

Date: Wednesday 11 November 2015  
Location: The Chamber, City Hall  
Hearing: MOPAC Challenge – Intrusive Tactics

Start time: 10:00 am  
Finish time: 11:30 am

Stephen Greenhalgh, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, Chair  
Duwayne Brooks, MOPAC Special Advisor on Stop and Search  
Faith Boardman, MOPAC Challenge Member  
Jonathan Glanz, MOPAC Challenge Member  
Keith Prince, MOPAC Challenge Member  
Helen Bailey, Chief Operating Officer, MOPAC  
Rebecca Lawrence, Director of Strategy, MOPAC

Guests: Metropolitan Police Service  
Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan  
Commander Richard Martin  
Commander Jeremy Burton  
Ch Supt Elaine Van-Orden,

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Welcome to our Challenge on intrusive tactics and we review these periodically, at least twice a year. I'm delighted to have Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan, Commander Richard Martin, Commander Jeremy Burton and Chief Superintendent Elaine Van Orden here. Thank you all of you for coming, it's much appreciated.

A couple of things. Today is obviously the day we remember those that fell in the Great War at 11.00 and then those of you that wish to can observe two minutes silence at that point. Just to remind you because we're likely to run into that time at 11.00. Also, we're announcing today the launch -- thanks to the hard work of MOPAC's evidence and insight team -- the Institute for Global City Policing. It's an initiative that I know the Commissioner has been extremely keen to ensure that we make happen and I'm delighted to say that will be hosted by University College London.

That means we can draw on their national and international networks. I think it's extremely important for great global cities to develop an evidence based approach to policing and its challenges in big, large urban areas. I'm delighted that that's taking place and many professionals involved in the area of public safety will provide support to this. I'm sure it will add to some of our knowledge.

Today, we are covering a whole host of tactics, so we're going to have to move fairly briskly. Rebecca, I assume you're going to take us through some of the slides and then we'll ask questions. We're going to start off looking at undercover operations.

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** Yes, absolutely. So, as you know the Metropolitan Police Service is the largest user of undercover as a tactic nationally. We are very transparent with our data within the realms of what is operationally correct and appropriate. So, this is our latest dashboard, which has some elements of interactivity around the outcomes from undercover over a period of time.

That first part of the dashboard shows the range of types of operations against which there are arrests. It shows the majority of arrests since April 2015 -- 62 per cent there -- have been for drugs related operations. It shows the outcomes of that with 144 kilograms of drugs seized so far this year.

Acquisitive crime operations -- that blue quadrant -- are also a very significant volume, accounting for a quarter of the arrests with 683 stolen items seized. I think the second slide here shows -- is a more detailed analysis of the changes over time. It shows that in the last period, the number of arrests from undercover operations has reduced from April to September 2014 compared to April to September 2015 by 233. I think we may hear how the number is very dependent on the nature and type of operations in a given period, so it will vary from period to period.

Indeed, in terms of outcomes we find that there were 293 more acquisitive crime and firearms seizures in that period. So, that is a summary for the outcomes and trends data for the latest period in undercover.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** So Commander Martin, we've had an opportunity to review this in some detail. All of this can be made public, but we're the only people that review this tactic in this level of detail and provide this level of public assurance. There has clearly been a drop in arrests, but you are seizing more firearms and drugs. What accounts for the variability from year to year, can you comment on that?

**Commander Richard Martin (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes certainly. I think if you focus on the arrests first, different types of operation generate different numbers of arrests. Does that make sense? So, some operations are against a wide group of people, some are very specific and targeted. So, if you take the two elements of data together, the increase in seizures of firearms and drugs means we are targeting some very high level players, some very dangerous individuals. So, less people but obviously more commodity that we're taking off the streets.

The second thing really is if you look at undercover operations across the piece -- and I think we spoke last year with some changes we were making to the unit. We're doing about 23 per cent more operations this year than we were last year which is really good. But of course, some of those operations come to fruition at different times, so it just depends on where the challenge panel is, whether an operation is still running, whether it has come to an end when we come to the arrest phase.

So, if you ask me for a projection for the year, I would suggest that our arrests will be back up where they were last year if not a bit more. The seizures will continue and recover so actually it's a good news story about where we are.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** So, the arrest is really related to the time in the year when you look at this against the timings of operations?

**Commander Richard Martin (Metropolitan Police Service):** Absolutely, and the type of operations. For instance, you might target somebody that is a very dangerous individual -- a person -- or it might be an organised crime group which has more members. So, it's very much depending on who we're targeting, who we think is the most dangerous individual to the communities of London and what that commodity is.

So, the idea that we're taking more firearms off the streets, which as we know cause great harm to individuals; the fact we're taking more drugs off the streets which again have that harm factor to people is a good place to be.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Before we leave this tactic, it's quite clear that a large portion of the effort is against the war on drugs. Then the next area is acquisitive crime. How do you determine what is effectively a finite resource, the balance between the sort of operations that you take on?

**Commander Richard Martin (Metropolitan Police Service):** It's all done by intelligence. So, what happens is we look at the greatest threat of risk and harm to the communities of London. We look from our intelligence indices about who are the groups that we fear are the most dangerous. What we have is a formula that scores those individuals based on a whole range of factors.

So, when an operational team comes to us and says, "I'm targeting this group, I think we can use some undercover tactics to be able to deal with this." We look at how harmful they are. Actually what we do is target the group. So, for instance as you'll see, the drugs operations are up. It may be that they're committing fraud or kidnap type crimes. But the way into the group to dismantle it is because they're also dealing in drugs. Because many, many of these organised crime groups deal in lots of different commodities.

So, really they sit down with a planning team who will decide what the best tactic is and how dangerous they are on our scoring matrix.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Okay, so there's a clear process for allocating against threat risk or not. Let's take something like -- before we leave this area and look at others -- how do you use this tactic as part of cracking down on firearms? You are presumably using a suite of tactics so can you give us an idea of how this might work, perhaps using an example?

**Commander Richard Martin (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes. I wouldn't go into the individual tactics themselves for obvious reasons. But if we're talking about firearms, it's about maybe firearms that are coming into the country. It could be firearms that are being sold, it could be firearms that individuals have. Anywhere that we know a firearm is either in transit or being used or there is some way that we can take that gun off the street, that's what we'd use the tactic for.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** And obviously the objective is presumably to stop the supply so you might have to go back to source?

**Commander Richard Martin (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes, the whole range. And actually you know undercover policing is just one end of the tactic. So, that's about taking you know the weapon that is on the road at the moment or the weapon that is being used -- taking it now. But obviously there are other parts of the organisation that would look at more strategic issues around trying to stop the demand, trying to stop the manufacture or whichever way they're done.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Great, that's very helpful Commander Martin, very reassuring and it's good to know that the number of operations is back to historic levels, as there was that moment where it had dropped slightly so that's very good news. Congratulations on the success.

**Commander Richard Martin (Metropolitan Police Service):** And just one other thing. Undercover operations are very targeted, they're very specific. But actually if you look at the criminal justice system itself, they're very, very effective because most of the people that go to court plead guilty straight away so it's very useful from a cost effective point of view.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Okay. So, lots of early guilty pleas then, excellent. Okay, is there anything else that anyone wants to raise on undercover?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I just wonder if I could add to it Deputy Mayor about what the issue about firearms is and why we're concentrating on that so significantly. Because it is related to the gang problem that we have in London, in terms of the more organised elements of those gang groups tend to have the firearms. That's why we've been concentrating on it significantly. So, the guns and the drugs are connected but we're very keen to get the number of firearms off the streets. You'll know that we've had an increase in the number of discharges in the last 12 months.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** My understanding though is that a lot of them that was -- well, when the public think of firearms, they think of obviously automatic weapons or whatever. A lot of these were air-guns as well.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think there's a mix between them and we're going into the figures in more detail. So, there were the ones where there was elements of firearms where they're shown and they're air weapons. Also, where we actually know that people have had injuries that haven't been caused by air weapons, but have been caused by actual firearms.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** So, of the increase what is the proportion that's air weapons?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I'd need to get the figures on my pack, but I think from memory it was just over 10 per cent. We had an increase in the last year and it's coming down. I'll look through figures and get it specifically, but there has been an increase in firearm discharges.

