



STOPWATCH PRESS RELEASE: FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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StopWatch welcomes moves to reduce excessive use of stop and search in London

Police and criminal justice campaign group StopWatch welcomes the move by Metropolitan Police Commissioner Bernard Hogan-Howe to reduce the number of stop and searches conducted in the capital.

StopWatch is calling for other forces to follow the Met's good example and reduce the negative impacts of stop and search on their communities. We also call upon the Government to reconsider its decision to drastically undermine accountability by ending mandatory recording of stop and account.

In particular, StopWatch praised the decision to significantly increase the level of intelligence required to implement a Section 60 order. Section 60 of the Public Order and Criminal Justice act 1994 empowers police to stop and search anyone within a defined area without need of reasonable suspicion that they are in possession of items related to wrong-doing. Historically Section 60 has caused a great deal of tension between the police and Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) communities; it is widely known that Black people are 27 times as likely to be stopped under a Section 60 order than white people.

StopWatch member Kamaljeet Gill said: "Obviously we welcome any moves to reduce the unnecessary burden which excessive and ineffective use of stop and search places upon communities in the capital. Excessive use of stop and search, and of Section 60 in particular, destroy the trust between police and communities, inhibiting crime fighting and endangering everyone. We would now like to see communities and especially young people meaningfully engaged in finding alternatives to this expensive and ineffective practice."

ENDS

NOTES TO EDITORS

1. StopWatch is an action group that seeks to work with communities, government, policy makers and senior police officers to ensure that the reforms to the police service are fair and inclusive, and lead to better policing for all. For more information see the StopWatch website: www.stop-watch.org

2. To arrange an interview, or for further information about StopWatch, please email Kamaljeet Gill: Kam@runnymedetrust.org or phone: 020 7377 9222 / 07915605295

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Further information can be found at: www.stopwatch.org