

# **YOUR STREETS: LESS SAFE UNDER LABOUR**

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# CONTENTS

A FOREWORD FROM HOME SECRETARY PRITI PATEL	3
STOP AND SEARCH POWERS	5
<i>Summary</i>	5
<i>Methodology</i>	6
MANDATORY SENTENCING FOR SECOND TIME KNIFE POSSESSION	9
USE OF TASERS	10
LABOUR'S DISDAIN FOR POLICE POWERS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS	11

# A FOREWORD FROM HOME SECRETARY PRITI PATEL

The choice at this election is clear.

A functioning Conservative majority, continuing to stand with the brave men and women of our police and security services. Backing them to take on the ruthless gangs causing misery up and down our country.

Or a minority government, led by Jeremy Corbyn's Labour, refusing to give the police the political backing they need to use important powers and equipment such as stop and search and Tasers to bring this bloodshed to an end.

One of the first acts of this new Conservative Government was to start recruiting 20,000 additional police officers, giving them the strengths in numbers they need to get violent crime under control.

We've also backed them to use stop and search. I've made it clear that they will always have my support to use it, and personally extended emergency stop and search powers for all forces across England and Wales. And, with a majority Conservative government, I would introduce a brand new power, enabling police officers to stop and search convicted knife carriers without suspicion.

We would also continue to equip the police with the kit they need to keep themselves and the public safe. And back them to use it. That is why I announced a £10 million ringfenced fund to enable Chief Constables to equip more of their officers with Tasers, should they want to do so.

And, as the Party of Law and Order, we've done all of this proudly and without apology. The results speak for themselves. In the year ending March 2019, there were 383,629 stop and searches, an increase of 36 per cent compared with the previous year. Senior policing leaders are clear that this newfound political backing is enabling them to take more weapons off our streets, make more arrests and prevent more people from becoming victims of crime. Stop and search works.

Labour would put this at risk. Diane Abbott has said stop and search is 'unhelpful'. She wouldn't back the police to use Tasers to apprehend the most violent criminals. Jeremy Corbyn voted against mandatory sentencing for second time knife possession and thinks those 'found in possession of a knife and convicted of that have not necessarily committed a crime'. For the first time, this analysis sets out how tragic the consequences of this could be during any given year under a potential Labour government.

As our brave police officers go out day and night to tackle violent criminals, they need to know they are not alone. They need to know they have a Prime Minister, a Home Secretary, and a Government that stands beside them. I am that Home Secretary, Boris Johnson is that Prime Minister, and the Conservative Party is that Government.



**Priti Patel, Home Secretary**

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Diane Abbott and Jeremy Corbyn have opposed giving police officers the powers and equipment they need to keep themselves and the public safe for as long as they have been Members of Parliament.

For the first time, this document shows the impact of a potential Labour government on the safety of our children, communities and country.

This analysis is based on the latest publicly available data from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice and Office for National Statistics.

It has found that, *EVERY YEAR*:

- Diane Abbott's opposition to Section 1 and Section 60 stop and search powers could mean:
  - **882 more firearms on our streets**, with over half of them being used to fire at someone or something, and the rest of them used to make a threat. On average, **that's more than two additional guns being fired or used to threaten somebody every single day.**
  - **8,596 more offensive weapons on our streets**, potentially resulting in **3,954 more assaults with injury or intent, 3,687 more thefts, 146 more sexual assaults or rapes and 52 more murders**. On average, **that's an additional murder every single week.**
- Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell's opposition to mandatory custodial sentencing for repeat knife carriers could result in **4,204 fewer offenders receiving some form of custodial sentence**, either immediate custody or a suspended sentence. On average, **that's up to 12 fewer offenders being imprisoned every single day.**
- Diane Abbott's opposition to the use of Tasers could result in **7,500 more police officers being injured or worse** while confronting the most violent criminals and **7,900 fewer criminals apprehended and arrested**. That's **20 more police officers injured or worse every single day** and up to **22 fewer criminals apprehended and arrested every single day.**

# STOP AND SEARCH POWERS

## Summary

The police are clear that stop and search powers are essential in their fight against violence crime. Every knife or dangerous weapon taken off the streets is potentially one life saved. Stop and search works.