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** Commander Martin, good morning to you. Just a quick question. Would you agree that not everybody who is subject to undercover operations is a criminal or conducting criminal activity?

**Commander Richard Martin (Metropolitan Police Service):** If you were asking the authorisations that I do because I am the authorising officer in the Metropolitan Police Service, so I authorise pretty much 90 per cent of all operations. They are all targeted against criminals. I don't deploy in intelligence only operations. The only operations I will authorise are ones that are targeting a crime group that is dealing in either dangerous commodities or involved in crime.

So, if you're sort of referring to perhaps some of the enquiry and things that are going on from past history, we don't do intelligence only operations. We only do operations that are tested in the courts.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** I think that point has been made before. In the historic past, there was an occasion and an era when that did take place. But very categorically, you are now focussed on crime.

**Commander Richard Martin (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes. It's not just that, you can conduct intelligence type operations, I choose not to. I just think there are other avenues to get intelligence, we don't need to deploy undercover operations.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Well, they have presumably more effective ways of getting intelligence rather than deploying a very scarce resource I would have thought. Taser dashboard, shall we look at Taser?

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** Okay, so this is the latest update of the Taser dashboard. Actually, if I can just ask the analyst to remind us of the interactivity and the different elements that that shows? So, I think this screenshot is showing total deployments and you can drop down and show firings and you can drop down and show red dot or drawn.

A number of interesting elements come out from that. One is that it's a similar trend to what we've seen in the past. So, the Borough units where the volume of Tasers are still record the highest level of deployments compared to territorial support group. A third of the deployments are against subjects in that middle age range category of 26 to 35 years' old. 43 per cent of the subjects are white and 40 per cent are black.

If we look at the most similar forces, this slide is showing that actually although the Metropolitan Police Service's number of deployments are highest compared to the most similar forces, the firings are still the lowest. So, a pretty consistent trend from the last time we looked at it.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Why are there five bars when there are four on the deployments?

**MOPAC Data Analyst:** One of them is England and Wales.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Oh, just to confuse us. But that's five is it?

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** That's five, yes.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Okay, and the previous one was drawn wasn't it in the middle of the pack? That's deployment? That's drawn. So the drawn was quite high as well, then fired is lower.

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** Fired is lower. If we move to the firearms dashboard, since we last met there has been one fatality as a result of Metropolitan Police Service firearms deployment with 29 shots fired so far this year. You will see the same very aggressive funnel trend.

So, there were nearly 8000 ARV deployments during this period, showing firearms as a use of last resort. During the whole of 2014, the Metropolitan Police Service recorded four shots fired. During the period January to September 2015, the Metropolitan Police Service have recorded 19 shots fired and one fatality with a very large number of callouts. So, those are the trends in Taser and firearms, giving an opportunity now for questions.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Keith.

**Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Thank you. Could I start by asking, how confident are you that firearms and Tasers are used proportionately?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think there's a couple of things there. Every single Taser deployment, whether or not it is a firing or a red dotting is actually analysed and looked at. So, we look at them all. We have had an increase in the number of officers that actually have the use of Taser. In fact, four per Borough which will obviously increase the likelihood of them being used. But I think the figures about when they are actually fired shows a reassuring picture.

In addition to that, any time we actually have the use of a firearm, there is an IPCC investigation. They are very thorough, the last one that went to inquest -- it's always regrettable when somebody dies -- but that was again a lawful killing. So, there is great scrutiny of it, more than in any other area that force is used. To ensure that it is appropriate and proportionate.

**Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Okay. Whilst I understand that you can't comment on the individual case of the recent fatality, what assurance can you give that officers are receiving the right level of training in deployment?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Is that in relation to Taser or firearms?

**Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Firearms and Tasers.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** The issue is that there is a very thorough process that we have in terms of accrediting and reaccrediting firearms officers and Taser officers. Secondly, any time that there is a use of a firearm there is what we call a PIP process. The officers have to justify the use of that force in great detail.

There are several stages we go through, from PIP one to PIP four in terms of the statements they must give. So, they've got to give statements initially of what they believed was a threat at that time before being interviewed or seeing the body worn video and stating their final position on it. Body worn video is now used in most cases. Firearms officers and Taser officers have that equipment with them. In just about every case we've had it has been used. The issue of body worn video is it doesn't always give the best pictures, but it is another record.

So, it's probably one of the most thorough areas of policing. We know there's great scrutiny, because we know there is quite rightly public concern that the force is always used appropriately and they must justify and log it.

**Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Thank you.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Any questions on Taser or firearms? It's interesting that Taser, we seem to have a perspective on usage that compares to similar forces in England and Wales. But we don't have a similar picture for firearms usage. Or is this just something that we don't have available on the thoughts with how this compares with other forces?

Because you're always struck by the sheer volume of deployments. The relatively small number of shots fired and obviously there have been very few fatalities. Although obviously we're discussing a fatality for the first time in some time. How does that compare with other forces, Greater Manchester Police or West Midlands Police for instance?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I know that we have a far higher level of shots fired than any other force in the country, albeit -- as you have seen from those figures -- they are relatively small in comparison to the number of incidents we are called to. We're called to far more incidents than anywhere else. We can actually get those figures for you to show you.

Also, I know that our engagement of the IPCC -- because of the number of shots we have fired -- is the highest in the country as well. So, I'd need to get those figures for you Deputy Mayor, but it will show the comparisons and it will need to be shown in terms of the volume of incidents that we attend, which is greater than anywhere else in the country.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** It seems interesting then doesn't it if you compare the two tactics? So, with Taser it's been used obviously very effectively as a deterrent. Because there obviously far fewer shots -- or Tasers -- discharged relative to the number of deployments, which are high. And you know there's that different with firearms, that's interesting.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I suppose I'd look at it slightly differently. In terms of the officer who uses a firearm must believe that somebody's life is at threat or their life is at threat before it can be used. Circumstances for using the use of force with Tasers is slightly different. Very often, when somebody is red dotted -- which we have a higher instance of than anywhere else in the country -- people then -- it de escalates the situation.

Usually by the time a firearm is actually discharged, sadly it has gone beyond that and it's a very serious incident when that happens. It's something we don't want to happen wherever possible. But I think it would be worth getting the whole scale of the number of firearms incidents. Bear in mind that Taser isn't just used -- and in some cases deployed -- where it's a firearm. It's used in many different instances when it is considered appropriate. Whereas the firearms it's slightly different.

**Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Can I just develop that? I mean really what you're saying -- and I tend to agree -- is that you can use Taser very effectively as a deterrent. But really you draw your firearm because someone's life is at risk?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes. It's the last resort where they've done it. And also, on each occasion there is a very thorough investigation and there is always consideration about whether or not any offences have been committed. So it's one of those things. Firearms officers do not discharge those weapons lightly.

