

Text highlighted in blue must not be changed

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

The Equality Impact Assessment Standard Operating Procedure/Guidance **must** be used when completing this form:

<http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm>

Protective Marking:	Not Protectively Marked	Publication	Yes		
Title:	Wandsworth (WW) Stop & Search Equality Impact Assessment				
Branch / OCU:	Wandsworth (WW) BOCU				
Date Created	09.03.2010	Review Date:	09.03.2013	Version:	1
Author:	Inspector Lysander Strong				

Person completing EIA: Inspector Lysander Strong			
Signed:	_____	Date:	09.03.2010
Person supervising EIA: Chief Inspector Tim Harding			
Signed:	_____	Date:	19.03.2010
Quality Assurance approval:			
Name:	Inspector John O'Daly	Unit	Performance & QA Inspector
	_____	Date	26.03.2010

Decision Making	
Decision Maker: Inspector Lysander Strong	
Name: Lysander Strong	Rank or Grade: Inspector
What is the decision?	
Reject the proposal	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Implement the proposal	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>
Produce an alternate proposal (if so, a new impact assessment must be completed)	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
SMT / (B)OCU/Management Board endorsing decision	
Name: Tim Harding	Rank : Chief Inspector

1. Aims and Purpose of Proposal – see step 1 of the guidance

<http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm>

Aim

The aim of the MPS Stop & Searches policy is to ensure that officers comply with the Police & Criminal Evidence Act (1984), s60 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 and the Terrorism Act 2000, acting within their powers and that all Stop & Search and Stop & Account powers are used fairly, responsibly, without unlawful discrimination and with respect for people being searched. These encounters on Wandsworth (WW) BOCU should be carried out as part of intelligence led policing and in a manner that is supported by the community.

Purpose

The Stop & Search/Account Standard Operating Procedures set out the MPS position on how these powers should be used, supervised and managed. It reinforces the requirement for local police to engage with their local communities to gain the trust of people who live work, visit or study in Wandsworth, in respect of these powers.

Monitoring

Stop & Search performance data for the MPS, including Wandsworth (WW) is published on the MPS website, making Stop & Search data available to the general public of Wandsworth. The Wandsworth Stop & Search Monitoring Group scrutinise this data at six-weekly meetings and hold the Wandsworth BOCU Commander to account. The chair of the Wandsworth Stop & Search Monitoring Group attends quarterly meetings of the MPA Stop & Search Community Monitoring Network along with the SMT Stop & Search Lead and/or their deputy.

Wandsworth BOCU looks to develop and build community & public confidence by consulting with key stakeholders. Wandsworth police work with community groups and partnership agencies to ensure participative information exchanges regarding independent monitoring of Stop & Search. Key stakeholders include;

- Stop & Search Monitoring Group
- Independent Advisory Group
- Youth Independent Advisory Group
- SNT ward panels
- Charitable organisations (i.e. WCEN & BATCA)
- Local residents
- Local businesses

This monitoring is to ensure that Stop & Search/Account is exercised in a way which has a positive impact on the confidence of all Wandsworth communities and leaves individual persons with a positive impression of the MPS.

2. Examination of Available Information – see step 2 of the guidance
<http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm>

Scope of the information examined

MPS & Wandsworth (WW) BOCU data

All Wandsworth (WW) BOCU Stop & Search/Account are now entered on the CrimInt+ database and were previously entered on the Stops database. Both of these databases are administered by Wandsworth (WW) BIU. The Wandsworth (WW) Performance Unit at Battersea (WA) also uses the Stops Reporting Tool (SRT) to produce Stop & Search/Account data locally.

The MPS currently produces a monthly headline and rolling 13 month data for a number of Stop & Search/Account areas. It is noted that although this data complies with Home Office and MPS corporate requirements work must continue to make it more timely and relevant, particularly as the ethnic profile of Wandsworth is based on the 2001 census.

Wandsworth community members have open communication channels with the BOCU Commander within the current Stop & Search/Account forums and have the opportunity to request additional information should they see fit. This currently includes complaints data from the DPS and local Professional Standards Champion.

