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**PRESS RELEASE** Issued by the National Black Police Association

## **NBPA Response to increased Use of Force by the Met Police**

**By Police Sergeant Tola Munro, Gwent Police, President of the National Black Police Association**

*“An excess in the use of force, a disproportionate use of Stop & Search and an increase in deaths after police restraint are the lived experiences of our black communities.”* Tola Munro, NBPA President

“We are aware that race disparity exists within UK policing and this has been strongly evidenced by the data in the Race Disparity Audit. This disparity is also strongly evident when it comes to the use of force against black people.

“As black police officers we believe that 'single crewing' is not a legitimate excuse for the dramatic rise in the use of force in certain boroughs in London. That same rise is not reflected across the whole city and neither is it reflected in the recent video being circulated over social media of a young black man being poorly dealt with when there were multiple officers in Brent.

“We would ask the Metropolitan Police Commissioner and Borough Commanders in Brent, Westminster, Lambeth etc to take a firm stance on this issue and ensure that every Stop & Search, every use of force needs to be seen under the context of historical racism against our communities and the record high number of deaths of black people after police restraint.

“There has been a lack of progress to address these issues and our concern was presented as a question to the Policing Minister, Nick Hurd MP at the National Black Police Association conference in Belfast last week. *“None of the findings of the Race Disparity Audit are new to us. Is the government willing to commit to prioritise race in the UK especially given that a recent Guardian article showed this 79% increase in the use of force against the black communities in London?”*

“I am passing on a real concern on behalf of our communities who feel they are being over-policed. And worse we are seeing disproportionately high levels of Stop and Search in places with small black resident communities such as Dorset. This generates real anger and is despite evidence from the HMICFRS that white people are more likely to be found in possession of prohibited items than black people (the ‘find rate’ for white persons searched is 33% compared to 26% for black persons).

“The National Black Police Association want to work with the Commissioner and other police chiefs to reduce these clear race disparities. We need a firm commitment from the Home Office and



Policing Minister to address the excess use of force and related race issues in policing.”

Tola Munro, President of the National Black Police Association

Note to Editors:

Press Queries to 07432 629060 (by text)

For more information on the National Black Police Association visit: <http://www.nbpa.co.uk/>

- Met police's use of force jumps 79% in one year. Black people most likely to be on receiving end of 41,329 incidents in five months 8.10.18 - [https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/08/met-polices-use-of-force-jumps-79-in-one-year?CMP=Share\\_iOSApp\\_Other](https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/oct/08/met-polices-use-of-force-jumps-79-in-one-year?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other)
- Shocking video shows SIX police officers wrestling suspect to floor and squirting him with pepper spray because they WRONGLY thought he was wanted over stabbing 5.10.18 - <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-6242167/Police-use-pepper-spray-suspect-bystanders-step-try-end-violent-struggle.html>
- Racial bias in police stop and search getting worse, report reveals. Despite reforms, black people are nine times more likely than white people to be checked for drugs 13.10.18 - [https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/oct/13/racial-bias-police-stop-and-search-policy-black-people-report?CMP=Share\\_AndroidApp\\_Tweet](https://www.theguardian.com/law/2018/oct/13/racial-bias-police-stop-and-search-policy-black-people-report?CMP=Share_AndroidApp_Tweet)
- Stop-and-search ethnic disparity 'troubling'. Black people in England and Wales are less likely to have illegal substances found on them than white people in stop-and-searches, analysis suggests 12.12.17 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-42311538>
- Police custody deaths hit 10-year high, with experts citing austerity. Police often first point of contact for people with mental health issues or addictions 27.07.18 - <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2018/jul/25/police-custody-deaths-hit-10-year-high-with-experts-citing-austerity>



