MOPAC | MAYOR OF LONDON
OFFICE FOR POLICING AND CRIME

CEO Decision – 09-2023

Title: Multi-lot commissioning into the disproportionality within Stop and Search

Executive Summary:

'Stop and Search' is a tactic which is considered by policing to be operationally important, but one which is often divisive for London's diverse communities, particularly its black communities. This is because, as of January 2023, if you are a black Londoner you are 3.2 times more likely to be stopped and searched than a white Londoner. This level of disproportionality is even higher across England and Wales as a whole.

The MOPAC Disproportionality Board, wishes to understand the reasons underlying such findings Taking an evidence-based approach, MOPAC are looking to commission **two complementary projects** that each approach the topic of disproportionality within Stop and Search from different angles. One is a big data exercise exploring wider societal issues, the second a richer exploration of officer decision making.

A total of £80,000 has been identified and can be met from the allocated 2023/24 Evidence & insight budget.

Recommendation:

The Chief Executive Officer is recommended to:

1. Approve the proposal for E&I to instigate procurement activity and approve the award and entry into a contract with a maximum value of £80,000 for the provision of the Stop and Search analysis.

Chief Executive Officer

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above request has my approval.

Signature  **Date** 04/05/2023

PART I - NON-CONFIDENTIAL FACTS AND ADVICE TO THE CEO

1. Introduction and background

1.1 'Stop and Search' is a tactic which is considered by policing to be operationally important, but one which is often divisive for London's diverse communities, particularly its black communities. This is because, as of January 2023, if you are a black Londoner you are 3.2 times more likely to be stopped and searched than a white Londoner. In England and Wales as a whole, if you are black you are 4.8 times more likely to be stopped and searched than if you are white (Figure based on the 2021 Census, Home 2023[1]).

1.2 The Mayor of London's Disproportionality Board has explored this topic and following wider work pulling across an expert panel has recommended (at the board on 16th January 2023) the need for new research analytics to explore in more detail the levels of disproportionality in London. This work is conceptualised as two complementary pieces. These are:

- An advanced modelling project to understand disproportionality - to apply data science analytics to assess and take a data-driven approach to understanding levels of disproportionality (set against and incorporating a wide array of population, economic, social, health, crime and economic data).

- Officer decision-making - the second project of focus intends to better understand officer decision making during (and prior to) Stop and Search encounters.

1.3 We also believe that the important issues raised by this work should be considered independently of the MPS and MOPAC. As such, we are looking to commission the research and work with external and independent academics. Given the thematic linking across the projects, the proposed direction would see a multi-lot commissioning approach.

1.4 It is hoped that the research can lead to informed and evidence-based decisions that seek to address such disproportionalities. The outcome of the analytics would be a research report that is publishable on the MOPAC website.

2. Issues for Consideration

2.1 Evidence & Insight are the MOPAC analytical capability. However, given the complexity and the already established E&I research forward plan, it is proposed that this work be commissioned externally.

2.2 The outcome of the analytics would aim to be delivered Autumn 2023 and result in a research report that is publishable on the MOPAC website.

2.3 The work was proposed and agreed at the MOPAC Disproportionality Board on 16th January 2023.

2.4 The proposed approach was approved at the Procurement, Contracts and Grants Oversight Board on the 28/3/23.

3. Financial Comments

3.1 This decision seeks approval to instigate procurement activity and award a contract with a maximum value of £80,000 for the provision of the Stop and Search analysis. Costs can be met from within the approved budget for E&I for 2023/24.

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1 Home Office, 2023 (Update to stop and search and arrests statistics using 2021 Census estimates - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

4. Commercial Issues

4.1 It is proposed that an open and competitive procurement exercise be undertaken in line with Public Contract Regulations 2015.

5. GDPR and Data Privacy

5.1 MOPAC will adhere to the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018 and ensure that any organisations who are commissioned to do work with or on behalf of MOPAC are fully compliant with the relevant policy and contractual measures, ensuring they understand their responsibilities under UK data protection law.

5.2 Before entering into a contract with the commissioned organisation, MOPAC will conduct due diligence to ensure the chosen organisation has appropriate technical and organisational measures in place. This will provide assurances that the personal data collected in this study will remain secure and confidential.

5.3 MOPAC will ensure that any relevant contractual measures will be in place before starting the research. Depending on the relationship between the organisations, either a Data Processing Agreement (Controller to Processor) or a Data Sharing Agreement (Controller to Controller) will be in place to set out the roles and responsibilities both have to adhere to UK data protection law.

5.4 Before starting the research, MOPAC will undertake a screening checklist of a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to understand whether a full DPIA is required. The DPIA will allow MOPAC to highlight the risks posed by the research, how to mitigate the risks and ensure the rights and freedoms of the data subjects are protected.

6. Public Health Approach

6.1 A key strategic aim of London's Violence Reduction Unit is to reduce harm and impact upon violence but also improve perceptions of community safety and cohesion. Given what is known regarding the role of Stop and Search influencing negative perceptions of policing overall. The current research will directly support the VRU's aims and the public health approach adopted.

7. Equality Comments

7.1 MOPAC is required to comply with the public sector equality duty set out in section 149(1) of the Equality Act 2010. This requires MOPAC to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations by reference to people with protected characteristics. The protected characteristics are: age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

7.2 We already know that Stop and Search disproportionately impacts Black Londoners – but going further, the proposed analytics would seek to understand the underlying reasons for such disproportionality and thus enable a better and evidence-based approach to address the issue.

8. Background/supporting papers

8.1 n/a

Originating Officer Declaration	*Tick to confirm statement (✓)*
Financial Advice The Strategic Finance and Resource Management Team has been consulted on this proposal.	✓
Legal Advice Legal advice is not required.	✓
Equalities Advice Equality and diversity issues are covered in the body of the report.	✓
Public Health Approach Due diligence has been given to determine whether the programme sits within the Violence Reduction Unit's public approach to reducing violence. This has been reviewed and supported by a senior manager within the VRU.	✓
Commercial Issues The Contract Management Team has been consulted on the commercial issues within this report. The proposal is in keeping with the GLA Group Responsible Procurement Policy.	✓
GDPR and Data Privacy GDPR compliance issues are covered in the body of the report and the Data Protection Officer has been consulted on the GDPR issues within this report.	✓
Drafting Officer A MOPAC Officer has drafted this report in accordance with MOPAC procedures.	✓
Director/Head of Service The CFO has reviewed the request and is satisfied it is correct and consistent with the MOPAC's plans and priorities.	✓