



Black and Asian Police Association

Greater Manchester

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The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, Special Branch and Schedule Seven

Stephen Lawrence was a Black British man from Eltham, south east London who was murdered in a racist attack while waiting for a bus on the evening of 22nd April 1993. The case became one of the highest profile racial killings in UK history; its fallout included cultural changes to attitudes on racism and the police*

Twenty years on since Stephen's murder and fifteen years since the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry questions are again being asked about the police culture and more importantly police corruption.

On 23rd June 2013 an interview with Peter Francis, a former undercover police officer, was published in *The Guardian*. In the interview Mr Francis disclosed that while he was working undercover within the anti-racist campaign group in the mid 1990s he was constantly pressured by supervisors to "Smear" the credibilities of the family of Lawrence so as to put an end to campaigns for a better investigation into Stephen's death. The Home Secretary has pledged to be "ruthless about purging corruption from the police"*



What does this have to do with GMP?

Charles Crichlow (Far Left) Pictured with Doreen Lawrence (far Right) at BAPA awards ceremony.



In 1998 PC Charles Crichlow, then working at Rochdale, made a complaint about a GMP Special Branch message that had been sent force wide. Essentially officers were asked to collect information on groups and individuals that were likely to attend the Lawrence Inquiry when it was held at the Jarvis Hotel, Manchester in October 1998. Not only did GMP fail to investigate this complaint thoroughly or competently at the time but in 2004 GMP made an application to have this information excluded from an employment tribunal case again heard in Manchester.

After the Home Secretary's comments an investigation headed by Assistant Chief Constable Dawn Copley has been launched in GMP to investigate what happened in 1998 and 2004. GMP has referred itself to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). A similar investigation is underway in West Yorkshire police who have also referred themselves to the IPCC. All of this begs a question:

How many times do we need to
complain about police corruption before
it is investigated within GMP?

Special Branch is now known by Counter Terrorist Unit (CTU)

Schedule 7 of Terrorism Act 2000 is a power that authorises an immigration official, a customs officer or a police officer at any point of entry or exit from the United Kingdom to stop, question, search and examine any person for a maximum period of 9 hours in order to determine whether they are a terrorist or not. The State has the power to ask an individual a series of questions to see if that person is a terrorist.

BAPA has uncovered the following practices at Manchester Airport:

- Ports staff are given a majority of Muslim flights to monitor and stop Muslims: identification is by appearance.
- The people are stopped when they arrive in full view of everyone and spoken to using schedule 7 usually in a private room. Sometimes those stopped cannot speak English fluently or adequately.
- Once the ports staff are happy with the person they will be sent on their way; unknown to them that their details are now held on a database. Basically anyone stopped and spoken to will have their details recorded.
- During Ramadan the CTU run cash seizure exercises that targets Muslims travelling out of the UK. If the person stopped cannot account for the money in their possession the cash is seized under POCA until they prove where the cash has come from.

BAPA has brought this to the attention of the Chief Constable Sir Peter Fahy and the Police and Crime Commissioner Tony Lloyd. BAPA expected an end to this practice. This is not policing with consent this is racial profiling. GMP's position is: *.." the force do not receive any complaints about schedule 7"*..GMP sees the number of complaints as a measure of the corrupt practice being adopted at the ports unit.



What next?

Tell all of the communities of Greater Manchester about Schedule 7.

Educate them so that they are aware of the law and the practices being adopted locally at Manchester Airport.

If they feel that they have been treated unfairly during any encounter at the airport or anywhere else advise them to make a complaint.

This is the only currency GMP understands.