It has a huge impact on their life, they're taken off operational duties if they are the principal officer who has fired the shots. There is a thorough investigation, not just by the department of



professional standards but also by the IPCC. It's a very public matter because we always inform the public of what's happened. So, there is no greater scrutiny and if somebody unfortunately has died, it is always going to go through the coroner's process as well, where there will be a court process to decide whether that killing was lawful.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Okay, well I've certainly seen instances where officers have turned to their Taser first and their firearm second. They're shooting to stop effectively rather than this. But typically when you're training, they're often challenging people and asking them to stop doing whatever they're doing.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Absolutely.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** That's a point well-made and it's good to be able to look at these and scrutinise them. Previously we got into the use of Taser varying by borough. But I think effectively it would be good to get your comments Pat. The deployments, if they vary very often it's because of the geography of a borough, larger boroughs have different deployment patterns because of the geography as opposed to there's any difference in policy.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes. There's no difference in policy, the justification has got to be the same. What we've seen -- and we've done analysis about it -- is there's no simple explanation as to why some boroughs -- for instance Hillingdon -- is higher than other boroughs. But I think the important aspect for me is about the number of times the actual Taser is fired, because that's the important aspect. There isn't a great differential in that.

We must keep on ensuring that officers know when it is appropriate to use Taser, that we don't over-use it and we can continue to scrutinise it, which we do as has been seen with the figures. I'm really reassured that overall, we have got the lowest use in the country in terms of the actual application of the weapon.

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** Could you just give some clarity here? So, what is the justification for use of Taser deployment and use of Taser fired?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Well, if you think about it, it's always a staged approach as you go up in terms of the application of force, so if officers are deployed with Taser, we obviously believe there is a threat. You will start off in terms of the challenge by red-dotting as we say. So, it's a very visible red dot that appears on somebody. We actually say to someone, "We've got Taser." That very often is enough to calm the situation down.

If the person is continuing to behave as they are and threatening people, it is only at that stage there would be the application of force to actually try and stop them. It is considered a less lethal form of force and that's why Taser is used. It probably is an effective way of stopping people in my view.

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** Okay, so would you accept then that deployment of Taser because somebody refuses to leave their car is unacceptable?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Well, I think we need to look at the whole circumstances of that. Because you're asking me about a particular case in a very wide remit. So, I'd need to look at the actual circumstances of the case you're referring to, to know everything involved in it to understand whether or not it would be reasonable in the circumstances.

If it has happened in London, that should have been scrutinised in detail to discover whether or not the application of that force could be justified and was reasonable in the circumstances.

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** Thank you.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Faith, do you want to come in?

**Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member):** I don't think so on this thank you.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Let's move onto stop and search. We want to spend slightly longer on stop and search because I think you've got a very interesting data set here. And dare I say it, a very credible slide that we'll be probing. So, over to you Rebecca.

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** Okay, so first on stop and search here is the interactive dashboard which has five segments. The one in the top left-hand segment shows the orange line there is the long-term trend of reduction in stops. That has slightly started to plateau out that reduction in the last quarter.

The blue line is the arrest rate, which had been increasing for a period of time but then started to reduce. The arrest rates are now still hovering around the 19 per cent mark. The blue bar charts there in the top left are the breakdown of the stops by ethnicity. It shows that people of a black ethnicity are still three times more likely to be stopped than those of white or Asian. You can see those trends over time.

The map there shows stop and search by borough. It shows the highest volume boroughs are Lambeth and Southwark and later on, we have some slides drilling down to some of the factors behind that and the analysis. The pie chart there shows the proportion of stop outcomes, no further action versus arrests or other action. Again, we will come to some of that later.

Finally, that series of bar charts at the bottom left shows the reason for the stops, with the highest reason being drugs and weapon searches, currently accounting for 12.4 per cent of all stop and searches.

So, based on that we then have a number of more static slides that look at some of the trends in more depth. So slide eight there looks again at those reasons for the stop and the conversion into arrests. It shows that the predominant reason for stops by volume is drugs, that's 60 per

cent of all stops. That has a relatively low arrest rate compared to other stops, so 15.6 per cent of arrests.

Particularly interesting if you then compare that to firearms and offensive weapons, which are a smaller total number of stops but a higher proportion of those -- 25.9 per cent of those stops -- translate into an arrest. If you turn to page nine, it looks in more depth particularly at weapon searches.

So, the blue line there is the long term trend in weapon searches which have been reducing down. Some particular points have been chosen there and the red line shows the arrests from weapon searches, which you can see until around the end of 2013 were increasing with a high point of 7,597 but have now been decreasing. That reduction is slightly tailing off.

So, since November 2014, weapons searches have dropped by 45 per cent. Arrests from weapons searches as a result have decreased by 35 per cent and we thought we would pause at that moment with questions.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Well, I think I can kick off with one real question, because the trends are fairly clear. Now, we all accept that the Metropolitan Police Service started off in 2011 - 2012 with a huge number of stop and searches and stop and accounts, well over a million if you add the two together. But for a period of time, certainly through 2012 - 2013 and 2013 - 2014 we saw a substantially declining number of stop and searches and stop and accounts.

Actually broadly speaking, the number of people arrested stayed broadly the same and in fact slightly increased. Then in the last year or so and certainly also in this year, the number of people arrested as a result of stop and search has dropped. I mean, it's almost fallen off a cliff in some cases. Now, when it comes to something like knife crime and we look at weapons searches, the last slide was the one I've spent the most time just getting my head around.

I'd really like to understand why for a period of 18 months, you can almost halve the number of weapons searches but maintain or if not slightly increase the number of people arrested carrying weapons. Then over the last 18 months, see a 35 per cent reduction -- 2600 fewer people stopped in possession of knives. That for me is concerning. I understand the broad policy of targeted and intelligence led. But how were we so successful in increasing the number of people arrested or maintaining the arrest rate and then seeing this dramatic drop in the last 18 months and what can we do to address that?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I'll let Jeremy go into a bit more detail in a minute. But I think one of the important aspects is since June, you will have noticed that we've steadied that stop and search picture, we're very much targeting it. That is in direct relation to our increase in concern about gang crime.

Specifically you'll remember at the beginning, I mentioned about the number of discharges. I've actually got the figure. It was up 14.5 per cent on a rolling figure, which was 21 per cent before we start opportunity Teal. In terms of knife crime as you'll be aware, that was up 22 per cent in June but has now fallen to 6.7 per cent.

So we're very much targeting in those gang boroughs. Directing the searches, not just in terms of specialist crime and using the task force, but also the borough gang units. The commissioner has spoken -- as you are aware Deputy Mayor -- about his concerns that we do continue to use the tactic proportionately and very much intelligence led. Because we also appreciate that in the past when it's maybe not been as targeted, that people have had concerns and it has damaged the confidence in policing.

I'll let Jeremy go into a few more details, but we very much take a position that we do want stop and search but we want to make sure it's justified.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Well, I note that there is a flattening of the curve since June, but really that wasn't my question. My question was you can reduce the levels of weapon searches -- you can halve them -- but maintain the number of people arrested for a period of around 18 months. Yet in the last 18 months, you still see the decline -- the curve still goes down -- but you see almost a matching curve going down for a period of 18 months. I mean, it's down 35 per cent as opposed to a 45 per cent drop. Whereas there wasn't any correlation between the number of people arrested and the decline beforehand.

