Stop and search training speaker notes

Introduction
The Planning and Performance Unit was asked to produce a short training package to promote understanding of the MPS stops and searches monitoring mechanism. The training package is available on the MPA website (http://www.mpa.gov.uk/issues/stop-search/training.htm) for you to disseminate to your community groups.

The aim of this training package is to run through the charts and other information included in the monitoring mechanism, explain terminology and how the data is calculated and suggest some further questions that you might like to ask your borough in order to better understand the data.

Slide one - Title slide
Welcome

Slide two – Training manual
The training will work though a glossary of key terms, how to locate the stops and searches monitoring mechanism on the MPS website, a simple explanation of some statistical terminology, working through the charts on the monitoring mechanism with further explanation and suggestions for questions and finally a brief introduction to the new Stops Reporting Tool database. Apologies for the small numbers/details on the graphs. They were taken directly from the monitoring mechanism, which is already quite small.

Slide three – Glossary
Read definitions – just to recap…

Slide four – Glossary
I won't read the definitions included here verbatim but it may be useful to keep these handy for your future reference.

The majority of stop and searches are recorded under PACE which provides the core framework of police powers and safeguards around stop and search. Section 60 stop and searches tend to be pre-planned events where there are reasonable grounds to suspect that violence may take place or actions are necessary to prevent this occurring. Section 44 stop and searches are granted when it is believed that the authority is necessary to prevent acts of terrorism.

Slides five and six – Locating the stops and searches monitoring mechanism
Run through location – there are a number of steps involved in locating the monitoring mechanism. We have chosen Lambeth as an example borough to use throughout this presentation. The data included in these slides are some months out of date but the principles remain the same.

Slide seven – Terminology
Read through slide and explain calculations.

Slide eight – Chart
This chart shows both stops and searches and stops and accounts for Lambeth over a 13-month period. Raw figures are provided in the table below the chart. Please note that monthly figures are not 'set in stone'. They may change as data from the 5090 forms may be added to the system after the month that the stop has occurred. For instance, a stop that occurred in Lambeth at the end of one month may not be entered onto the system until sometime the following month. This would mean that the month's data would change to include this stop. In effect the system is 'live' – as it is updated it will change.

Please note that stop and accounts are conducted under different guidelines/legislation than stop and searches. Legislation under PACE, Section 44 and Section 60 does not apply to stop and accounts. The chart refers you the to the glossary (in the monitoring mechanism – not in the training pack) for further information on this. It is useful to refer to the glossary in the monitoring mechanism and this training pack regularly to remind yourself of key definitions and information around what is/isn't included in charts.

Slide nine – Chart
This chart plots all searches conducted under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994. As you can see there was a large peak in the data in May 2007. You may like to ask your borough for additional information behind the peaks – and dips – in the data. You may also like to request a calendar of events from your borough detailing events such as large sporting fixtures, religious festivals, carnivals etc to help gain a better understanding of when and why Section 60s may be authorised. It may also be interesting to request a list of Section 60s authorised in your borough in the previous year to gain a better understanding of when and why they are authorised and the impact this has on the number of stops and searches conducted. Remember – Section 60 is employed as a <u>prevention tool</u>. It is about <u>preventing the occurrence of criminal acts (particularly serious violence).</u>

Slide ten – Chart
This chart shows a stacked graph. They can be quite deceiving at first glance as it shows percentages rather than volumes. Changes in volumes are not always well represented in this type of chart. For instance, the largest volume of drugs stop and searches occurred in February 2007, however September visually shows a similarly large proportion despite having nearly 200 fewer drug stops and searches (because the overall number of stops was lower hence the proportion was higher). The table below the chart includes both numbers and percentages for your information.

As the graph shows, the most common reason for conducting stop and searches in Lambeth over the data period was drugs. You may like to ask your borough why this is and whether is reflects particular issues/problems in the borough. Does it relate to borough priorities?

Slide eleven – Chart
This chart plots the number of searches and arrests and the arrest rate – which is the proportion of all searches that resulted in an arrest (recap on calculation). All numbers are included in the table below the chart. The chart is plotted on two axes. The blue line at the bottom depicts the volume of stops and searches resulting in arrest, the orange line in the middle of the chart shows the volume of all stops and searches conducted. Both of these relate to the axis on the left labelled 'number of searches and arrests'. The axis on the right-labelled stop and search arrest rate plots the arrest rate, which is the green line at the top.

You might like to ask your borough for a comparison of arrest rates with the MPS as a whole. If it is lower – why? If it is higher – what is your borough doing differently? Is there any good practice you can share with other boroughs?