3. Screening Process for relevance to Diversity and Equality issues – see step 3 of guidance
<http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm>

Does this proposal have any relevance to:

a)	Age	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
b)	Disability	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
c)	Faith	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
d)	Gender	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
e)	Race	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
f)	Sexual Orientation	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
g)	Other Issues	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>

4. From the answers supplied, you must decide if the proposal impacts upon diversity or equality issues. If yes, a full impact assessment is required.
<http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm>

Full Impact Assessment Required?	Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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<p>5. Consultation / Involvement – see step 5 of the guidance http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm</p>
<p>Who was consulted?</p>
<p>Wandsworth (WW) Stop & Search Monitoring Group</p>
<p>Date and method of consultation</p>
<p>On Tuesday 9th March 2010 a bespoke meeting was held.</p>
<p>Where are the consultation records stored?</p>
<p>Minutes of Stop & Search Monitoring Group</p>
<p>Give a brief summary of the results of the consultation / involvement? How have these affected the proposal?</p>
<p>The following are they key issues and points raised from the consultation process;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A lack of police officer knowledge of their accountability in relation to Stop & Search/Account. The need to improve local officer awareness of Independent Advisory Group, Stop & Search Monitoring Group and other local groups (i.e. SNT ward panels) to which police are accountable. • A further point is the need for the Wandsworth local police to speak to its own BAME officers and staff associations to help understand their concerns. • The need to increase the awareness of the Wandsworth public around Stop & Search/Account issues. There is also need to raise the profile of the Stop & Search Monitoring Group within the local community through questionnaires, posters, Wandsworth police website and other media. This is coupled with the need to improve the accessibility of the Stop & Search Monitoring Group through contact phone numbers and/or e-mail address. • MPS data provided to the Stop & Search Monitoring Group is not timely and affects the ability of consultative groups to analyse and scrutinise current data. • Concerns were also expressed around the accuracy of this data and other sources of population/demographic data (schools, youth research forum, conviction rates, street population) should be considered and used. • The need to consider anecdotal evidence as well from those stopped by police. • Where community concerns are raised (i.e. complaints) then additional data (DPS) should be provided to Stop & Search Monitoring Group to demonstrate accountability and improve community confidence. • Community members appreciate the need for Stop & Search/Account; however concerns were expressed about the lack of science behind Stop & Search. Concern was also expressed about how ‘intelligence led’ Stop & Search was. These concerns should be recognised and individual dip sampling of stop slips would help to allay public concerns and fears about its indiscriminate and disproportionate use. • Key messages around police supervision need to be driven from the Wandsworth SMT. This has been highlighted in local performance around the recording of SDE rates. • Community concern was also expressed in relation to the use of s44 Terrorism Act 2000. It was felt that this was an indiscriminate power with the need for greater training and guidance for officers in its use if this power is not to alienate all communities within Wandsworth.

6. Full Impact Assessment – see step 6 of the guidance

<http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm>

Explain the potential impact (whether intended or unintended, positive or negative) of the proposal on individuals or groups on account of:

Age

It is noted from current Stop & Search/Account figures that those between 10 - 25 years of age are most likely to be stopped and searched or asked to account for the actions/behaviour/presence by police in Wandsworth. Indeed nearly 60% of all Stop & Searches fall within this age bracket in line with MPS figures.

Operation Blunt II is a MPS strategy to use various police tactics in order to combat knife crime amongst young people. Section 60 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act (1994) authorisations are one of these police tactics and have been granted in Wandsworth as part of an intelligence led effort to address knife crime and gang related issues. Due to the current age profile of known gang members this has led to a substantial increase in the number of young people stopped and searched by police.

This situation is potentially damaging to relationships where certain youth groups and young communities have little or no contact with the police using these powers. On Wandsworth Borough there is a current programme of youth engagement with the recent creation of a Youth IAG and all SNTs looking to create youth ward panels and/or youth forums.

Disability

There is no known specific impact on disability groups within Wandsworth. Having said this at present the MPS has no way of recording and storing data on the number of disabled people being stopped. Concerns have been raised at both the MPS Disability IAG and locally at the Wandsworth IAG. These concerns have been voiced with the MPS Stop & Searches Team (TPHQ). At present there is nothing planned to record disability, however Wandsworth has various consultative groups including the Disability Community Safety Steering Group and disability representation at both the Wandsworth and Disability IAGs where differential impact will be monitored.

Religion and Belief

Currently there is no data collection around faith, religion or belief in relation to Stop & Search/Account. The Home Office and the MPS are looking at ways data could be captured in the future. In the meantime Wandsworth (WW) BOCU uses consultative groups to gauge differential impact on these groups within its community.

