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Protective Marking:	Not Protectively Marked	Publication (Y/N):	Y
Title:	Record of Meeting - Police & Public Encounters Board Tuesday 15 April 2014		
Date created:	16 April 2014	Review date:	Version: V6
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## ASSOCIATION OF CHIEF POLICE OFFICERS

Equality, Diversity & Human Rights Business Area

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### The Police & Public Encounters Board

Record of Meeting - Tuesday 15th April 2014

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## Police & Public Encounters Board

### 1. Terms of Reference

#### Purpose

1.1. The Police–Public Encounters Board exists to provide a national forum where all issues relating to the interface between the police service and members of the public can be considered and debated. It provides an opportunity to identify and promote best practice.

1.2. The Board sits under the remit of the stop and search portfolio which is part of the Equality, Diversity & Human Rights Business Area. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead for stop and search is Deputy Commissioner Craig Mackey and Commander Adrian Hanstock, the MPS Chief officer with responsibility for stop and search, chairs the meeting.

#### Meetings

1.3. The meetings are held quarterly and to reflect the national remit of the meeting the venue is moved around England and Wales to ensure all forces have an opportunity to attend.

1.4. The latest meeting was held on Tuesday 15 April 2014, between 1pm to 4pm in the 5th Floor Conference Room at New Scotland Yard, SW1. The next meeting is **Wednesday 16 July 2014**, 1pm at Greater Manchester Police HQ, Central Park, Northampton Road (off Oldham Road), Manchester M40 5BP. See Appendix B for future meetings.

#### Current membership

1.5. Membership is open to all Home Office forces and Police and Crime Commissioners, community representatives and interested parties are encouraged to attend.

**Attendees:** brackets signify apologies given

Avon & Somerset Police Constabulary	Supt Mike Prior
Cambridgeshire Police	Det Supt Tony Ixer
Cheshire Constabulary	Ms Helen Whitaker
The College of Policing	Insp Alistair Seddon
Dorset Police	(CI Bryan Duffy)
Greater Manchester Police	PS Denise Jacobs
The Home Office	Mr John DeSouza
Humberside Police	(Mr Adil Khan)
Kent Police	Supt Martin Wilson
Lancashire Constabulary	(CI Ralph Copley)
Metropolitan Police Service	Mr Ted Henderson
National Black Police Association	Insp Nick Glynn

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Nottinghamshire Police	(Supt Paul Burrows)
Northamptonshire Police	CI Tom Thompson
The Open Justice Society	Dr Rebekah Del Sol
Independent Police Complaints Commission	Mr Mark Hines
Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality	Ms Stephanie Palmer
South Wales Police	(ACC Williams)
Suffolk Constabulary	(ACC David Skevington)
Surrey Police	(Mr Mike Day)
Thames Valley Police	CS Gilbert Houalla & CI Colleen Lavery
University of Warwick	Mr Zin Derfoufi
West Mercia Police	Supt Mark Travis
West Midlands Police	CI Nick Rowe & Insp David Whordley
West Yorkshire Police	DCI Simon Atkinson & PS Rachel Banks

### Powers and publications

1.6. The Board is convened under the Equality, Diversity & Human Rights Business Area of ACPO. The Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) is an independent, professionally led strategic body. In the public interest and, in equal and active partnership with Government and partner agencies, ACPO leads and coordinates the direction and development of the police service in the United Kingdom.

1.7. A record of meetings is produced and will it is envisaged these will be eventually published on ACPO web site at [www.acpo.police.uk](http://www.acpo.police.uk). Records of previous meetings can be obtained from the Board Secretariat.

### Contacts and Board Secretariat

1.8. This meeting is administered on behalf of the ACPO Lead by the MPS stop and search team. All correspondence should be directed to Ms Patricia Bastin.

## 2. Introduction

2.1 Stop and search is a controversial police power that is subject to intense political and public scrutiny. In July 2013, HMIC published its report into the nationwide use of stop and search. This critical report made 10 recommendations for forces, PCCs and the College of Policing (COP) to implement. In April 2014, the Home Secretary published the findings from a national consultation process, making a number of recommendations and edicts. The Home Secretary also unveiled the "Best use of stop and search scheme," which is a voluntary code of practice that forces are encouraged to sign up to.

