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Press Release

Re: Local Cops for Local People

The Metropolitan Black Police Association (MetBPA) supports the move to radicalise the way in which the Capital is policed. London has a diverse community of over 40% Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic, with a workforce of police officers that only represents 11%. The Chair of the MetBPA Janet Hills said, "There is more value placed in something that you have a vested interest in. If people are to be recruited that live in London then they will care about the issues that affect their homes, family and communities and will seek to police it with pride'.

The MetBPA, whose membership also includes police staff, have the majority of their members living and working in London. To regain the trust and confidence of the BME communities the Metropolitan Police needs to reflect the communities that it serves. The introduction of the residence criteria is a step in the right direction for the MPS to achieve its legitimate aim. Mrs Hills said "This is not just about diversity of colour it's about the diversity of thinking that will benefit the police and the communities of London. In taking this new approach the MPS will be moving one step closer to achieving the Peelian values that our community are the police and the police are part of our community."

The new recruitment process will start on Friday 1st August and is open to candidates who have lived in London for three out of the last 6 years.

For more details go to <http://www.metpolicecareers.co.uk/newconstable>

Note to editors: All press enquiries to the Chair of the MetBPA, Janet Hills, on 07887 635375.