black people six times more likely to be stopped and searched by police than white person - an increase from four times on the 2015 measure. This is a clearly unacceptable abuse of police powers and it is not sufficient to simply say that this is because there are higher numbers of BME people living in London where 40% of the stops occur. Why have the number of BME stops not fallen in line with the overall decreases?

We agree with Home Secretary Amber Rudd that the disproportionate stops directed against black people is prejudice. We strongly disagree with Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Hanstock, the national police lead on stop and search, that enough had been done. We remind him of the report by Her Majesty's Inspector Stephen Otter in February of this year who noted that despite inspections of stop and searches over the past three years the improvements are not happening fast enough. We share his frustration.

Janet Hills, President of the National Black Police Association said,

*"The NBPA position is clear that the only effective use of this controversial power is that it is used fairly. Our position is in line with the current guidelines"*

*and that body worn cameras are used. We are confident that this will reassure our community and officers when interacting with the public.”*

**Note to Editors:**

Press Queries to: 07921 095262 (by text only please).

**NBPA Position Statement on Stop and Search**

We support the **lawful** use of Stop & Search in line with the principles of the Best use of Stop & Search Scheme.

Our communities do not make the distinctions that exist in law between different police stop powers; effective communication by officers is paramount when using their powers, to ensure the public are not left in any doubt as to why they are being Stopped and Searched.

If Body Worn Video is available then this **MUST** be used for all such encounters and our communities advised/encouraged that they can record any officer who they believe maybe abusing this power.

- The National Statistics report on police powers and procedures, and stop and search statistics in England and Wales (for the year ending 31 March 2016) can be found [here](#).
- Home Secretary Amber Rudd and Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Hanstock were speaking to the Guardian newspaper on Thursday 27 October. The article can be found [here](#).
- Her Majesty’s Inspector of Constabulary Stephen Otter [commented](#) on the 2015 PEEL Inspection of Police legitimacy.
- Guardian newspaper - Stop and search still targets black people said Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary on [21 September 2016](#). It quotes former chief constable Mike Cunningham, HMIC as calling these disproportionate figures “...still pretty eye-watering.”
- Home Office [guidance](#) & College of Policing [authorised professional practice](#) for police forces on the implementation of the best use of stop and search scheme.