For me, that's a significant shift and all we've seen since June is a flattening, i.e. you're not continuing to reduce the level of stop and search and you are arresting broadly the same number of people. But that's against the backdrop of that massive decline in the number of people arrested carrying knives. Why have we seen that very different picture over the last three years? That's my question. I can see the flat line, but why have we seen that and what can we do to address it? Because presumably, we want to stop people carrying knives.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** We absolutely do want to stop people from carrying knives and we've got to do it targeted. We are also concerned about public confidence at the same time. So we're making sure we're actually in the right areas to do it. We appreciate -- and it has been one of our concerns -- that stop and search has declined and at the same time, we've had the increase in knife crime. So that's why we're doing something about it. Since June, we've taken a very targeted effort towards it.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** But since June, all that has happened is it has stayed flat. My question is why there has been that change do you think? Can you give me a hypothesis as to why you can succeed to almost halve the number of stop and searches and maintain the arrest rate and then not see that for the second half? I mean, I haven't had the explanation. I can understand the policy but I'm just interested in why the difference in results in that period, any hypothesis?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I don't have a specific hypothesis, other than the less you stop and search, you will end up having a point at which it drops off.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** But why didn't you have that point for 18 months though? Is it because you start off with such a high volume of redundant searches, you take off those quite easily. Then you reach the bit where it's a bit

harder and actually when you reduce the number you effectively miss some of the people that are carrying knives? I don't know, what does the curve tell you?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Well, what the curve tells me is that as we have done fewer searches, we've started to have that drop-off. I think there was a reluctance from officers for a variety of reasons to do stop and search and to have the confidence to do it. We are getting that confidence back to ensure that people know that we do want people to stop and search when we've got the grounds to do so. We don't want people to stop and search when there aren't the grounds because we've got to be really clear on that, but we don't want to be giving mixed messages out to our officers.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Okay, Jeremy.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** If I could come in on the back of that Deputy Mayor. What we have seen since June -- and when you get into the data in a more granular fashion and contrast it with what was happening in the three months before that, we've actually seen -- since June when there has been a renewed focus -- we've seen a 23 per cent increase in searches for weapons. We've also seen a 19 per cent increase in arrests as a consequence.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** That doesn't show on the data though does it? If I look at the number of weapons searches since June -- unless I'm not reading the curve correctly Jeremy -- I don't see any increase in weapons searches since June according to these figures.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** We've had a small but significant increase over that period of total searches, 4 per cent, which equates to about 2000 stop and searches. So, the figures are perhaps too small to reflect on the graph as it is. But having looked at the data in more detail, that's what it is telling me.

What it's also telling me, where we have this significant fall as indicated in number of arrests -- 35 per cent -- that is arrests for weapons as a consequence of a weapons search. What we have found is 40 per cent of our arrests of people with weapons come from a variety of searches. So, not necessarily the correlation between, "I have the grounds to search you for weapons, I arrest you for a weapon." We get them from other searches as well.

As a consequence -- so for instance drugs -- 25 per cent of our arrests for weapons come from primarily drugs searches. That says to me it is a targeted approach, we do have grounds to target those individuals and we find property concerned with violence or criminality as a consequence.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Okay, so this goes back to the point we've had in previous -- if you segment and you say, "I'm searching you because I think you might be carrying a weapon." But you find drugs. So effectively not in all these cases where they necessarily have a weapon, they are being arrested as a result of something. And equally when you stop them -- so this is the issue of why you stop them in the first place and the information.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes. If I may Deputy Mayor, we're -- on the back of Assistant Commissioner Gallan's point, we are renewing our approach in terms of officer confidence and officer awareness. The grounds for a stop and search is based on reasonable suspicion. We've reinvigorated the training program for our new recruits that starts in December. Equally whilst we're focussing on grounds, we're also focussing on the encounter.

Whilst we know 70 per cent of Londoners we surveyed support the use of the tactic and 72 per cent believe it is done in a fair and effective fashion, we understand that it is that encounter -- the way that encounter is dealt with -- that causes concern. So there's two elements to it. But what I do infer from the data is since we've introduced operation Teal, since the Commissioner has been absolutely clear about targeting high crime, high, risk, high harm areas and individuals, we are seeing an increase in proportionate and appropriate use of stop and search, primarily for weapons.

We've had a slight increase for property as a result of serious and acquisitive crime, but the main thrust has been weapons.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Yes, I mean looking at this curve, I can see it looks flat but it probably looks like it's slightly higher. But it's a small increase, but you're saying it's a focussed increase. Do others have questions on this? Duwayne.

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** A few questions. Good morning to you Jeremy, I hope you're well I haven't seen you for a while. I'm a bit confused. You said there has been a 23 per cent increase in weapons searches. Is that since June and if it is since June, what is that based on?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** That is since June. That's June to September contrasted with February to May. So, what I've done is look at that point where the Commissioner made his announcement, the point where we started to see --

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** What are your figures that you base the 23 per cent on? Because we're staring at this flat as a pancake chart that sort of says it's around 19,000 now and it doesn't look like it was 17,000 in June. What are the numbers you've got, because I'm just worried that we've got different data.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think it's the same data Deputy Mayor, it's just I've gone into the granularity of it.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Well I mean it's not that granular. I mean the curve -- if you had 2000 extra stop and searches you'd see it in the curve.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** What I've got -- weapon searches February to May 5278. Weapon searches -- this is June to September -- 6491 which represents a 23 per cent increase.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** But how does that fit in with the 19,000 figure then because that's a different number? We're saying the number of weapons -- unless I'm misreading this -- total weapons searches in the Metropolitan Police Service was 19,000.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** It's a rolling 12 months so that flattens everything out.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** It's because you're looking at an annual figure that includes the previous time, so these are the absolute figures rather than the rolling annual total. That's what it is, okay that's helpful.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** And just to add to the background of that Deputy Mayor, in June why did we take the focus? It is with the background of the previous 12 months, a 22 per cent increase in knife crime in under 25 year olds where there's an actual victim. So, that's why we've been very targeted in where we're doing it, in which boroughs and being very specific and giving intelligence to officers about who specifically we want them to go out and stop and search on the streets. We've also increased the other aspects in terms of dealing with gang members.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** And what was the number of people arrested then, giving that we're looking at annualised averages? In that period the increase?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** In that compared period, 878 arrested moving up to 1044.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Yes that is an increase, okay.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** Which represents a 19 per cent increase. I thought it helpful to go into that. I appreciate with the lack of clarity around the rolling picture --

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Yes, the rolling figures just flatten everything don't they?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes, but I thought it helpful to go into the detail in terms of what we've done specifically since June.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Yes that's helpful. Okay, so what you were able to do was to see both a similar increase in the arrest rate as in the number of weapons searches. So, you were able to climb back up. Okay, that's helpful. Any other questions on stop and search, Faith?

**Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member):** I wondered whether you can comment on whether there's a difference between what you are finding in respect of firearms and knives?

Because I think historically we've had more of an issue around knives. From what Pat was saying to us earlier, it sounds as if firearms are coming up the list if I can put it like that.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think both are areas of concern. The tactic that we use for the firearms is slightly different from the knives. Also the age group is different although not always. So, in terms of dealing with the gun crime issue and the increase in discharges, we've very much got to tackle that through covert methodology, not just the undercover but other methods we use. That's the point of trident.

We've got two aspects, we've got a proactive side and obviously a reactive side. You'll have seen in one aspect we had an officer shot the other week. He was on the proactive side, so those tactics in terms of covert tactics are used very much against the firearms. We are going to be launching another initiative around gun crime in the next couple of weeks.

In terms of the knife crime, it tends to be a slightly younger age group, but we've seen a mix of some people in terms of one of the last stabbings, where it was somebody who produced a knife and the person he produced a knife to, produced a gun and he was shot. So we are seeing that mix but both are very serious and both lead to serious injury and death. So we've got to tackle both aspects but using different tactics.

**Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Is your feeling that the drop-off that we've seen here is mainly in respect of finding knives, is it disproportionately one or the other?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** We've got a drop-off in both, but we've seen a far greater decrease in terms of the knife crime. So, it is my hope by the end of the year we will have zero increase in terms of knife crime injuries in under 25 year olds. That decrease is not as steep as I would like it to be in terms of gun crime, so we've got to re-focus our efforts in that aspect, understanding it is always more different to take the firearms off the streets but we've got to keep the effort up.

**Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Okay, thank you.

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** So it's just a basic question on what you've said. So, you want to have a decrease in knife crime by the end of the year?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Well, one of the issues is because we've had such a significant increase last year of 22 per cent, as you're bringing that down to get the rolling, you've got to have a significant decrease. So first of all I don't want to see any knife crime. But I don't want to see an increase at all, so we are putting huge amounts of effort into all the boroughs where we know specifically they have an issue of gang crime.

