



STATEMENT ON THE RELEASE OF BARONESS CASEY'S REPORT

The National Black Police Association welcomes the report from Baroness Casey regarding the culture and standards within the Metropolitan Police Service. The report highlights long standing issues which our association has raised with those in positions of power and influence over many years. Rather than dealing with these traumatic incidents, those same people in positions of power responded by gas lighting our lived experiences and protecting those who discriminate within the service. This has allowed our members and communities to be targeted disproportionately whilst creating an environment where victims and whistleblowers are seen as the problem.

Unfortunately, this is not an isolated report and the findings of deep rooted and institutional racism within the Metropolitan Police Service have been made on many occasions. The Commissioner and his senior leadership team cannot repeat the apologies and promises that have been made in the past but which have failed to deliver real change. The trust and confidence from officers and staff from Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic backgrounds, women and girls and those from LGBTQ+ communities is at such a low point that some have questioned how the Metropolitan Police Service can ever re-build this trust.

The issues appear extreme within the Metropolitan Police Service but we support officers and staff in police services across the United Kingdom who experience similar problems. The internal misconduct and grievance processes within policing have failed to operate in a fair and transparent manner for many years. At present, police officers and staff cannot report matters to the Independent Office for Police Complaints, even when police powers have been used against them. This is a shocking gap in the rights of our members and allows Professional Standards Departments to review complaints against themselves.

Public complaints were taken off the police service in 2003 and we now call for similar measures to be brought in for internal complaints from officers and staff in policing across the UK.

Andy George, President of the National Black Police Association commented "This is another watershed moment for the Metropolitan Police Service as well as policing across the UK and major reforms are needed to ensure that racists, misogynists and homophobes have no place to hide within the police service. I worked through the policing reforms that occurred in Northern Ireland in 2001 and now that trust has dropped so low, similar reforms are needed in London. We stand ready to help build a police service that we can all be proud of"

21st March 2023