

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**The future of Stop and Search police powers:
A conference by London Metropolitan University and the National Policing
Improvement Agency**

While Police Stop and Search powers are largely viewed as a necessary crime-fighting tool by the police, the exercise of such powers remains contested and controversial.

Serious questions are being posed on the continued use of Stop and Search powers, especially in relation to minority ethnic groups.

On Wednesday 14 September, a conference on 'The Future of Stop and Search' will bring together police and community stakeholders to debate the future of the practice.

Organised jointly by the National Policing Improvement Agency and London Metropolitan University, the conference will provide a platform for debate on whether Stop and Search powers can:

- Be exercised in ways that are intelligence-led and mark an effective use of police resources;
- Command the support of the policed community;
- Be exercised in ways that are fair and proportionate

The conference is directed at police officers, policy makers, community groups and academics.

Professor Simon Hallsworth, the Director of the Centre for Social and Evaluation Research at London Met is one of the conference speakers and organisers.

He said: "This conference comes at a crucial time for the police service and for communities. The recent riots across the UK have again highlighted the often fraught relationships between police and young people. Stop and Search powers are a crucial element in this relationship, and must be analysed."

Speakers at the conference include: Chief Constable Craig Mackay, Policy Lead - Race Equality (Stop and Search), Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO); Superintendent Victor Olisa, Operational Stop and Search Lead for the Metropolitan Police Service; Richard Stone, panel member of the Steve Lawrence Commission; Professor Kevin Stenson, Professor of Criminology at London Met; Kam Gill, Runnymede Research and Policy analyst and Stopwatch member; and Nathan Lewis of the Youth Group Stopwatch Coalition.

-Ends-

Notes to editors:

Details:

The Future of Stop and Search:
Wednesday 14 September 2011
Toynbee Hall
28 Commercial Street,
London E1 6LS

Registration: 9.30-10.00am
Time: 10.00am-4.30pm

Cost: FREE

Please notify Zoe Ball, research consultant at The Social Innovation Partnership (TSIP) by email if you wish to attend: zoe.ball@tsip.co.uk

For more information:

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