

Rt Hon Suella Braverman MP
Home Secretary
2 Marsham Street,
London,
SW1P 4DF

Our ref: MOPAC161023 - D4749

31 October 2023

Dear Home Secretary,

A review of the police service's leadership and governance arrangements for race-related matters and an inspection of race disparity in police criminal justice decision-making.

I write with regard to the two thematic reports published by HM Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) in August 2023.

The Mayor and I are committed to ensuring that London is a safe city for all. The Police and Crime Plan sets out 4 strategic objectives to help MOPAC achieve this aim. One of the key pillars of work is to improve trust and confidence of the police, as we know this is at an all time low in London and across the country. The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) has also committed to improving this through its new reform plan – A New Met for London. One of the three areas of reform is 'Community crime-fighting' – cut crime, rebuild trust and restore its bond with communities.

Evidence shows that there is significant disproportionality in levels of trust and confidence in policing between groups of Londoners. That is why the Mayor developed his Action Plan for Transparency, Accountability and Trust in Policing, which seeks to improve trust and confidence in the MPS, reduce the gap in confidence that Black communities have in the police to do a good job compare to white Londoners and to address community concerns about the disproportionality in the use of certain police powers affecting Black Londoners. Supporting this work, MOPAC has continued to produce a quarterly race equality audit, reporting on the MPS' use of its powers, including for example, the use of Tasers and strip-searching, publishing this data and holding the Commissioner to account for it.

I welcome the second report, which focusses on the race disparity in police criminal justice decision making. This is an area I am keen to explore, and the recommendation for forces to analyse their current disparity will enable greater scrutiny from MOPAC of this area.

With regards to specific recommendations aimed at Police Forces:

Recommendation 6

By 30 September 2024, chief constables should make sure that forces carry out comprehensive analysis of race disparity in police criminal justice decision-making. Where this

analysis indicates that people from ethnic minority backgrounds are disproportionately affected, police forces should explain, or revise, their ways of working

The MPS Strategic Insights Unit will conduct an in depth review and analyse any disparities with regard to race. MOPAC will be kept up to date with progress.

Recommendation 8

By 30 September 2024, chief constables should make sure that information from the Youth Justice Board summary disproportionality toolkit relevant to the force area is included in their force's analysis of police criminal justice disparity

The MPS will commission this information from the Youth Justice Board to inform the work of their Strategic Insight Unit. It is in progress.

Recommendation 10

By 30 September 2024, chief constables should make sure that work takes place with communities, police and crime commissioners, and other agencies to establish or build on arrangements for the scrutiny of police criminal justice disparity.

The MPS runs multi agency Out of Court Disposal scrutiny panels quarterly, which review decision making. Ethnicity data is discussed at the conclusion of the case reviews. MOPAC will work with the MPS to ensure that this work is expanded, where possible and will explore how these scrutiny arrangements look at disproportionality.

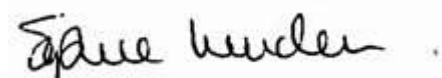
Recommendation 11

By 30 September 2024, chief constables should make sure that information about criminal justice disparity is published on force websites, or that force websites clearly link to other websites where this information can be found. Published information should include any explanations for identified disparity and actions forces will take to address it.

The MPS is progressing this recommendation and MOPAC will be kept up to date.

The recent establishment of the London Policing Board, provides a key mechanism for the Mayor to hold the MPS to account in public. The Board will be keen to ensure that disproportionality does not play a part in the decision making of the MPS. I will use this, and existing oversight meetings to hold the Commissioner and his senior team to account.

Yours sincerely,



Sophie Linden
Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime