

Appendix 2

Information on MPS Operation Pennant

Operation Pennant was introduced in October 2006 as a performance framework for the MPS around stops and searches issues.

All 32 Boroughs (Westminster being broken down into five boroughs) are measured in respect of their stop search activity. Boroughs are then ranked in relation to six performance indicators, which are in turn weighted. The areas measured are:

- Volume of searches
- Self Defined Ethnicity not recorded
- Overall arrest rate
- Difference in ethnic arrest rate (PPAF)
- Timeliness
- Disproportionality in searches e.g. black:white

Having commenced in October 2006 and quarterly thereafter, ten boroughs have been identified; reviewed and have met with the Territorial Policing Patrol Commander. These boroughs have been identified using the above composite indicators of performance in relation to stop and search. Supporting data including complaints and trends are also examined.

Four meetings with the boroughs have been held to date (October & December 2006 and January & June 2007). Before the next meeting each Borough has been tasked to:

- Formalise (and execute) an action plan, fully detailing how they intend to address their performance issues (the S&S Team are developing a corporate template to assist BOCUs¹ in this matter).
- Complete the self-assessment form, designed for Operation Pennant, with their local community group and ratified by them.
- Review the menu of options – which outlines good practice for managing stop and search issues which has been developed from BOCUs that perform well.

¹ BOCUs – Borough Operational Command Units



**METROPOLITAN
POLICE**

Working together for a safer London

Operation Pennant

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Introduction The MPS is committed to working together to make London safer. The MPS will, working with communities, make the best use of police powers to prevent and detect crime. At the forefront of these powers are the powers of stop and search [including Section 60] and to question people [Stop and Account]. Use of the powers has to be tempered with the knowledge and understanding that it requires the trust and confidence of the community to be fully effective.

Much has been achieved in recent years to ensure we have the support of the different and diverse communities of London. However, fairness and effectiveness of use in relation to stop and search remain issues at the forefront of community concerns and need to be addressed if we are to build on this good work.

A recent review of stop and search/account highlighted a number of issues including some disparity between the strategic vision of the Service and the link to the practitioner and their first line supervisors.

Operation Pennant has been introduced to address these issues and will involve the development of performance measures, a process of accountability and a structure to provide advice and support to all Boroughs.

Operational Aim

The aim of the operation is:

- To improve performance by increasing the proportion of searches leading to property being seized or people being arrested
- To improve the perceptions of fairness about the use of the powers
- To improve accountability of police action to local communities
- To improve the quality of intelligence used as the basis for police use of these powers
- To improve community confidence in the use of police powers

S&S PPAF, Sec 95 data e.g. disproportionality rates & arrest rates and equality impact assessments (including compliance with the RR[A]A) will form the basis of performance measures.

**Operational
Context**

Between April 2005 – March 2006 (12 months) the MPS conducted approximately:

- 280,000 stop and search (approx 23,500 per month)
- 187,000 stop and account (approx 15,600 per month)
- 27,600 S44 stops (approx 2,300 per month)
- *S44 excluding Jul – Sep 2005, 14,900 (approx 1,655 per month)

The MPS has a black: white disproportionality ratio of approx 4.4, an arrest rate of approximately 12% and has recorded 657 complaints in relation to stop and search/account over the past 12 months.

**Advice and
Support**

It is recognised that there must be a credible support structure to bring about performance improvements. The Stops & Searches Team are developing this process which includes:

- The introduction of a self review inspection to link with this operation
 - The establishment of a minimum standard for descriptions of suspects when victims or witnesses contact police
 - The measurement of high and low discretion stops and consideration of their relationship with successful outcomes
 - Improved internal and external communication and consultation (this includes the introduction of a website and outward facing document)
 - The promulgation of good practice
 - The development of realistic targets for improvement and a menu of options available to Boroughs to assist this process when deficiencies are identified
 - Maximising the potential of S&S leads on Boroughs
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Accountability

To commence October 2006 a Gold group will be convened and chaired by Commander S&S. These meetings will occur quarterly.

Superintendents from five identified boroughs will be invited to attend the group to assist the MPS in making best use of police powers.

Next Step

Borough Commanders will be provided with the terms of reference for the Gold group meeting

Performance indicators will be developed and communicated to Borough Commanders prior to the first Gold group.

The stop & search review will be circulated

A self-review inspection process will be developed and circulated.

Operation Pennant – Structure and Terms of Reference

Frequency of meetings These meetings will commence in October 2006 and will take place on a quarterly basis

Participants Commander TP (Chair)
Superintendents from five identified Boroughs
Representatives from:

- Diversity & Citizen Focus
- PIB
- Stops & Searches Team
- DPS

(In addition commencing January 2007 it is proposed that there will be community representative from each of the five identified Boroughs.)

Purpose & Structure The purpose of this meeting is to enable Commander TP (Stop & Search) to address performance and compliance issues in relation to stop & search with particular emphasis on disproportionality.

Operational stop & search practice will be discussed with the Borough superintendents who will have been identified by data comparison. Where necessary areas of improvement will be discussed and formalised.

The same five representatives (together with those that have been identified by the more recent data comparison) will be invited back to the next quarterly meeting in order that progress can be assessed.

Terms of Reference To identify and set action plans for improvement
To monitor and determine progress
To identify and develop a menu of options for improvement
To promulgate good practice
To meet the aims of Operation Pennant with particular emphasis on improving community confidence in the use of police stop/search powers
