Stop and search figures - analysis

The conclusions of a Statewatch analysis of the latest stop and search figures show the following:

1. Under PACE 1984: black people are six times more likely to be stopped and searched than white people and Asians twice as likely.

2. Under the Terrorism Act 2000: the total number of stop and searches is up 150% - the number of stop and searches of Asian people is up 285% and those of black people by 229%.

3. There are 20 times more arrests for “ordinary crime” than for terrorism under a power introduced to combat terrorism.

4. The total number of stops and searches of black and Asian people is higher than ever.

Conclusion

Tony Bunyan, Statewatch editor, comments:

“After a dip in the use of stop and search powers against black and Asian people in the aftermath of the Macpherson inquiry into the killing of Stephen Lawrence the use of all powers is on the increase.

The disproportionate use of stop and search against black and Asian people is inevitably building up resentment. It will do little for police community relations and be totally counter-productive in terms of obtaining good quality intelligence. At the same time it may well be laying the grounds for urban disorder. No lessons appear to have been learnt from the past”

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