



NBPA Press Release on Deaths in Custody report

Today's much delayed independent review into deaths and serious incidents in Police custody is much welcomed since its announcement in 2015 by the Home Secretary, Theresa May

This report is sad reading for those whose loved ones, relatives or friends are named in the report. Those from BAME communities will express no surprise that there is further evidence of racial disproportionality in police restraint deaths. This reminder comes hard on the heels of the latest stop and search statistics, race disparity audit and the Lammy report which all confirm the existence of BAME disproportionality in policing and in the Criminal Justice System – over-policed and under-represented.

We therefore welcome and support the recommendation that Legal Aid funding be made available to representatives of the bereaved in inquests following a suspicious death or suicide in police custody or prison and an end to 'victim blaming' which shames our victim focused service. NBPA President, Tola Munro said;

"We strongly recommend, that police forces in the UK work proactively to engage with the NBPA and organisations like the Tutu Foundation UK. We are aware that the Foundation, which has as one of its Ambassadors, Sir Hugh Orde OPM, OBE, has done much to bring together communities in the UK and Northern Ireland to deal with crisis and conflict between the police and communities."

Note to Editors:

Press Queries to: 07921 095262 (by text only please).

Lammy review: final report - An independent review into the treatment of, and outcomes for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic individuals in the criminal justice system.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/lammy-review-final-report>

Race Disparity Audit - an overview of disparities that have most impact across all aspects of people's lives.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/race-disparity-audit>

Police powers and procedures England and Wales statistics, 2017 -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales>

Police Workforce statistics 2017 - <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-workforce-england-and-wales-31-march-2017>