This is in terms of very overt policing, so it's not just in terms of the boroughs but also in terms of the task force and targeting those gang members that we know are going out and taking a knife with them. We are also trying to persuade other people not to carry a knife. That's why we did another initiative a couple of weeks ago about people actually disposing of a weapon to us and getting rid of knives.



**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** Well precisely, because it's not just gang members that carry knives. So, we've had a 23 per cent increase in knife crime because we've had a huge reduction in searches for weapons. The same time we have a reduction in searches for weapons, we have an increase in searches for drugs. Is there a reason for that in terms of percentages? So, the percentages of drug searches have gone up and the percentages of searches for weapons have gone down with an overall decrease in searches. Is there a reason for that?

I've given you my reason previously, where I've said it is lazy policing and it is fishing. But I would like for you to give me an explanation.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think one of the bits is that we are very keen that officers are always fully aware of all of their powers and why they're stopping and searching people. So, there will be occasions when somebody has got the grounds under the misuse of drugs act to search somebody and they actually in fact find a weapon and vice versa. But we are really keen that we use this power appropriately, that we have the confidence of the public.

What we are clear about is that we are also aware that when there was a decrease in stop and search, at the same time our figures for knife and evil crime did go up. So, we've got to keep at it and we've got to -- through Jeremy's group -- ensure that officers have the confidence and know their powers. They also need to have the intelligence to know which people are likely to be carrying weapons and work with the communities to try to stop it.

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** I understand that, but there is no correlation between the reduction in stop and searches and the increase in knife crime. Because the percentages for drug searches have gone up. So, we need to find out -- as the Deputy Mayor was saying -- why has there been a decrease in arrests in the last 18 months when there wasn't in the previous 18 months? I think that's the question.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think one of the explanations is that since June, we've had a complete refocus in ensuring that people know their powers and they are really focussed in on the issue. So before that, I can't give you detailed explanations round about, other than to say that we weren't getting it quite right. I think we've been entirely open and honest about that. But what we're saying is that since June, we've had a complete refocus.

Jeremy is working with my Commander, Duncan Ball, to have a real focus on this area and to ensure that everybody appreciates that we all play a part in reducing it. And that we are using the right powers to do it. Because if we don't use the right powers, that's when we have people concerned that we are abusing our powers, which doesn't do anything for confidence.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Jeremy, you gave me the absolute figures since June, so you're giving figures from June to now?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** June to September.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** So a four month period. Even if we assume that it's broadly speaking about a third. I mean, the number of people you are arresting still isn't up. I don't know if there will be seasonality with this, but it doesn't seem like you're up -- even that increase doesn't get you back to where you were in terms of arresting people carrying knives.

When you look back at 18 months ago, let's take the period November to December 2013. I think the public would be reassured to know you're stopping nearer to 7600 people. We obviously have to be looking at our watches, but we've got six minutes and you aren't there yet. What measures are you taking to ensure that you get back up to arresting more people in possession of knives? Because that's the drop off, even on your own figures, even with the increase of 19 per cent you're still not back where you were.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** And I will qualify again, that's a small increase since June and it's a small snapshot in time. But in terms of what we're doing, it really is an absolute refocus since June in terms of clarity of message, targeting high crime, high harm areas. Every single borough in London has a stop and search dedicated point of contact at senior leader level.

I meet with those individuals quarterly and reinforce the message. We scrutinise performance and outcomes. That's also done at a local level through the community monitoring groups to have that oversight. We have a quarterly performance meeting of which not just the messages but the outcomes are monitored closely. Assistant Commissioner Gallan's Commanders are heavily involved in that, given the reach we've put out to gang crime.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** I'll make the general point that I think we've got to move away from measuring success in terms of the percentage reduction in total stop and search. We've got to move away from just seeing it as a percentage reduction in the number of complaints and then looking at the percentage arrest rate. Because when it comes to specifically looking at weapons searches, you could be reassured by the fact that the arrest rate has gone up, but actually the number of people arrested has dramatically dropped and that's the point.

Obviously since June we've seen a small change, but there's more to be done. Because I think all of us support targeted, proper use of stop and search to stop people walking around the streets of London carrying knives.

**Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member):** If I may, I think historically there has been probably more concern potentially in the community around youngsters who are relatively new and innocent and are carrying knives predominantly. Whereas I think there's probably more clear-cut public outrage at firearms if I can put it like that. But my concern would be that both kill and the youngsters who get into this through knives are just as vulnerable, probably more vulnerable because it is almost casual violence.

So, I'm particularly concerned that the officers have a very clear view of what is appropriate around knives and are as concerned to stop that as they are around firearms. So, you were talking earlier about loss of confidence and having to refocus, which I think is very apposite to this, and I think I'm after reassurance that you are putting as much effort into giving them clear

guidelines which clearly they mustn't break. But also restoring that confidence around knives. So what training and what messages are really going out?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** We've circulated guidance around knife crime and appropriate stop and search tactics to address it. We have seen an increase in weapons searches. September we were up to almost 15 per cent so it is on the increase, but I agree it's about improving the confidence.

We will improve the confidence by better mentoring of our officers, by the training that is coming out in December as I mentioned. And greater support and scrutiny from my groups and the governance process around what is appropriate. The oversight from the community groups around testing and scrutinising stop and search. But absolutely, the message is we need to take the knives off the street and stop and search is one of a variety of tactics that we will use to do this.

So, it has to come in a suite of measures, but when we use the power of stop and search, absolutely we have to do it in a fair and effective manner. It's not just the performance element and I'll go back to what the Deputy Mayor said about percentage increases and decreases. We have to have the confidence of our communities and our officers to use it fairly and effectively to address knife crime in this context.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** I think what we'll do is we'll take the slides on Lambeth and Southwark and we'll probably have to suspend the questions because we'll get to 11.00 but I think that will help form the discussions.

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** So, the next set of slides do a deep dive into Lambeth and Southwark, which are ranked within the top for gang linked offending, top four for MOPAC seven crime and they account for the highest volume of stop and search. In fact, 14 per cent of all searches conducted in the Metropolitan Police Service at that time. They've got a younger than average population but they actually have a higher average overall confidence.

We've looked recently in Confidence MOPAC challenges at some of the increases we've seen there. The next slide, slide 11, shows the dashboard on Lambeth and Southwark and shows the rolling 12 months changes in trend in the use of stop and search. So you see that variation in Lambeth, it reduced then it increased. It's reducing slightly, increasing now. With an arrest rate that has increased then slightly dipped. Southwark slightly different rolling trend, the rolling 12 months number of stops is still going down and arrests is going up but dipping down.

If we look at slide 12, we've looked at the targeting within those two boroughs of stop and search, and it's very reassuring to see there that the stop and search is being targeted within the high harm locations within those boroughs. So, the shading is the volume of knife crime offences with the deep red being the highest knife crime offences. You see that the stops indicated by the blue bubbles are in those higher harm parts of the borough.

The next slide, slide 13 shows the volume of stops for different reasons in 2013 / 2014 compared to 2014 / 2015. It shows that in those two boroughs, the total number of searches in these overall have more than halved. But the biggest reduction as you can see has been in the

number of drug searches. According to these figures, the total volumes of offensive weapons and firearms searches has also reduced.

We thought it important to look at the number of victims and offences of crimes in those boroughs. You see serious youth violence victims have fallen.

(Remembrance day 2 minutes silence announced)

(2 minutes of silence)

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Thank you everyone. Rebecca.

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** The final slide on slide 14 does a drill down on the five most stopped individuals in both Lambeth and Southwark. It shows that one in seven people who have been stopped are repeats. So, there are a small number of people being searched many times. The main reason and the main convictions against those individuals are from theft and kindred or from drugs with just one on violent crime. Four out of ten of the top individuals are on integrated offender management.