In September, Greater Manchester Police said serious knife violence dropped by nearly a quarter after a big increase in stop and search. Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service Dame Cressida Dick DBE QPM said: ‘stop and search... is producing a significant result we see every day, with taking weapons off the street and making arrests’. National Police Chiefs’ Council Lead for Stop and Search, Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Hanstock, believes that the authority to stop and search people in appropriate circumstances is a ‘necessary power that allows police officers to tackle violence in our communities and prevent people from becoming victims of crime’.<sup>1</sup>

Despite this, Diane Abbott and Jeremy Corbyn refuse to back the police to do their jobs and still maintain their long-held opposition to stop and search on ideological grounds. They simply don’t care what works. Diane Abbott has said that stop and search is ‘one of the worst abuses of police powers’ and ‘is heavy on police time, with little result’, insisting that they ‘take too many resources for what they achieve’ and only ‘[pick] up a relatively tiny number of infringements of the law’ – ignoring the fact that every knife taken off the street saves lives. Jeremy Corbyn has also said that it is ‘counterproductive’.<sup>2</sup>

This new analysis reveals, for the first time, the potential impact of their virtue signalling on any average year under a potential Labour government using the latest available data. The truth is, the abolition of these police powers would cost lives – predominantly those of young black men. Supreme Court justices have said there are ‘great benefits to the public in such a power... put bluntly, it is mostly young black lives that will be saved if there is less gang violence in London and other cities’.<sup>3</sup>

**Table 1** shows the impact of Labour’s opposition to the use of Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984 and associated legislation and Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.

### Labour’s opposition to stop and search would mean that in any given year under a potential Labour government:

- There would be **882 more firearms on our streets**, with over half of them being used to fire at someone or something, and the rest of them used to make a threat.
- There would be **8,596 more offensive weapons on our streets**, potentially resulting in 3,954 more assaults with injury or intent, **3,687 more thefts**, **146 more sexual assaults or rapes** and **52 more murders**.

**Table 1**

Police power	Reason for arrest	Number of arrests	Types of crimes prevented	Number of crimes prevented
<b>Section 1</b>	Offensive weapons	8,435	Assault with injury or intent	3,880
			Theft	3,618
			Threat to kill	683
			Sexual assault or rape	143
			Attempt to murder	75
			Murder	51
	Firearms	882	Fired	450
		Used to threat	432	
<b>Section 60</b>	Offensive weapons	161	Assault with injury or intent	74
			Theft	69
			Threat to kill	13
			Sexual assault or rape	3
			Attempt to murder	1
			Murder	1

Source: Workings below

## Methodology

This analysis uses the most recently available Home Office police powers and procedure data to identify how many people have been arrested for possession of an offensive weapon or firearm as a result of the use of a stop and search power.

Office for National Statistics data is then used to identify the kinds of crimes that these weapons could have been used to commit if they were not taken off our streets.<sup>4</sup>

It is based on the assumption that anyone arrested for the possession of an offensive weapon or firearm would have gone onto commit a crime at some stage had it not been seized by the police.

This is an assumption commonly made within case law. For example, District Judge and member of the Sentencing Council Richard Williams said: 'If people carry knives, there is always the risk that they will be used, and with tragic consequences... too many people are carrying knives and it only takes a moment of anger or drunkenness for one to be pulled out with fatal results or serious injury'.<sup>5</sup>

In addition, many weapons are often used more than once to commit criminal offences, so this analysis could be an underestimate.<sup>6</sup>

### • Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984 and associated legislation

Under Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act 1984 and associated legislation, police are given the power to search any person or vehicle for a range of items including offensive weapons if the officer has 'reasonable grounds' to suspect he or she will find such items. This type of stop and search is more commonly referred to as 'evidence-based'.<sup>7</sup>

In the year ending March 2019, there were 370,454 stop and searches conducted under Section 1, an increase of 32 per cent compared with the previous year. This was the first rise following a downward trend between 2010-11 and 2017-18. This rise is in part thought to reflect willingness by both the government and the police to make greater use of such powers part of the operational response to knife crime.<sup>8</sup>

The increased use of this police power resulted in 10,145 more arrests in the same year, up 21 per cent on the previous year.<sup>9</sup>

Table 2 shows Section 1 stop and searches and resultant arrests since 2001-02. In 2018-19, there were 370,454 stop and searches and 58,251 resultant arrests – an arrest rate of 17 per cent.<sup>10</sup>

