



# Home Office

RECEIVED  
14 APR 2014

## HOME SECRETARY

2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF  
www.homeoffice.gov.uk

Baroness Jones of Moulscroomb, AM  
Chairman, Police & Crime Committee's Stop & Search Working Group  
London Assembly  
City Hall  
The Queen's Walk  
London  
SE1 2AA

08 APR 2014

Reference: M3133/14  
Your Reference: 99/2014

08 APR 2014

*Dear Baroness Jones*

Thank you for your letter of 28 February about the outcomes of the recent investigation by the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee which reviewed the Met's new approach to stop and search.

The Government is clear that stop and search is vital in the fight against crime. However, whilst it is clear that the power of stop and search is an important tool for the police, it must be used fairly and in a way that builds community confidence in the police rather than undermining it. Moreover, if stop and search is being used too much or targets the wrong people, this represents a significant waste of police time.

I have noted the findings of the London Assembly Police and Crime Committee, and welcome the improvements that the Metropolitan Police have made to their use of stop and search, most notably in the use of section 60 powers.

As you acknowledge in your letter, I launched a national consultation on the use of these powers over the summer of 2013. The purpose of the consultation was to provide the public with an opportunity to have their say about the future use of stop and search. The consultation generated well over 5000 responses which are

being analysed. These will form the basis of the Government's response to the consultation, which will be published in due course.

I would like to see these powers used fairly and more effectively across all forces in England and Wales. In order to maintain the British model of policing by consent, it is essential that police powers are used in this way and with the support of communities.

Our aim is to make stop and search fairer and more objective.

Yours sincerely  


**The Rt Hon Theresa May MP**