### Key facts

2.2 The purpose of stop and search is to assist police officers in the prevention and detection of crime, and to avoid unnecessary arrests in circumstances where a search

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might eliminate an officer's suspicions. Between April 2012 and March 2013, 1,006,187 stop and searches were conducted in England & Wales, 10% resulted in an arrest.

2.3 There are 20 separate main statutory powers to stop and search but the vast majority of searches are conducted under section 1 of Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984 and s23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1973. These powers require an officer to have, "reasonable grounds to suspect," that an individual has the prohibited item in their possession.

2.4 The term "s60" refers to section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, this is a distinct power that allows officers to conduct searches without "reasonable suspicion." If a senior officer believes serious violence may occur, an order for a specified locality and time, may be put in place.

### **3. Topics discussed**

#### **3.1 College of Policing**

The aim was to clarify the role of the College of Policing (the College) and to identify what assistance it can render to forces.

3.1.1. The Chair, Cmdr Adrian Hanstock proposed the College should lead on setting the national approaches to:

- Principles of leadership
- National position statement
- Training
- Quality of encounter
- A framework for recording and monitoring
- The involvement of communities in the scrutiny process

3.1.2. Inspector Alistair Seddon, Senior Diversity Advisor at The College of Policing outlined that they will concentrate their efforts on three key themes, 1) the PC on the street, 2) the supervisor, 3) the strategic lead in the force. The College would also focus on the quality of the encounter and the effective use of intelligence. To this end the Next Steps document will be circulated to forces shortly. It was agreed the College would assess the proposals mentioned and produce an activity timeline for the next Board.

3.1.3 Mr John DeSousa of The Home Office Police Integrity and Powers Unit, opined that the College should have a co-ordinating role concerning the electronic recording to ensure continuity.

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### **3.2 Community Consultation**

The aim was to identify best practice to improve community consultation

3.2.1 Chief Superintendent Gilbert Houalla of Thames Valley Police explained that copies of the stop record are provided to their IAG members for scrutiny. Direct feedback is then given to the respective officers to act as both as encouragement and for improvement.

3.2.2 Detective Superintendent Tony Ixer of Cambridgeshire Police highlighted the positive involvement of the force IAG in reviewing training. Their input provided an alternative viewpoint to training ultimately enhancing the package.

### **3.3 Home Office Consultation**

The aim was to provide the Board with an update on the Home Office sponsored national consultation on stop and search.

3.3.1 Mr John De Souza of the Home Office explained the consultation was launched in June 2103 and closed in September 2013. It covered Section 1 PACE, Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act and Section 60 Criminal Justice Public Order Act and received over 5000 responses. A formal government response is likely to be issued by June 2014 and it was envisaged the findings would complement those of HMIC.

3.3.2 Superintendent Mark Travis of West Mercia Police highlighted the importance of effective consultation prior to any adoption of a national approach. Particular reference was made to the introduction of a national form. Some forces have modern and advanced recording systems and a national reporting method should not restrict the use of these established systems.

### **3.4 Use of technology**

The aim was discuss how technology could be used to improve the effectiveness and fairness of stop and search.

3.4.1 Chief Inspector Tom Thomas of Northamptonshire Police informed the board that a film on good stops/bad stops is showed on a continued loop in canteens. This has been effective in reinforcing corporate messages and improving standards.

3.4.2 A presentation was delivered by PC Mark Bolingbroke of the MPS and Ms Catherine Owens of the College relating to pilot being run in the MPS using Body Worn Video (BWV). A full evaluation is being completed by the College and it is expected to produce a number of positive outcomes, including an improvement in the quality of the encounter.

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3.4.3 Dr Rebekah Delsol of the Open Justice Society explained that BWV is used extensively in the USA and this has led to a drop in intelligence generated from the public. She further observed that the biggest critics of BWV in New York are the police union.

3.4.4 Mr John DeSousa of the Home Office noted that the Home Office are aware and supportive of BWV projects and spoke of its use by Greater Manchester Police which saw a positive change in the behaviour of both police officers and the public.

3.4.5 A second presentation was delivered on Electronic database and iPad application by Supt Martin Wilson of Kent Police. All recording of stop and search in Kent is done digitally and this provides the benefits of live time intelligence and a geo mapping tag.

3.4.6 To promote greater transparency, PS Denise Jacobs of Greater Manchester Police outlined a process whereby GMP stop and search data is hosted on the Home Office website. Names are not published and members of the public can access a copy of their stop and search record via a link on the page.

### 3.5 Effectiveness

The aim was discuss how to measure the effectiveness of stop and search.

3.5.1 Chief Superintendent Gilbert Houalla explained that Thames Valley Police are supporters of evidence based policing and are exploring how the effectiveness of stop and search can be measured.

3.5.2 Inspector Nick Glynn from the National Black Police Association proposed that a pilot be run not where drugs related stop and searches are not conducted in a locality. This proposal gained support from Ch Supt Gilbert Houalla, Dr Rebekah Delsol and Det Supt Tim Ixer. It was agreed a steering group would be formed under the guidance of Catherine Owens from the College.

## 4. Conclusion & Recommendations

4.1 It was agreed the PPEB is the appropriate forum to consider the impact of any proposed national solutions on individual forces. As such the Home Office and the College and invited to submit any proposals to the Board for consultation.

4.2 It was accepted that community scrutiny of stop and search records is a vital component of community consultation and all forces are encouraged to establish a system of public scrutiny.

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### Appendices

#### Appendix A - National contact list

Force	Stop & Search Lead
Avon and Somerset	Supt Mike Prior
Bedfordshire	Supt Rob McCaffray
British Transport Police	Supt John Conaghan
Cambridgeshire	Det Supt Tony Ixer
Cheshire	Ms Helen Whitaker
City of London	Ch Insp Helen Issac
Cleveland	
Cumbria	
Derbyshire	
Devon & Cornwall	
Dorset	Ch Insp Bryan Duffy
Durham	
Dyfed-Powys	
Essex	
Gloucestershire	Ch/Supt Neil Mantle
Greater Manchester	Ms Claire Light
Gwent	Ch Supt Julian Knight
Hampshire	
Hertfordshire	Insp Clare Smith
Humberside	Ch Supt Steven Graham
Kent	Ch Insp Martin Wilson
Lancashire	Ch Insp Ralph Copley
Leicestershire	Mr Steve Riley
Lincolnshire	Supt Kieran English
Merseyside	Ch/Supt Rowley Moore
Metropolitan Police	Mr Ted Henderson
Norfolk	
North Wales	Ch Insp Nigel Harrison
North Yorkshire	
Northants	Ch Insp Tom Thompson
Northumbria	
Nottinghamshire	Supt Paul Burrows
South Wales	Supt Steve Furnham
South Yorkshire	Ch/Insp Andy Kent
Staffordshire	Ch Insp Ricky Fields
Suffolk	Supt Terry Byford
Surrey	Ch Supt Charlie Doyle
Sussex	
Thames Valley	Ch Insp Colleen Lavery
Warwickshire	
West Mercia	Supt Mark Travis

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West Midlands	Ch Insp Nick Rowe
West Yorkshire	Insp Wayne Horner
Wiltshire	Supt Mark Sellers

### Appendix B - Board dates and venues

Date	Host	Record of Meeting
	<b>2013</b>	
Tuesday 14 February 2013	Metropolitan Police Service	Available from secretariat
Thursday 30 May 2013	Metropolitan Police Service	Available from secretariat
Thursday 22 August 2013	Suffolk Constabulary	Available from secretariat
Tuesday 03 December 2013	Nottinghamshire Police	Available from secretariat
	<b>2014</b>	
Tuesday 15 April 2014	Metropolitan Police Service	Available from secretariat
Wednesday 16 July 2014	Greater Manchester Police	
October/November 2014	West Midlands Police	
	<b>2015</b>	
February/March 2015	West Mercia Police	