If you look in Southwark, another indication of the targeting of stops, three out of five have been highlighted on daily intelligence briefings in the last two months compared to two out of five in Lambeth. So there's a slide showing a drill down in those two boroughs, including on the individuals stopped and the reasons for those stops.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Right, who is leading the questions on this, Duwayne?

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** Jeremy, you weren't here the last time and I mentioned lazy policing and fishing expeditions. So, in Lambeth, we can see that 60 per cent of all searches are for drugs. Lambeth has 21 safer neighbourhood teams. None of those safer neighbourhood teams have drugs as a priority. Why are we searching for drugs more than we're searching for weapons?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** In terms of the Lambeth / Southwark dynamic, I've spoken with both borough commanders to get the local perspective. It's fair to say both Lambeth and Southwark have seen increases in searches for weapons, in positive outcomes. In respect of drugs, we have reduced our drug searches, yes. But drugs still do blight communities. And we do get feedback from communities that they would like to see people dealing and using drugs dealt with by the police, which is one of the reasons why where we have grounds, we stop and search them.

The arrest rate -- yes, I acknowledge from before is quite small, 15 per cent. When you add other outcomes into that -- for instance cannabis warnings or penalty notices -- that increases the overall arrest rate for drugs stop and search to 28 per cent, so quite a significant outcome rate there, almost doubled. We know locally, drugs can be linked to antisocial behaviour. We know from the scrutiny I give it, 25 per cent of weapons arrests do come from drugs searches. So that indicates that those who deal in drugs or take drugs may have weapons.

So, not that it's a fishing exercise, but it's done appropriately with a community mandate to deal with drugs where it is a concern. And the misuse of drugs act is an appropriate tactic to search for.

**Duwayne Brooks (Special Advisor on Stop and Search, MOPAC):** I accept it's a community concern Jeremy, but there is no mandate if none of the priorities in the 21 safer neighbourhood teams talk about drugs. They talk about burglary, weapons and antisocial behaviour. Why are we not searching for weapons, that is the main issue?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** Lambeth and Southwark are and we are across the Metropolitan Police Service -- I acknowledge from before small numbers but green shoots coming from that June directive. But we are seeing an increase, both in Lambeth and Southwark for weapons searches. I think -- I've got the figures and I think it's 23 per cent over that small period again for Lambeth. I think similar -- I'll get the exact figures -- I think a similar figure for Southwark as well.

So again I acknowledge it's a small period. 25 per cent increase in weapons searches in Southwark. 42 per cent -- which is the biggest in the Metropolitan Police Service -- increase in weapons searches on Lambeth borough.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Just to add to that about the mandate is that officers have to use the law that they think is appropriate to the circumstances. So that's part of it, plus drugs are still illegal and priorities; it is a priority, but it doesn't mean to say if somebody walks past and you think they're committing another offence that you shouldn't use your powers.

We have said throughout this that we are particularly focussed on dealing with knife crime. That doesn't mean to say that we should ignore other crimes, but we've got to make sure that the focus is appropriate and correct. I think that's what Jeremy is highlighting is what we're doing.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Any other questions on Lambeth and Southwark? I mean, I was interested in the figures on the top five, which is a difference that when you look at Southwark, it was clear that everybody was related to either drugs or stolen property. Then you had two in Lambeth for offensive weapons. I mean, that's just a difference. Are there any thoughts on that? I noted that two of the five there -- 27 searches against them -- typically carried offensive weapons, but none for Southwark.

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes, there is that difference. It seems on the data we've got that Southwark seem to be prioritising the serious crime and the drugs element for stop and search. Certainly on this data, Lambeth weapons. However, I go back to the point I made earlier. Both have seen an increase in weapons searches.

The individuals stopped; again we talk about most stopped. We look at most stopped locally and centrally to make sure it's done fairly and effectively, because sometimes the statistics do show stark increases without outcomes. These have all got outcomes, on many occasions

leading to arrests. But again, that's something we do with the community monitoring groups locally, to make sure we are using the power fairly and effectively.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** It's also worth just adding in that in terms of the acquisitive crime, there is very often a connection between acquisitive crime and drugs. As well as that in those boroughs, you will know as part of the MOPAC seven, Assistant Commissioner King has been very much focussed on the rise of acquisitive crime in particular.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Yes, so burglary and acquisitive crime generally, I get that. I mean, there are links with that and that's what I actually was thinking, I'm glad you mentioned that. I mean, I guess it's all a question of what the right proportions are and what are the thoughts on that? And clearly we've made the point that there is some interesting data and tramlines around weapons stop and searches and arrests.

Let's look at a new intrusive tactic. Well, it's not a new intrusive tactic, because it's been there since the foundation of the police service, you tend to have the powers to lock people up. A power that only you have and therefore we thought we'd look at custody. So Rebecca will you take us through the data that we've got on this?

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** Yes, certainly. So, custody is a new area to focus on and this is the first time we've published this information in this way. So this is a very first overview on the Metropolitan Police Service's use of custody. So, slide 16 explains the custody process.

There are 41 custody sites across London, 32 of which are 24 / 7. An individual is detained in custody following an arrest so that the circumstances can be investigated. They are either given a bail or a case disposal which includes being charged, cautioned or no further action.

Slide 17 shows the types of staff and officer roles and responsibilities in a custody suite. Slide 18 looks at demand. So, it shows that between October 2014 and September 2015, there were 215,000 detentions in custody across London. The demand in the different custody sites ranges from eight a year for a non-24 hour custody site, to over 10,000.

The south is the busiest region although it doesn't have the greatest number of cells. Within the south, Brixton is the busiest site, with over 10,000 nearly 10,500 detentions a year. Slide 19 shows some trends in detentions. In fact, the number of detainees is now down 7.3 per cent from last year. It's reduced from 18,137 to 16,836.

Slide 20 tells us a little bit more about who comes into custody. The majority of custody detainees are white males aged over 18 arrested for common assaults or for actual bodily harm. Slide 21 shows the different stages of custody and explores the average times taken throughout the custody process and this is data taken across a year. Across that year, the average time between arrival at custody and detention being authorised is 26 minutes but it takes longest if you are in Islington, where it's 45 minutes.

The average time to be processed before an individual is allocated a cell is 51 minutes. Heathrow is somewhat different with 11 hours for a range of reasons. The average total time

spent in custody is 14 ½ hours and the maximum time is 17 hours. Slide 22 gives the data that we have around volumes indicating perhaps demand and need. This is just a snapshot of the month of September. It shows that the North has the longest average custody times but that doesn't seem to relate to demand, the number of detainees or the volume of cases which have additional needs.

I must emphasise this is just one snapshot of one month, and at this stage it's difficult to see trends between custody, demand and need. We'll move later to a slide on vulnerable individuals, but we thought that would be an appropriate point to pause and look at some of the volume and demand issues.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Right, it would just be helpful on custody because I have been briefed on this before by Matt Gardner. Who is running it because it was centralised? So, you're in charge now, you're the new Matt? Fantastic, well nice to meet you. So, I was interested in -- I've never seen a custody strategy. I've seen an estate strategy where the plan is to centralise custody in fewer locations and better quality but effectively, what is the custody strategy and what underpins it if there is one?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** It's one that has sort of developed with the Metropolitan Police Service detention as it went live back in January. But it's really around ensuring compliance with one way of working across London, across all our custody suites. Because obviously we have 32 different ways of doing things, we now standardise that and we do it all the same way. So, we're delivering the same service.

