



SCHEDULE 7 STOPS UNDER THE TERRORISM ACT 2000



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

THE POWERS

- Examine or detain people for **up to six hours**
- Strip-search a person and search them, 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
- Make and retain copies of data on electronic items such as mobile phones, laptops and tablet computers

THE NUMBERS, 2013-14

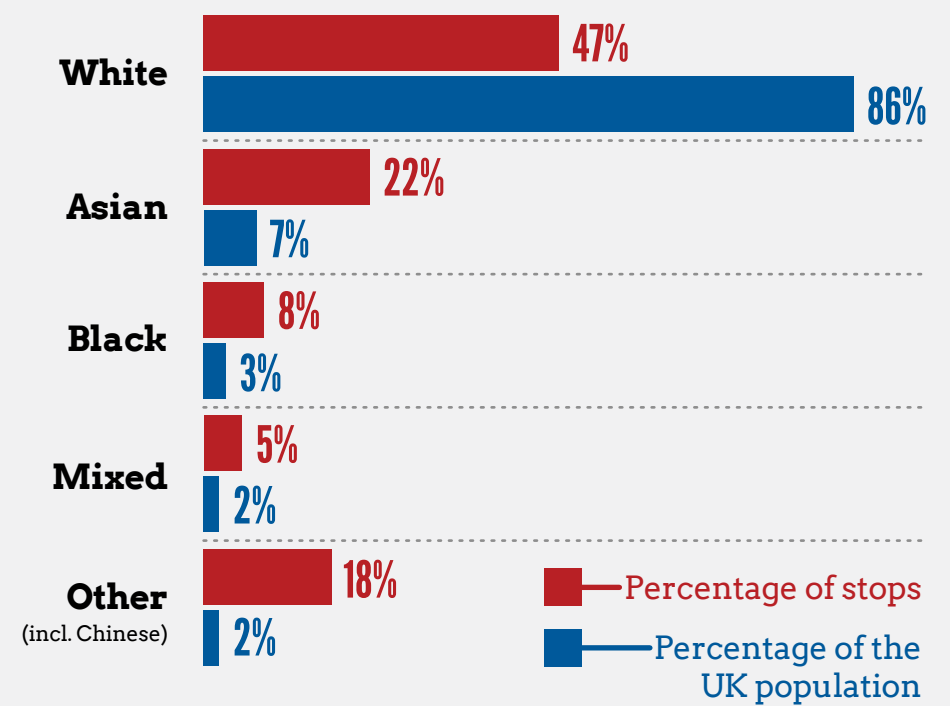
44,118	Schedule 7 examinations
42,231	Schedule 7 examinations under an hour
1,887	Schedule 7 examinations of over an hour
517	Schedule 7 stops resulting in detention
225	How many had biometric samples taken
NO DATA	How many Schedule 7 stops resulted in arrests and convictions



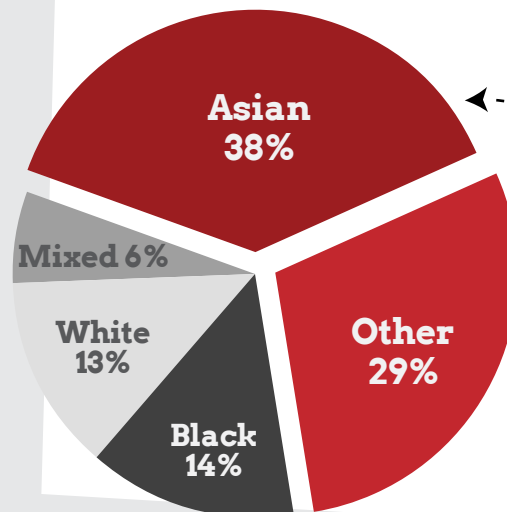
All of the successful convictions of people detained at ports and airports were the result of prior intelligence on those individuals – **not random searches.**

WHO IS STOPPED UNDER SCHEDULE 7?

For Schedule 7 stops lasting under an hour...



For Schedule 7 detentions...



Schedule 7 use against ethnic minorities is even more pronounced in the use of more intensive stops of over an hour.

Despite comprising roughly 14% of the population, ethnic minorities are 87% of those stopped for schedule 7 stops over an hour.

WHAT IMPACT DOES IT HAVE ON COMMUNITIES?

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 6 hours wherein they may be questioned, searched (as well as their belongings), strip-searched, have samples of their DNA & fingerprints taken from them regardless of the outcome of the encounter and in the absence of a lawyer and examining officers can also make and retain copies of data held on personal electronic items including mobile phones, laptops and tablet computers without the informed consent of the person being examined or detained.

WHERE DID WE SOURCE OUR INFORMATION?

Association of Chief Police Officers **Freedom of Information Requests.**

Home Office (2014) **Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, financial year ending March 2014**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/operation-of-police-powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000-financial-year-ending-march-2014>

Home Office (2014) **Operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000, quarterly update to June 2014: data tables**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/operation-of-police-powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000-quarterly-update-to-june-2014-data-tables>

Office for National Statistics **LC2109EWIs - Ethnic group by age**

<http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/census/2011/lc2109ewls>

David Anderson Q.C. (2013) **The Terrorism Acts in 2011: Report Of The Independent Reviewer On The Operation Of The Terrorism Act 2000 and Part 1 Of The Terrorism Act 2006**

<https://terrorismlegislationreviewer.independent.gov.uk/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/Independent-Review-of-Terrorism-Report-2014-print2.pdf>

Choudhury, T. & Fenwick, H. (2011) **The Impact of Counter-Terrorism Measures on Muslim Communities. London: The Equalities and Human Rights Commission**

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Magnifying Glass - John Caserta, from the Noun Project
Fingerprint - Andrew Forrester, from The Noun Project

Find out more and get involved at www.stop-watch.org