**Table 2**

England and Wales, year ending March 2019			
Year	Searches	Resultant arrests	Searches resulting in an arrest (%)
2001/02	741,000	98,700	13
2002/03	895,300	114,300	13
2003/04	749,400	95,100	13
2004/05	861,500	95,800	11
2005/06	888,675	97,600	11
2006/07	962,897	111,136	12
2007/08	1,053,001	120,351	11
2008/09	1,159,374	113,251	10
2009/10	1,177,327	107,632	9
2010/11	1,229,324	114,236	9
2011/12	1,142,909	107,592	9
2012/13	1,012,196	105,551	10
2013/14	900,129	108,161	12
2014/15	540,083	74,769	14
2015/16	382,625	60,232	16
2016/17	303,501	51,844	17
2017/18	279,728	48,106	17
2018/19	370,454	58,251	16

Source: Home Office, *Police Powers and Procedure – Stop and Search Statistics*, 24 October 2019, [link](#).

Table 3 shows these resultant arrests by reason for arrest.<sup>11</sup>

**Table 3**

England and Wales, year ending March 2019								
Reason for search	Arrests made by reason for arrest							Total
	Stolen property	Drugs	Firearms	Offensive weapons	Going equipped	Criminal damage	Other	
<b>Arrests</b>	<b>8,705</b>	<b>27,364</b>	<b>882</b>	<b>8,435</b>	<b>3,216</b>	<b>549</b>	<b>9,100</b>	<b>58,251</b>

Source: Home Office, *Police Powers and Procedure – Stop and Search Statistics*, 24 October 2019, [link](#).

This suggests that as a result of stop and searches and subsequent arrests made under Section 1 powers, which Diane Abbott opposes, there are 882 fewer firearms and 8,435 fewer offensive weapons on our streets.

By taking these 8,435 offensive weapons off our streets, police officers will have prevented a large number of crimes from taking place. According to the latest available and most easily comparable data from the Office for National Statistics:

- 46.0 per cent of knives and sharp instruments are used for assault with injury or intent;
- 42.9 per cent are used to carry out theft;
- 8.1 per cent are used to make a threat to kill;
- 1.7 per cent are used to commit rape or sexual assault;
- 0.9 per cent are used to attempt murder;
- 0.6 per cent are used to commit homicide.<sup>12</sup>

Therefore, using both sets of these statistics, it can be estimated that:

- More than 3,880 of these offensive weapons could have been used to assault with injury or intent;
- More than 3,618 could have been used to carry out theft;
- More than 683 could have been used to make a threat to kill;
- More than 143 could have been used to rape or sexually assault someone;
- More than 75 could have been used in an attempt to kill someone;
- And 51 could have been used to kill someone.<sup>13</sup>

Table 3 also shows that as a result of stop and searches and subsequent arrests made under Section 1 powers there are 882 fewer firearms on our streets.

According to the latest publicly available and most comparable data from the Office for National Statistics, 51 per cent of firearms offences recorded by the police involved the firearm being fired, with the remainder used to make a threat.

That means that, in any given year under a potential Labour government, there would be additional 450 firearms on our streets which could be used to fire at someone or something.<sup>14</sup>

#### • **Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994**

Under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, the police have the power to stop and search persons and/or vehicles in ‘anticipation of violence’ through the use of offensive weapons or dangerous instruments. Former Home Secretary Sajid Javid made it simpler for police to use stop and search in areas particularly affected by violent crime by lifting the following two conditions:

- Reducing the level of authorisation required for a Section 60 from senior officer to inspector;
- Lowering the degree of certainty required by the authorising officer so they must reasonably believe an incident involving serious violence ‘may’, rather than ‘will’, occur.<sup>15</sup>

Home Secretary Priti Patel then extended this pilot to all forces in England and Wales in August, empowering more than 8,000 police officers to tackle violent crime. It is worth noting that statistics measuring the impact of these changes are not yet available.<sup>16</sup>

Section 60 is a police power that Corbyn’s Labour have always opposed. In 2016, before these recent changes were made, Diane Abbott said: ‘Section 60 has not dented knife crime but rather resulted in the alienation of entire communities’.<sup>17</sup>

In the year ending March 2019, police in England and Wales carried out 13,175 stops and searches under Section 60. This is a fivefold increase on the previous year, thought to be a result of police and government determination to tackle violent crime.