It's also making the custody an investigative hub, so we actually focus on the investigation as well. Delivering detections, but primarily our focus is around safety of detainees passing through. So, we've got safety, compliance and the investigations rolled into one package going forward.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Okay, that sounds like a description of how you measure the effectiveness of a process but is there a strategy around the number of detainees and how that's looking over time and how you might shape the estate? Because I mean when I first started the number of detentions were closer to 250,000. The latest data is showing it's down quite substantially, it's around 200,000 if you annualise the figures that we've got. And ensuring that this links into the criminal justice system so you don't have the same people going through time and time again.

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes. In terms of moving forward, yes over the last five years we had about a 5 per cent reduction in the number of detainees passing through. So obviously there are a number of factors surrounding that. Reduction in arrests obviously, there are other factors that we use out on the streets. So, we do postal charge requisition, we do more caution plus three for some offences. So there are other means of actually dealing with people rather than bringing them through custody. That's what we try to encourage with some of the lower level offences.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** But the previous strategy was to maintain the same number of cells in fewer locations. Does the reduction in the number of detentions mean that you're going to review that? How many cells do we need?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I may be able to help there Deputy Mayor. We are looking at it overall as part of the estate strategy as we're looking going forward with the savings as well. About where should we have our custody suites, what is the best use of them, what level of officers and police staff do we need in those to have the most efficient and effective systems we go through.

Also you'll be aware as Elaine has indicated, the law did change in terms of not the power of arrest, but when we actually do arrests in terms of the necessity test. That has also driven down the use of it. So, as we look at the overall estates policy and about the number of detainees we're likely to have in the future, we've got to make sure we've got the right number of detention places in the right locations around London. So we don't have officers going from one end to the other to put a prisoner in. And that we're being effective in the process of moving people through it so that we're not detaining people longer than we should do.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** I accept that those are the questions. Have we revised the policy then? Because the policy and strategy was effectively maintaining the same cell capacity but fewer locations. So is that being looked at again?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** It is being looked at in terms of what we're doing in terms of the one Metropolitan Police Service model for 2020. That is part of how we focus in --

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Right so it's part of the one Metropolitan Police Service 2020 thing, okay that makes sense. Keith, thank you.

**Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Just on the location, I've been out on a number of patrols with boroughs that are quite busy with night time economy. And they do use dispersal orders which are very effective, fixed penalty notices and so on and that I think is a good development. Especially dispersal, which means that people are removed from the area before trouble starts so that's very good. But what I have noticed on a couple of occasions when I've been in one or two of the more busy boroughs is that once the officers have to actually arrest someone and take them to the cells, that means we're left quite thin on the ground sometimes in the areas where they're conducting the operation.

My only concern is that if we get fewer locations -- I can understand the economics of it and I totally agree with that -- my concern is that we make sure that those locations are near areas where there is high demand. Clearly in a leafy borough where there aren't that many they can afford to travel. But in these areas where we have operations and the night time economy, if you take two officers off you're putting others at risk.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** And if I can answer it in this way, that's connected to two issues. One about making sure that we've got custody in the right places and the right volume of spaces. It is also connected to ensuring that we've got our response teams at the right size and the flexibility. Because at the moment they're very much within the boundaries of the boroughs. In the future, we're taking a wider perspective about where officers can be deployed.



So it's the two pictures together that we need to take. The aspect that we spoke about at the beginning about the length of time awaiting to go into custody, it's very important that that is a short period of time, because that impacts significantly on effectiveness.

**Keith Prince (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Thank you. I've got a couple of other questions if I may Deputy Mayor? I welcome the figures, but of course this is just a one month snapshot. So, the question is are we going to get more snapshots or maybe an ongoing supply of data? But also, can I ask you how you intend to use the data to inform your practices going forwards?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** I acknowledge the snapshot in time. We look at our data on a monthly basis and we're starting to identify where we can and should be more efficient. So, waiting times already mentioned. We've got that down now to an average of 22 minutes because it's very important we get the throughput quickly so that detention can be authorised.

How long people are detained for, there are two elements to that. Clearly it comes at a cost and places demands on our staff the longer they are in police detention. But equally, are we effective in terms of progressing the investigation. So, there are some new and emerging areas of information now that the command has been established that we look at both in terms of Elaine and I and her senior leadership team scrutinising at the Metropolitan Police Service detention level, and then we raise it in -- as alluded to by the Assistant Commissioner -- crime fighters which is our monthly meeting with all the borough commanders.

Because whilst we are now effectively supplying a service to them, there needs to be a relationship with us in Metropolitan Police Service detention to make sure we are as efficient and effective as possible. Which then informs the conversations in the one Metropolitan Police Service model around the estate and the strategy as we move forward.

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** Can I add to that when we're looking at the effectiveness about keeping people in detention, we've also got to look at bail dates as well. Because one of the things we don't want is to move quickly through the process and bail people, and then we bail them for an extended period because we haven't done the investigation when they've been in detention.

So, it is quite a complex picture, it's not just about custody, it's about the investigations which Elaine highlighted at the beginning about why we consider it so important that we get it right.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** That's a good point. I think it is good to have this data isn't it? Because I'm delighted to hear that on average the time between arrival and detention authorised is now down to 22 minutes, because the chart says 26 minutes. But to be honest with you, what's going on in Islington custody suite for 45 minutes?

**Commander Jeremy Burton (Metropolitan Police Service):** What this data does show us is quite clearly the anomalies and then we go back into it. There are a number of variables within it. What effects waiting time sometimes is when the cell allocation process doesn't work

as it should, so we get detainees brought in that weren't expected by the suite. That creates backlogs.

For instance, last week Brixton had five prisoners that weren't allocated there. That puts demand on the custody staff. On the back of it operationally, we have now got a more efficient allocation system. We endeavour to keep local investigators local at local suites, we can look at demand across London and allocate a custody suite to a prospective detainee where they can be better managed. So we shouldn't get those anomalies.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Okay, but is the issue in Islington that we could be better at managing demand and allocating detainees to the right places? Or how much is it is generated by poor processes is really the root of my question? And are we doing something about it and have we seen an improvement since this chart? 45 minutes seems a bit slow to me.

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** Yes we have. We identified that we did have some problems at Islington. It was more process driven, it was the practices being employed by the staff within the suite. The suite design layout if you've ever been to Islington is a very different layout to some of the other suites. So we can't employ the same usage of our DDOs for booking in that we do at other suites so again we're relying on our custody sergeants to do that. But what we also found is that they --

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** What, the custody sergeants were booking them in?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** More so than the DDOs, just because of the layout of the suite in terms of the accessibility of the suite, the terminals and the DDOs having to do other jobs as well. But that's not commonplace, that was something we recognised there. But what we also found there is that they weren't making best use of their time. Certainly around booking in too many bail slots.

So what we found certainly at the handover time at 7.00 pm for example they'd still have bail returns coming through the door at the same time we've got detainees coming through the door. We'd have a backlog before the new shift starts duty. So that then makes the delay in terms of booking people in.

So what we've now done is we've stripped out the bail slots for the handover period, so we don't get bails returned. So, when somebody does come through the door they get dealt with. Because we have a mid-shift sergeant and a DDO who does the processing. They weren't doing that, so we now have an action plan around Islington because that has been identified as the more problematic one.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Great. Jonathan?

**Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Yes, if I could just pick up on one or two of the points that have been raised. We've seen a strategy whereby we've gone to fewer locations with different capacity. Is there an ideal capacity in your opinion for a custody suite to have the

right critical mass to ensure it has all the necessary services there and is busy enough to make the cost of those services justified?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think we were looking at between 60 to 62 per cent is really where we would like it to be. If you go over that, then obviously the capacity and the ability for the staff to deal safely and effectively with the detainees becomes more challenging for us. So at the moment, some of our larger suites aren't operating at that level and we are trying to develop that and move it forward.

We're moving the staff around to make sure we've got the staff. Obviously Metropolitan Police Service detention is still fairly new, so we're just working out how the demand passes through and making sure each of the suites are staffed appropriately to get them at that level. I think we're at about 56 per cent now roughly for most of our suites on average, but ideally we'd like to be over the 60.

**Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member):** And presumably as part of that ability to send arrested parties out to different suites, you're managing that as part of the demand. Can I just track back though to one point which we talked about, which was the pre-arrival, the ability to move people to different suites but then the journey time involved? I think Keith touched on it as well, the allocation of resources. Are you finding any indication that the journey time from arrest to a new custody suite is an appropriate use of police time, or is it sometimes taking longer than you would anticipate and having people employed in that process for longer than is ideal?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think the important thing around our new cell allocation process that we've got is allocating individuals to a particular custody suite to prevent the wait. So you've got to balance up the travelling time to another suite against the amount of time that an officer is going to spend sitting at a suite to be booked in.

As Commander Burton mentioned earlier, we had a case at Brixton where we had five immigration prisoners brought in all at the same time last week. That was a two hour wait, whereas if they hadn't just arrived on our doorstep, we could have allocated them appropriately and there wouldn't have been such a wait at another station that didn't have a queue. So that's why our cell allocation process is so important to us and it is balancing out the demand in the custody suite against the travelling time.

**Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Is there any data available which indicates the time from arrest to the end of that process which takes account of travel time, congestion etc.?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** We have worked out travel time distances from different suites as part of this process. So we know if they are arrested in one area but they can't be taken to that suite, we know exactly how long it takes to get to the next suite and we can account for that within the entire process, yes.

**Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Okay, so perhaps when we next see this, there might be some indication of time from arrest to the beginning of the process as well as the process itself?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** We can capture that, yes.

**Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member):** That would be great, thank you.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** So I must say, we're just going back to your question Jonathan. I'm still not clear -- I've got an understanding about you wanting to increase occupancy rates from 50 to 60 odd plus per cent and that takes a period of time. But I'm still unclear about the number of cells per custody suite and what we consider to be the optimum number. What was the optimum number? I mean, the half a dozen at the back of a station, that era's over, I understand that. But how many cells are in the big suites that I've been to at Kingston and Brixton typically?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** The maximum cell space we've got is 40. We've got a couple of sites that have 40 cells. We've done away with the very low numbers because they're not efficient as you know.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** So the answer's not six or 12, is it 40?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** We've sort of got late teens up to forty and anything in between. We've got 30 cell sites. So we like to think that we can make better use of the bigger cells so that going forward with the estate strategy and obviously the plan for London 2020 is that we would have got rid of some of the really inefficient suites entirely. Because we've still got a few contingency suites if capacity exceeds what we have.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** My memory of the estate strategy is something like 900 cells in total. Is that about right?

**Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member):** It started with 900 across the estate.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Yes, and the strategy was to maintain approximately that number?

**Jonathan Glanz (MOPAC Challenge Member):** Approximately originally as part of the property trust.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** So, I think as you do the Metropolitan Police Service 2020 and you think about occupancy rates and demand then clearly there's got to be a revised strategy for the picture and the shape of the estate given where we are at the moment. So that's the interesting fact, and then we're taking in all these points.

Well, I think it's really helpful to have a data set like this. I think it can be improved upon and it will be nice to see how the data is used to inform that thinking around custody suites, location and then ensuring the process works effectively. Because these variations are a little surprising. They're not inevitable when you've had a decentralised system to one that is more centralised. But overall unless there are any questions I think we can draw this MOPAC challenge to a close. Have we got some more?

**Rebecca Lawrence (Director of Strategy, MOPAC):** We have one more slide on custody and vulnerable individuals, developing the theme of safety in custody as an important theme. It shows -- there is one very striking statistic here. That the use of custody as a place of safety has dramatically decreased by 74 per cent from April 2013 / 2014 to October 2014 / 2015. We have some data there on mental health needs within custody. The really important caveat is that that heavily relies on self-reporting.

It shows that between September last year and August this year, the top 15 repeat individuals in custody known to have mental health needs -- it shows on average 35 per cent of those individuals did not self-report.

There is data there on appropriate adults. In the last year, an appropriate adult was required to attend custody to accompany 3112 vulnerable adults and 6795 children. We have the statistics there on the very sad occasions of deaths following police custody where there in the last four years have been 27 deaths following police custody and 27 apparent suicides. It is very important to note here that this is far from a causal relationship and we don't have the data showing whether that is as a result of the contact or due to a prior vulnerability. So that is the data that we have on vulnerability and safety in custody at this stage.

**Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member):** In view of the time, obviously this deals with the most vulnerable people in respect of custody with all sorts of different types of risks and complications. You've just told us about your plans for the custody strategy as such. How do these people fit within that, how can we be sure that the necessary healthcare and external support is being provided to make this as suitable as possible?

**Chief Superintendent Elaine Van-Orden (Metropolitan Police Service):** Our priority really is working around ensuring that these individuals don't come into the custody suite in the first place. We had an HMIC inspection last November, which provided recommendations around vulnerable people in custody, which includes young people, mental health. Anybody really who should be in a different environment.

We're now working with external agencies in terms of making sure that provision is available to try to divert them away. So, if we're talking about young people, we're doing a lot of work now with children's services in terms of looking at alternatives to arresting young people. We're having a couple of pilots that are being developed for southeast London around Bexley and around Ealing as well. Looking at how we can deal with young people who have potentially committed a crime but not bringing them through the custody process and how we divert them away.

In terms of mental health, we've done some really good work under Commander Jones in terms of reducing the amount of individuals coming through the door with mental health issues. We

still have concerns about some individuals that will come into the police station and it is evident that they are suffering from a mental illness whilst they are in the police station.

We do work with a lot of external outreach providers within the custody as well, we have mental health nurses in the custody. If we need to get them into appropriate care, we try to get them out of the custody area as soon as we possibly can. But this is all being developed around the HMIC recommendation work in terms of trying to divert people away from custody in the first place. But while they are there, we do have quite good processes in place, certainly around mental health care within the custody suites to try to get them out of the custody suite at the earliest opportunity.

So still work to be developed, but I think we've come a long way from where we were previously.

**Faith Boardman (MOPAC Challenge Member):** I'm glad to see the concentration on it, but it sounds to me as if your success depends on the cooperation of other public services, some of whom have got significant pressures themselves. Is there anything more that can be done, can MOPAC assist around bringing those services to the table, is it necessary, is there more to be done?

**Assistant Commissioner Pat Gallan (Metropolitan Police Service):** I think we would seek the assistance of MOPAC. Certainly you will be aware that we have been very much encouraging the NHS to engage with us around mental health. There have been some movements in that and also the ambulance service, but more that can be done would be greatly appreciated because a lot of these people are very vulnerable. The place for them is not within a police cell, we are the last resort which is why we are looking after them. Their care is of our utmost concern.

**Stephen Greenhalgh (Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime) (Chair):** Right, I think it's commendable to see this significant decrease in the number of people that are placed in custody using Section 136, that's a big drop and all credit to you. It's good to get the thinking around custody, both in terms of how you respond to demand, how you manage a more efficient process and how you deal with vulnerable people. I think that's an important document in terms of your 2020 work.

There seems to be quite a significant change on a number of fronts. I think that means that it is timely to be able to start to see some of your thought on that. That should then drive the estate strategy rather than the estate strategy driving the custody strategy. That would be my strong recommendation.

Overall, it has been very helpful to review all these intrusive tactics. Undercover, use of firearms and Taser, stop and search and obviously now looking at custody. Thank you to the MOPAC team at evidence and insights that put the pack together. There are some thoughts that we've perhaps left with you. I think particularly I do think it's interesting when we drill into stop and search to see those data. We just need to annualise, but they do provide very different trends over the three years. It is also helpful to have the data set around custody for the first time.

Thank you very much indeed for joining us this morning.