



GLA Conservatives
Press Release from City Hall

Date: 18/01/18

Release: Immediate

Stop and search: Mayor refuses to give reassurance that young black Londoners won't be excessively targeted

- Mayor ordered increased use of 'intelligence-led' stop and search last week
- Refused today to give reassurance on targeting of young black Londoners

The Mayor of London has refused to provide reassurance that young black people will not be disproportionately targeted by police during increased stop and search.

Sadiq Khan last week announced police will be conducting more 'intelligence-led' stop and search in response to spiralling knife crime in the capital.

Black people are eight times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched, according to recent figures*. London Assembly member Shaun Bailey today asked Sadiq Khan for a reassurance that the figure would not increase, but the Mayor repeatedly avoided answering the question.

Speaking after the meeting, London Assembly member Shaun Bailey said: "I was extremely disappointed in the Mayor's refusal to give a simple reassurance this morning. I fully accept that stop and search is a powerful and important tool. But as things stand, black people are eight times more likely than white people to be stopped and searched – a statistic which is not supported by convictions or arrests.

"I asked the Mayor to guarantee that figure would not rise even further with the increase in stop and search he ordered last week. Sadly for London's black community, Sadiq Khan simply avoided the question and refused five times to give me that guarantee.

"80 people were killed on London's streets last year because of knife crime. Tough measures are needed but the Mayor must take the affected communities with him if there is going to be any kind of long term change. My concern is this policy, if taken in the wrong direction, will simply alienate communities from the police and make things worse."

ENDS.

Notes

- Shaun Bailey is a London-wide Conservative Assembly Member

- The full exchange, which took place during Mayor's Question Time at City Hall, can be viewed here from 00:48:30: <https://www.london.gov.uk/london-assembly-mayors-question-time-2018-01-18>
- *In October 2017, a Guardian article quoted official figures as finding that black people were eight times more likely to be targeted under stop and search: <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2017/oct/26/stop-and-search-eight-times-more-likely-to-target-black-people>

For more information or to arrange an interview, please contact the press office below.

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