Table 4 shows the subsequent arrests made, which have resulted in 161 offensive weapons being taken off our streets.

**Table 4**

England and Wales						
Year	Total searches	Persons found to be carrying offensive weapons	Resultant arrests			Arrest rate (%)
			Total arrests	For offensive weapons	For other reasons	
2001/02	18,900	1,367	688	203	485	4
2002/03	44,400	1,568	2,499	356	2,143	6
2003/04	40,400	550	1,547	299	1,248	4
2004/05	41,600	286	1,214	256	958	3
2005/06	36,276	542	1,714	192	1,522	5
2006/07	44,707	724	1,625	256	1,369	4
2007/08	53,501	759	2,074	311	1,763	4
2008/09	150,174	1,182	4,273	544	3,729	3
2009/10	119,973	914	2,967	434	2,533	2
2010/11	62,429	511	1,414	240	1,174	2
2011/12	46,973	225	1,283	183	1,100	3
2012/13	5,346	62	275	50	225	5
2013/14	3,909	69	190	38	152	5
2014/15	1,061	25	31	9	22	3
2015/16	970	27	56	26	30	6
2016/17	631	51	72	17	55	11
2017/18	2,503	83	202	71	131	8
2018/19	13,175	218	625	161	464	5

Source: Home Office, *Police Powers and Procedure – Stop and Search Statistics*, 24 October 2019, [link](#).

By taking these 161 weapons off our streets, police officers will have prevented a large number of crimes. According to the Office for National Statistics:

- 46.0 per cent of knives and sharp instruments are used for assault with injury or intent;
- 42.9 per cent are used to carry out theft;
- 8.1 per cent are used to make a threat to kill;
- 1.7 per cent are used to commit rape or sexual assault;
- 0.9 per cent are used to attempt murder;
- 0.6 per cent are used to commit homicide.<sup>18</sup>

Using these statistics from the Home Office and the Office for National Statistics, it can be estimated that:

- More than 74 of these offensive weapons could have been used to assault with injury or intent;
- More than 69 could have been used to carry out theft;
- More than 13 could have been used to make a threat to kill;
- More than three could have been used to rape or sexually assault someone;
- More than one could have been used in an attempt to kill someone;
- And one could have been used to kill someone.<sup>19</sup>

# **MANDATORY SENTENCING FOR SECOND TIME KNIFE POSSESSION**

Under Section 28 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015, the Government ensured that a court must impose a minimum custodial sentence on an offender who has been convicted of a second or subsequent offence involving possession of a knife or offensive weapon. The court must impose the minimum sentence unless it would not be in the interest of justice to do so.

Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell voted against this measure. They were two of only three Labour MPs to do so.<sup>20</sup>

Jeremy Corbyn even said those ‘found in possession of a knife and convicted of that have not necessarily committed a crime’.<sup>21</sup>

According to the latest data from the Ministry of Justice, 83 per cent of offenders (4,204 of 5,085) sentenced under Section 28 in the year ending June 2019 received some form of custodial sentence, either immediate custody or a suspended sentence, for repeat possession offences.<sup>22</sup>

This means that up to 4,204 offenders might not receive some form of custodial sentence in any given year under a potential Labour government if Corbyn and McDonnell have their way.

# USE OF TASERS

Diane Abbott has long argued that we need to be ‘careful about the use of Tasers’.<sup>23</sup>

Following former Home Secretary Amber Rudd’s decision to authorise a more powerful stun gun to be issued to police officers, Abbott said:

*‘There is something inherently wrong with how Tasers are being used, and there are no assurances that their use does not disproportionately impact BME communities.*

*Tasers are not some sort of panacea and there have been too many incidents where Tasers have led to unnecessary deaths.*

*Amber Rudd’s decision to provide this potentially lethal instrument to any police officer who wants one will only add to historic tensions between communities and the police’.*

More recently, Abbott remained silent when Home Secretary Priti Patel announced a £10 million ringfenced Home Office fund to equip more officers with Tasers.<sup>24</sup>

This is despite John Apter, Chair of the Police Federation, saying officers could ‘absolutely’ lose their lives in situations where having a Taser would save them. Apter called the device ‘an essential, life-saving piece of kit’ and revealed that an overwhelming 89 per cent of police officers would want to have a Taser if they were given training.<sup>25</sup>

In the year ending March 2018, Home Office statistics show that a CED (i.e. a TASER) was used as a ‘tactic’ 17,000 times in England and Wales.<sup>26</sup> Police officers must record when a Taser is used in an incident, even when it is not fired. In 85 per cent of these incidents the Taser was not discharged, often just drawing the device is enough to calm down a situation.<sup>27</sup>

In incidents where Tasers were used as a ‘tactic’, the most common reasons included protection of the officer in question (12,000 incidents) or other officers (10,000 incidents), and to assist in making an arrest (7,900 incidents).