Arrest is not the only possible outcome of a stop and search. Other outcomes may include cannabis warnings, fixed penalty notices, summons or formal warnings. You may like to ask your borough for a further breakdown of disposals post-stop and search. Those stops and searches that result in 'no action' may also warrant further analysis as these are the group of people who are stopped and searched and are found to be innocent of the incident in question.

Slide twelve – Chart
This chart shows the proportion of people stopped and subsequently arrested by police recorded ethnic appearance. The numbers in the table below may help you better understand the data as it may be difficult to 'unpick' the lines on the chart. It may be interesting to note instances when the lines diverge away from what appears to be the 'average' monthly trend. However, bear in mind that these figures are monthly figures, which may reflect 'blips' in the data. Analysis of 12-month rolling data may reveal more substantial trends. You may want to ask your borough for more information around the 'not stated' ethnic appearances. There may be different reasons for this.

Please note that the arrest rate included in the bottom table is calculated using the number of persons arrested within a particular ethnic group as a proportion of persons stopped and searched within that same ethnic group.

Slide thirteen – Chart
Calculations in this chart are based on Census 2001 population figures. These are clearly very out of date and the population profile has changed significantly since then. It is also worth exercising some caution when using the 'per 1,000 population measure'. This can be misleading as it is based on resident population and not necessarily those persons available to be stopped who could be non-resident in the area. Despite these limitations, 'per 1,000 population' is currently the standard and most readily available comparable measure for stop and search and other data comparison such as crime. It is

hoped that something more robust may be developed in the future – happy to hear your views on this.

The table beneath the chart includes both the number of persons stopped and searched for that particular ethnic group (in brackets) and the rate of stops and searches per 1,000 population.

Please note that due to recording differences, the ethnic groupings within the ethnic appearance charts differ slightly to the groupings in the self-defined ethnicity chart. Within the ethnic appearance charts, mixed ethnicity individuals are usually classified within the most prominent ethnic appearance grouping. However, mixed ethnicity groupings within the self-defined ethnicity charts are combined in the 'other' group. Please bear this in mind when you are analysing these charts.

Slide fourteen - Chart
This chart shows self-defined ethnicity for White, Black, Asian and other persons stopped and searched per 1,000 population. The MPS are striving to reduce the number of 'unknown' entries of self-defined ethnicity. You may like to ask your borough for a further breakdown of why they are unknown and continue to monitor this within your groups.

Slide fifteen – Chart
This chart shows the number of stops and searches in Lambeth broken down by age group. It may be useful to consider this chart alongside a more detailed borough population breakdown by age.

The age bands included in this chart may mask some significant differences in the age of people stopped and searched. For instance, further analysis of the age band 10-17 years may show that the majority of persons stopped were at the older end of the bracket (e.g. 15-17 years). Likewise, the age group 25-44 years covers a large array of ages and may mask some particular trends. You may like to ask your borough for a further breakdown by age.

Slide sixteen – Summary tables
This page shows a summary of the last three months of stops and searches by population. It introduces the ratio calculation (explain calculation). This is used to compare the rate of stops and searches per 1,000 population between ethnic groups. For example, the circled figure at the top represents for every 1 White person stopped and searched in Lambeth, 3.75 Black persons were stopped and searched.

This is where the community can really make a difference by asking the right questions. You may like to ask your borough for reasons behind the differences in ratio. For instance, there may have been a specific operation where intelligence has suggested involvement of a particular ethnic group or a particular event attracting a number of non-residents, which may appear to skew the figures. In summary – this should be a starting point for your further questions. You need to ask your borough a key question – Why?

Slide seventeen – Summary

This is the final slide from the monitoring mechanism. It provides additional information from the charts, focusing specifically on persons stopped and searched and subsequently arrested over the last three months. It includes arrest reason, ethnicity, gender and age profile and allows borough comparison with the MPS as a whole.

When considering these figures it is worth bearing in mind how different your borough may be from the whole of the MPS – both in terms of the demographics/dynamics and the arrest rate.

Slide eighteen – Stops reporting tool

The Stops Reporting Tool is an MPS database holding all information recorded on the 5090 stops reporting slips. All boroughs have a trained officer/member of staff who can access and interrogate the database. We have highlighted a number of questions that you may like to ask your borough in this training package – the answers to which may be derived from the Stops Reporting Tool database. However, please bear in mind there may be some limitations around the dissemination of personal data included in the stops database.

Slide nineteen – Summary

This presentation is available to download from the MPA website and we would encourage you to disseminate the messages from the training session to your borough stop and search groups. As always, if the presentation is required in an alternative format please contact the MPA who can arrange this.

Slide twenty – Thank you