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Joint Committee on Human Rights
Committee Office
House of Commons
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11 November 2013

To Members of the Joint Committee on Human Rights

Subject Matter: Stop and Search

I am writing to alert you to the publication of the Equality and Human Rights Commission's latest report on race disproportionality in stop and search. Our new statistical briefing provides an overview of stop and search data for s.1 PACE and s.60 CJPOA in 2010/11 and 2011/12. The briefing can be found on our website at: <http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/publications/our-research/briefing-papers/>

Since its inception in 2007, the Equality and Human Rights Commission (the Commission) has monitored the impact of the police's use of stop and search powers on individuals with different equality characteristics and has published a range of reports (see appendix to this letter).

Our new statistical briefing provides an updated analysis of race disproportionality by combining the latest stop and search data for England and Wales with new population estimates by ethnic group from the 2011 Census. It provides estimates of race disproportionality and excess stops and searches for S1 and S60 stops, for 2010-11 and 2011-12, for each Police Force.

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The Equality and Human Rights Commission was established by the Equality Act 2006 as the Commission for Equality and Human Rights.

Overall usage of both Section 1 PACE and Section 60 stop and search powers have reduced for England and Wales. However, black people were six times as likely as white people to be stopped and searched by the police in England and Wales under S.1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and people from Asian or other ethnic groups were around twice as likely to be stopped and searched as white people.

For stops and searches under S.60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, across England and Wales, black people were 29 times as likely as white people to be stopped and searched under these powers.

Following our Stop and Think project, where we worked with 5 police forces to address their race disproportionality use of in Section 1 PACE, the Commission saw some positive developments, particularly where forces were participating in formal agreements with us to address this. We will now be writing to the Police and Crime Commissioners across England and Wales so that they are aware of the new analysis. We will be making contact with the forces with the highest race disproportionality for S.1 or S.60 stops to explore working with them.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mark Hammond". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Mark Hammond
Chief Executive
Equality and Human Rights Commission

Appendix: EHRC reports on Stop and Search:

- The first report, *Stop and Think* (EHRC, 2010), presented analysis of stops and searches under s.1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 between 2005/6 and 2007/8 and introduced 'excess' stops and searches as a second measure alongside race disproportionality.
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/race-in-britain/stop-and-think/>
- A briefing paper on *Race disproportionality in stops and searches under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994* (EHRC, 2012) similarly analysed data on stops and searches carried out under that legislation. There was a lack of evidence to justify any imbalance in who is being stopped and searched which could leave police officers exposed to discrimination claims.
http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/ehrc_-_briefing_paper_no.5_-_s60_stop_and_search.pdf
- Most recently, *Stop and Think Again* (EHRC, 2013) reported on the Commission's follow-up work with five police forces to address continuing disproportionality in the use of s.1 PACE stops and searches and to monitor the impact of various measures to tackle it.
<http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/key-projects/race-in-britain/stop-and-think-again/>