And of these 17,000 times, possession of a weapon was the impact factor in 7,500 incidents.

This means that, in any given year, up to 7,500 officers could be injured by a weapon if police officers don’t have the political backing to use Tasers. It also means that there could be 7,900 fewer criminals apprehended and arrested.

# LABOUR'S DISDAIN FOR POLICE POWERS: IN THEIR OWN WORDS

## *Opposition to stop and search*

- **In 1996, Diane Abbott opposed proposals to allow police officers to stop and search based on their judgment.** ‘The proposals will give the police arbitrary powers to stop and search people on the basis of wholly subjective judgments. The old sus law was perhaps the issue that caused my hon. Friend the Member for Brent, South (Mr. Boateng) and me to come into politics, and I have no stomach now in 1996 for voting for any measure that in any way brings back legislation which as a young person I campaigned against’.<sup>28</sup>
- **She compared the updated laws to the ‘sus’ laws, which she campaigned against.** In 1996 she said: ‘The decision by the Home Secretary to reintroduce draconian police powers to “stop and search” will send shivers of alarm through black communities across Britain. No opportunity has been provided for debate or consideration of the likely effects of the new powers. Such powers have in the past, as with the notorious “sus” laws, resulted in unjust and discriminatory treatment of the black communities, already suffering under increased police powers’.<sup>29</sup>
- **Diane Abbott said ‘the overwhelming majority of all searches result in no further action’.** She said: ‘The decline in stop and search clearly shows there is some effort to use these police powers more reasonably. But there are clear signs that some communities are being disproportionately targeted. The overwhelming majority of all searches result in no further action’.<sup>30</sup>
- **Diane Abbott said stop and search was ‘unhelpful’.** She said: ‘Conservative austerity policies are not achieving results. They are cutting much needed resources and increased use of a blunt instrument like stop and search is unhelpful’.<sup>31</sup>
- **Diane Abbott welcomed New York scrapping stop and search completely.** In an interview she said: ‘I might point out Stephen talked about New York, but Bill de Blasio actually got rid of what they call stop and frisk altogether and crime has continued to go down’.<sup>32</sup>
- **She repeated this in Parliament.** ‘Properly targeted stop-and-search can play its part in reducing crime but, in New York, Mayor Bill de Blasio got rid of what they call “stop and frisk” altogether and crime went down’.<sup>33</sup>
- **She said plans to extend stop and search were ‘draconian’.** ‘Extending Section 60 powers over the Summer is a tried and tested recipe for unrest, not violence reduction. This draconian approach shows that Boris Johnson’s government has no real plans to invest in policing or a public health approach to tackling violent crime’.<sup>34</sup>
- **She said the extension of stop and search was a ‘reckless regard for civil rights’.** ‘This is a reckless disregard for civil rights, good community relations and the evidence on stop and search’.<sup>35</sup>
- **Shadow Policing Minister Louise Haigh opposed extending stop and search powers.** ‘I just don’t think will make a difference and police officers tell me we don’t need more powers, we’ve got the powers we need’.<sup>36</sup>

## *Support for stop and search*

### **Labour are split over stop and search...**

- **Labour MP and Chair of the Home Affairs Select Committee Yvette Cooper said Labour ‘agree that the police need to have powers to stop and search’.** In a debate in Parliament she said: ‘We all agree that the police need to have powers to stop and search individuals suspected of crime or to prevent a serious threat’.<sup>37</sup>
- **In January 2018 Sadiq Khan announced an increase in stop and search.** ‘The Met must continue to ramp up its fight against violent crime. Londoners will see a tougher crackdown throughout 2018. This will include a significant increase in the use of targeted stop and search by the police across our city’.<sup>38</sup>
- **Khan said stop and search is a ‘vital tool’.** ‘When based on real intelligence, geographically focused and performed professionally, it is a vital tool for the police to keep our communities safe. It will let the police target and arrest offenders, take the weapons they carry off our streets and stop these attacks from happening’.<sup>39</sup>
- **Khan said he had changed his mind about stop and search because of body-worn cameras.** ‘I’ve changed my mind about the confidence the public will have because of body-worn cameras and that should give public the confidence that it’s being done properly’.<sup>40</sup>

