



SCHEDULE 7 STOPS UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT 2000

A factsheet by



www.stop-watch.org



Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 provides powers for 'examining officers' at ports and airports, to stop, question and/or detain people they believe they are engaged in acts of terrorism, **without the need for any reasonable suspicion.**

THE POWERS

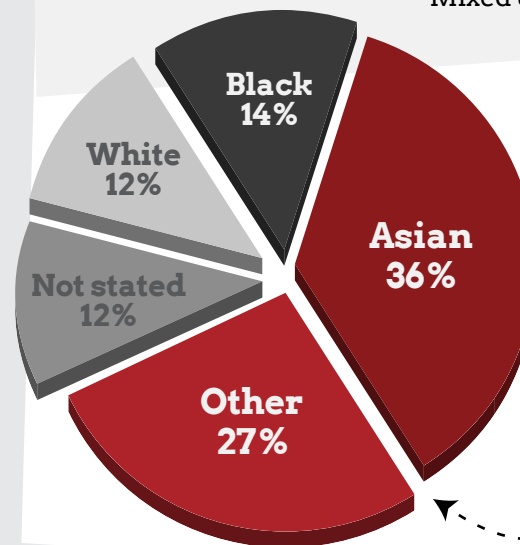
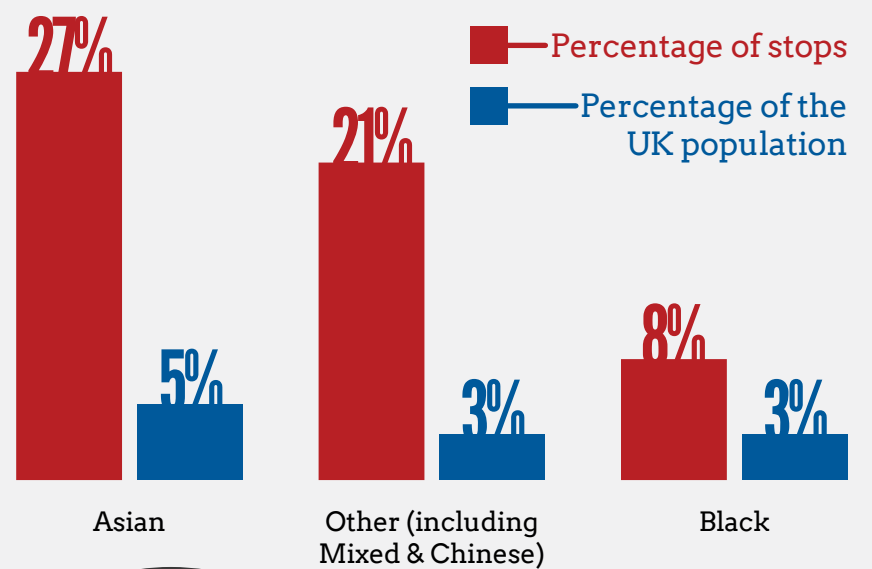
- Examine and question a person for up to **nine hours without arrest**
- Strip-search a person and search their belongings and vehicle
- Take and retain samples of DNA and fingerprints regardless of outcome which is then placed on the same database as convicted terrorists
- Confiscate a person's belongings for up to 7 days for further examination

THE NUMBERS, 2011-12

63,902	Schedule 7 stops
61,662	Schedule 7 stops with examinations under an hour
2,240	Schedule 7 stops with examinations of over an hour
(1.1%) 680	Schedule 7 stops resulting in detention
NO DATA	How many Schedule 7 stops resulted in arrests
NO DATA	How many had biometric samples taken

DISPROPORTIONALITY: WHO IS STOPPED UNDER SCHEDULE 7?

For Schedule 7 stops under an hour...



Ethnic disproportionality is even more pronounced in the use of more intensive stops of over an hour.

Despite comprising roughly 11% of the population, ethnic minorities are 77% of those stopped for schedule 7 stops over an hour.

WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON COMMUNITIES?



All of the successful convictions of people detained at ports and airports were the result of prior intelligence on those individuals – **not random searches.**

Equality and Human Rights Commission

"...these stops have become a routine part of their travel experience... this power is silently eroding Muslim communities' trust and confidence in policing."

Male, Glasgow

"...the first thing you ask your friend is...not how was the holiday, it's did you get stopped and what did they ask you?"

David Anderson QC,
Independent Reviewer of Terrorism Legislation

"People should not be stopped, let alone examined, simply because officers are present and have nothing better to do...It is for the public authorities to demonstrate the proportionality of the powers that it exercises... in view of the suspicion and resentment that is engendered by the operation of Schedule 7 in certain communities."



ABOUT THIS FACTSHEET

WHO WE ARE

StopWatch is a coalition, which works to:

- **Promote** effective, accountable and fair policing
- **Inform** the public about the use of stop and search
- **Develop** and share research on stop and search and alternatives
- **Organise** awareness raising events and forums
- **Provide** legal support challenging stop and search

WHAT IS SCHEDULE 7 STOP & SEARCH?

Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 provides stop and detention powers in ports and airports where 'examining officers' are able to stop, question and/or detain people to ascertain whether they are likely to be engaged in acts of terrorism, without the need for any reasonable suspicion.

Schedule 7 is a highly intrusive stop power, which operates outside of the regulatory framework that covers other (police) powers of stop and search. Individuals stopped under the power are not under arrest but may be examined for up to 9 hours wherein they may be questioned, searched (as well as their belongings), strip-searched and have samples of their DNA & fingerprints taken from them regardless of the outcome of the encounter and in the absence of a lawyer.

WHERE DID WE SOURCE OUR INFORMATION?

Home Office (2012) **Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 and subsequent legislation: Arrests, outcomes and stops and searches, Great Britain 2011/12**

<http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/science-research-statistics/research-statistics/counter-terrorism-statistics/hosb1112/hosb1112>

T. Choudhury and H. Fenwick (2011) **The impact of counter-terrorism measures on Muslim communities**

http://www.equalityhumanrights.com/uploaded_files/research/counter-terrorism_research_report_72.pdf

D. Anderson QC (2012) **The Terrorism Acts in 2011: Report on the Operation in 2011 of the Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 of the Terrorism Act 2006**

<http://terrorismlegislationreviewer.independent.gov.uk/publications/report-terrorism-acts-2011>

CREDITS

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