



2 April 2024

Ade Adelekan MVO
Deputy Assistant Commissioner
New Scotland Yard
Victoria Embankment
London
SW1A 2JL

Tel: 020 7230 2346
Email: HQMailbox-Charter@met.police.uk
www.met.police.uk

Dear Caroline,

Thank you for your letter on March 18th regarding the Stop and Search Charter, and for raising your concerns which I hope to address in this letter. As the senior officer in responsible for the development of the Charter, I am responding on behalf of the Commissioner.

Stop and search is a vital tactic in tackling violent crime, in 2023 stop and search resulted in 4650 weapons being seized, these included machetes, rambo knives and firearms. These are serious seizures and without police intervention could have been used to seriously harm or injure others.

We also recognise that if it is not used professionally, stop and search can have a significant impact on the community. To address this as part of New Met for London we set out our commitment to deliver a Stop and Search Charter as a way to build trust and confidence in stop and search amongst Londoners by listening to their concerns and by making a clear and transparent commitment to change.

To develop the Charter we have carried out an extensive programme of engagement consulting with a diverse cross section of London. We have carried out a series of engagement events both in New Scotland Yard and across the 32 Boroughs inviting participants with a broad range of backgrounds and with a particular focus on young people and those with direct experience of stop and search. Several hundred people attended events and contributed their views on how stop and search should be used. These events were supported by open online events hosted by the MPS in order to reach as many Londoners as possible. These views were analysed and we identified the following eight key themes as priority areas for change:

- Quality of the encounter
- Improved supervision
- Improved training
- Improved complaints handling
- Better use of technology
- Enhanced independent governance and scrutiny
- Community involvement in where, when and why stop and search is being used
- Better public understanding of stop and search



In order to test these themes with a broader cross section of London we have carried out a series of surveys. The three surveys and their roles are as follows:

1. A representative sample of London – working in conjunction with YouGov, a survey was sent to a representative sample of 1000 people. This survey aimed to give a systematic indication of how much support each of the questions would have compared to wider London.
2. Those with an interest in stop and search – using a survey platform called 'ZenCity', respondents were able to nominate themselves to complete the survey by indicating an interest in this field.
3. The London-wide survey – Using 'Smart Survey', we wanted the opportunity to hear from all of London and so this survey was created in an attempt to reach as many people as possible. To boost participation, the survey was shared with all MP's, alongside significant media interviews and public engagement events. The survey has had over 7000 respondents.

We are now in the process of analysing data from the three surveys and as we have set out, whilst important, the London-wide survey, is just one aspect of our engagement.

Data collection and transparency are, as you rightly suggest integral to how we use Stop and Search going forward. Last year we piloted a new approach 'precision stop and search' targeting our resources in the areas of highest harm, we are currently evaluating the pilot.

We are looking at other ways we can innovate to improve our service and the proposal to use artificial intelligence is being considered as a way of reducing pressure on frontline supervisors, this tactic has been mentioned in the survey to assess public support, there are no plans at present to use this technology in stop and search. We are also committed to looking at how we can use non-policing solutions in order to tackle violent crime and through the work on the Charter we are considering how to strengthen partnership working.

I hope I have gone some way to addressing your concerns and providing some reassurance that the development of the Charter is an ongoing process with significant community engagement. We look forward to working with you in the future to continue to improve the service we give to the public whilst still reducing crime.

Kind Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ade Adelekan', written over a light yellow background.

Ade Adelekan MVO
Deputy Assistant Commissioner