- **Khan said stop and search was a ‘useful tool’ and police should have more confidence using it.** ‘Police should have more confidence in relation to using the tool of stop and search - It is a useful tool. To use the stop and search in a way knowing it’s being recorded so they don’t need to worry about what we used to call a vexatious complaint... Targeted intelligence-led stop and search is a valuable tool’.<sup>41</sup>

### **Despite widespread support among the police...**

- **National Police Chief Council Lead for Stop and Search, Deputy Chief Constable Adrian Hanstock, welcomed our extension of stop and search powers.** ‘The extension of this pilot to all 43 police forces, and British Transport Police across the rail network, will help to reduce bureaucracy and allow officers to use Section 60 controls much faster when it is clear it is in the public interest to do so’.<sup>42</sup>
- **Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, Cressida Dick, also welcomed the extension.** ‘I welcome the Home Secretary’s continuing support for our officers using stop and search to tackle violent crime. Stop and Search is an extremely important power for the police. It is undoubtedly a part of our increasing results suppressing levels of violence and knife crime’.<sup>43</sup>
- **Caroline Shearer, founder of the charity Only Cowards Carry in memory of her 17-year-old son Jay Whiston, who was fatally stabbed in 2012, welcomed our extension of stop and search powers.** ‘These changes to stop and search are fantastic news. My son’s killer carried a knife around for weeks before he attacked my son. Had stop and search been used on my son’s killer, he may well still be alive today’.<sup>44</sup>
- **Greater Manchester Police have welcomed a fall in knife crime after a rise in stop and search.** There was a 23 per cent fall and Supt Chris Downey said there was ‘no doubt’ stop and search was responsible.<sup>45</sup>

### ***Mandatory sentencing for second time knife possession***

- **Jeremy Corbyn and John McDonnell voted against changing the law so anyone caught carrying a knife for a second time would face a custodial sentence.** They were two of only three Labour MPs to do so.<sup>46</sup>
- **Jeremy Corbyn said mandatory sentencing for second time knife possession is ‘not helpful’.** He said: ‘Mandatory sentencing looks tough, sounds tough and will please some of the less thoughtful media in our society, but its implications are not helpful’.<sup>47</sup>
- **Jeremy Corbyn said those who are ‘found in possession of a knife and convicted of that have not necessarily committed a crime’.** He said: ‘Those who are found in possession of a knife and convicted of that have not necessarily committed a crime. They have been found carrying a knife with a blade more than 3 inches in length. Often they have been found by stop and search or by intelligence gathering by the police. The House should not misunderstand me: I do not approve of anyone carrying a knife, but when one then looks at who is stopped and searched, one rapidly finds a wholly disproportionate picture of modern Britain and modern youth’.<sup>48</sup>

### ***Use of Tasers***

- **Diane Abbott said we need to be ‘careful’ about the use of Tasers.** She tweeted: ‘Shows how careful we need to be about the use of tasers and the entire Americanisation of our policing’.<sup>49</sup>
- **Diane Abbott said Amber Rudd’s decision to authorise a more powerful stun gun to be issued to police officers was ‘inherently wrong’.** She said: ‘There is something inherently wrong with how Tasers are being used, and there are no assurances that their use does not disproportionately impact BME communities. Tasers are not some sort of panacea and there have been too many incidents where Tasers have led to unnecessary deaths. Amber Rudd’s decision to provide this potentially lethal instrument to any police officer who wants one will only add to historic tensions between communities and the police’.<sup>50</sup>
- **Diane Abbott wrote a letter to the Editor of the Evening Standard arguing that more police officers patrolling London’s boroughs armed with Tasers is ‘something that we should be incredibly wary of’.** She wrote: ‘The news that up to 100 more police officers will be patrolling London’s boroughs armed with Tasers is something that we should be incredibly wary of... we must avoid knee-jerk reactions that involve further weaponisation of London’s police force. We already have an effective armed response unit and these extra measures will not be effective in preventing potential lone-wolf attacks’.<sup>51</sup>

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