There is a sizeable Muslim community within Wandsworth, particularly to the south of the Borough. Despite good community links between police and Muslim groups there is certainly a feeling amongst Wandsworth Muslim groups that Stop & Search under the Terrorism Act 2000 could be used to target the Muslim community. However, recent changes in the way s44 Terrorism Act powers have been used on the Borough have been welcomed by all communities.

Gender

Data is captured on gender (women and men). Although over 90% of people stopped and searched in Wandsworth are men these figures are closely aligned to criminal statistics for the Borough where over 80% of all suspects for criminal offences are male.

At present there is no data on marital status. At present this is not considered an issue.

No particular community concerns were raised in relation to gender.

Race

Within Wandsworth and consultation through a wide number of community groups there is a strong opinion that Stop & Search/Account is used in a disproportionate way on BAME communities. These community consultative opinions are supported by MPS statistics for Wandsworth which typically follows the MPS average where a black person is over five times more likely to be stopped & searched by police in Wandsworth. These concerns are reflected across Wandsworth black communities which notably include Somali & Caribbean communities. Data in relation to Stop & Account is far less disproportional when compared with data for Stop & Search.

Although groups within Wandsworth accept factors such as socio-economic, street population, influx of school age BAME persons to Wandsworth it is still a cause for community concern and an issue that could undermine levels of trust and confidence in Wandsworth police.

Differential impact on other BAME groups within Wandsworth is difficult to measure as traveller communities are no differentiated on the SDE 16+1 system.

There are no known concerns from the significant populations from eastern Europe that live, work, study and worship on Wandsworth Borough.

Sexual Orientation

No data is captured in respect of a person's sexual orientation. Through consultative groups, including LGBT forums, IAG and Stop & Search Monitoring Group issues and concerns have been raised.

Particular concerns have focussed on police activity in known LGBT areas on the Borough including public sex environments (PSE). Research has shown that often police were acting on either intelligence or complaints from the wider community. The MPS has taken steps to minimise the impact through issuing guidance on the policing of PSE and this has been implemented in Wandsworth through consultation with the LGBT community.

Other issues

Socio- economic

At present there is no data to record a person's socio-economic group or profession. At present employment status is recorded on arrest when taken to police custody but not during Stop & Search/Account procedures. It was felt that this is key data that would assist the community in evaluating differential and disproportionate use of Stop & Search/Account.

Use of s44 Terrorism Act 2000

This is considered a significant issue within Wandsworth as it is felt to be an indiscriminate power that other than location is not intelligence led. It is felt that excessive use of this power will undermine community confidence within the whole community.

Use of s60 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994

The above powers are used based on current intelligence. They should be geographically specific, time based and assessed in relation to the potential community impact. Wandsworth should continue to invite community leaders and advisors to observe Stop & Search operations.

7. Monitoring – see step 7 of the guidance <http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm>

a) How will the implementation of the proposal be monitored and by whom?

- The MPS will regularly publishing of the monitoring mechanism. This data will be made available to the Wandsworth Stop & Search Monitoring Group to promote accountability and provoke scrutiny and discussion.
- Wandsworth police will adhere to the Standard Operating Procedures in place.
- Wandsworth police have accountability in relation to performance through MPS Operation Pennant.
- Attendance at the MPA supported Community Monitoring Network by the Stop & Search Lead for Wandsworth Borough and/or their deputy as well as the chair and/or his deputy for the Wandsworth Stop & Search Monitoring Group.
- The EIA will be reviewed annually by the Stop & Search Lead in consultation with the Stop & Search Monitoring Group.

b) How will the results of monitoring be used to develop this proposal and its practices?

- Wandsworth Stop & Search Monitoring Group will hold regular meetings and scrutinise local data. These meetings will be recorded in minutes with actions and outcomes noted.
- Key issues will be fed back to the Stop & Search Team (TPHQ) and the MPA Stop & Search Community Monitoring Network.

c) What is the timetable for monitoring, with dates?

- Stop & Search Monitoring Group meetings are set for 2010 at six-weekly intervals.
- Stop & Search data is continually available through the MPS internet site www.met.police.uk/stop&search

8. Public Availability of reports / result – see step 8 of guidance

<http://intranet.aware.mps/TP/DCF/index.htm>

What are the arrangements of publishing, where and by whom?

- Following a quality assurance process this document will be published under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA).