

Over 3,000 police officers being investigated for alleged assault - and almost all of them are still on the beat.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/crime/over-3000-police-officers-being-investigated-for-alleged-assault--and-almost-all-of-them-are-still-on-the-beat-10220091.html>

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NBPA response to The Independent news article

An investigation by the Independent newspaper, has found that Black and Asian people are significantly more likely than white people to complain of police brutality. Under a Freedom of Information request, the Independent newspaper obtained data, which reveals that the Metropolitan and West Midlands Police account for almost half of the 3,082 officers under investigation for alleged assault in England and Wales. These figures are all the more disturbing, given the fact that the Metropolitan and West Midlands police have the most ethnically diverse staff out of the 43 police forces in England and Wales and that they police the most diverse cities in the United Kingdom.

The Independent Police Complaints Council has recently reported that a total of 34,863 complaints were recorded during 2013/14. This is a 15% increase compared to 2012/13 and represents a 52% increase since 2004/05.

Franstine Jones, President of the National Black Police Association said; "In the light of current events in Baltimore and previous events in Ferguson, Missouri. These figures provide us with a disturbing picture of the reality of race and policing in Britain for many of Britain's BME communities.

We recognise that we are extremely fortunate that we have not witnessed Missouri type responses to police brutality on UK soil. This situation makes it all the more important for Police leaders to publicly commit themselves and their organisations to robustly deal with acts of brutality by police officers.

Furthermore, it is imperative that the following policing issues with a racial dimension are prioritised by Police Leaders;

- Police officers / staff who are found guilty of racial discrimination at employment tribunal must be subjected to significant sanctions (including dismissal from the police service).
- BME officers who whistle blow on improper conduct and corruption should not be the subject of misconduct proceeding
- BME officers and staff should be representative of the police service. In particular, they should be in positions where they can influence decision making, in relation to how diverse communities are treated by the police.

The NBPA have offered to work in partnership with the police service, the College of Policing and other criminal justice agencies to address these issues. Until we can have a grown up conversation about race we may start to see what is happening in the USA happening over here".

Franstine Jones - National Black Police Association President