



StopWatch welcomes the decision of the Metropolitan Police Authority to continue the recording of 'stop and account'.

Members of the stop and search campaign StopWatch have welcomed the Metropolitan Police Authority's (MPA) decision to continue recording the use of 'stop and account'. This decision follows the Coalition Government's removal, earlier this year, of the national requirement for all police forces to record 'stop and account'. Since then, the MPA has carried out a consultation on the issue, including crucially with representatives of London's youth and ethnic minority communities.

As the MPA has acknowledged, recording of 'stop and account' is vital as a 'check and balance for officers who make stops on a daily basis' and in order to make this process 'both transparent and fair'. It is regrettable that many other police forces where the extent of, and ethnic disproportionality in, police stops are equally sensitive issues, decided to cease recording 'stop and account' immediately following the Coalition Government's removal of the national requirement, and that they often did so without adequate community consultations.

StopWatch Youth Group member and NUS Black Students' Officer Kanja Sesay, who participated in the consultation, commented:

"It is a positive sign of intent from the Met Police that it consulted and listened to the communities it serves and agreed to continue the monitoring of 'stop and account' policing. This is a critical feature of building confidence in community policing among all citizens, especially young Black people, who can be reassured that statutory powers will be scrutinised for fairness and equality. It should also reassure police officers that the accountability mechanisms will build strong partnerships across all communities resulting in a safer London."

Dr. Rebekah Delsol of StopWatch and the Open Society Initiative said

"The police cannot take the public's trust for granted and need to demonstrate their commitment to engaging with communities in a transparent way. The Metropolitan Police Service should be commended for conducting a full consultation and listening to the public. As one of the largest users of stop and account, the MPS decision represents a victory for communities in London and local accountability over point-scoring rhetoric around reducing bureaucracy. StopWatch hopes that other forces with consult their communities and reconsider decisions to end recording."

Notes to Editors:

1. StopWatch is a coalition of legal experts, community activists, civil society groups, academics and young people that works to reduce disproportionality and promote best practice in stop and search powers. For more information on StopWatch please visit www.stop-watch.org.uk

2. To speak to Rebekah Delsol, Kanja Sesay or another member of the StopWatch Coalition contact Kamaljeet Gill at 020 7377 9222 or email kam@runnymedetrust.org



Further information on StopWatch can be found at: www.stop-watch.org