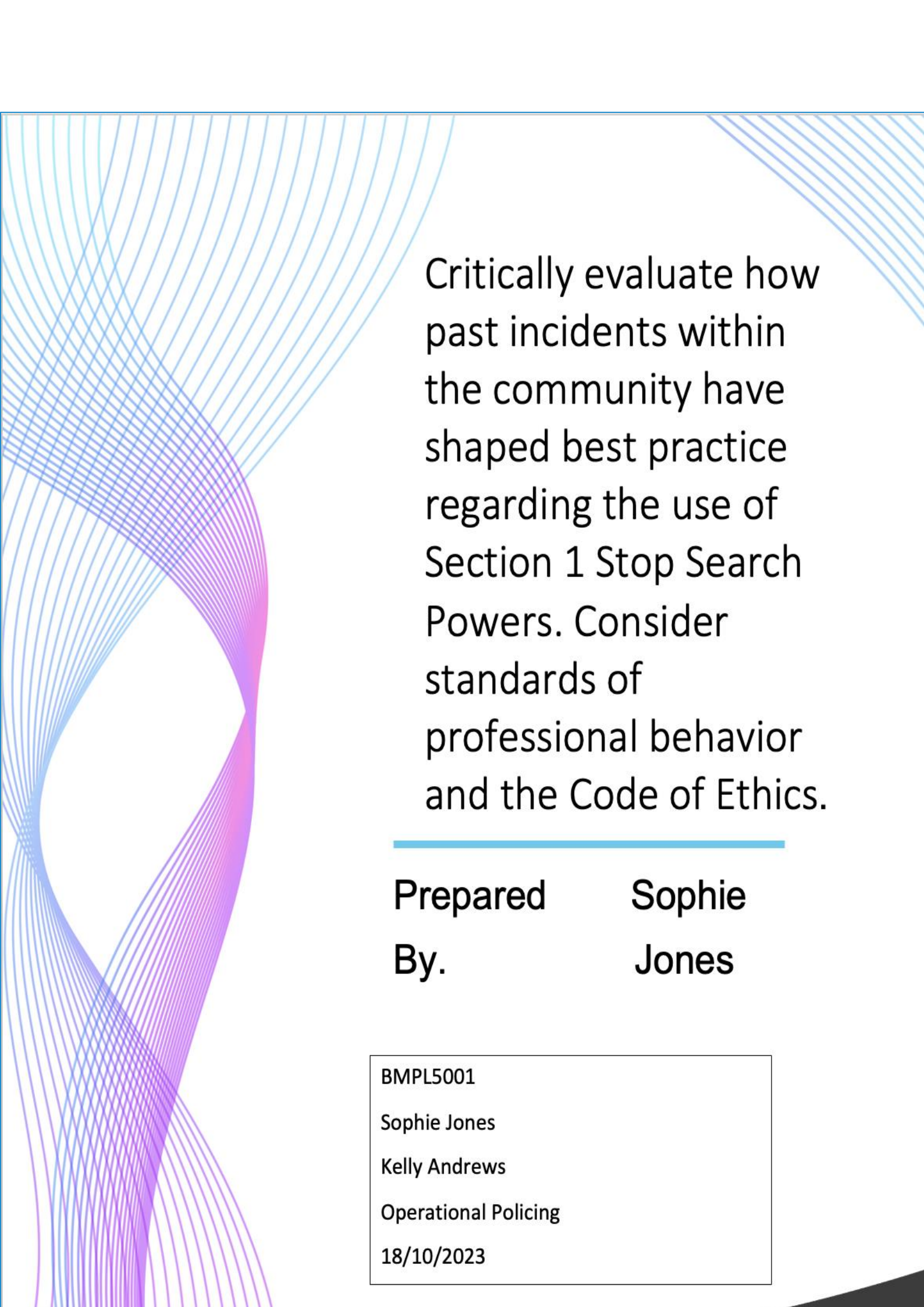




Critically evaluate how past incidents within the community have shaped best practice regarding the use of Section 1 Stop Search Powers. Consider standards of professional behavior and the Code of Ethics.

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This essay will contain the main points of how past incidents within the community have shaped the best use of stop search power. The main body of this essay will discuss past cases that have erupted within the community so the writer will carefully examine how a stop search went wrong with its pros and cons, she will then also study some recent cases like Lewis Edwards from Bridgend and how he was a part of the police force but jailed for paedophilia. This will be explored in further depth analysing minor details. Towards the end of the essay, another case will also be analysed which was two police officers from the metropolitan who were sacked for failing to conduct a thorough search evidently because they were two black females, but these police officers had breached their standards of professional behaviour through honesty and integrity. To conclude this essay, she will finalise all-important pieces of information throughout this essay and deliver a realistic finding of how past incidents within the community have shaped best practices regarding stop search powers.

To begin this essay off Section 1 of PACE Stop and Search was first established in 1984, a constable may search any person, vehicle or anything which is in or on a vehicle, if they have reasonable grounds for suspecting that they may find any, stolen property or prohibited articles (We believe a stop and when, 2023). Stop and search is the power the police must stop people, detain them and search them. Officers are going to search if they have reasonable suspicion that you are identified as someone they are looking for or suspicion that you were carrying something you should not. If the police had reasonable suspicion that you were carrying for example stolen goods or a prohibited article such as a weapon or drugs, the police then have the power to stop and search you if they have reasonable grounds to suspect that you are carrying something that is either made or adapted or for intentional use (Reason Digital, 2020). Reasonable grounds mean that if an officer is to stop you to search for an item, they must genuinely suspect that they will find the item that they are searching for not about how likely it is that you have an item or about how you look for example race, age and gender. Once you have been searched you legally have the right to know why you are being searched as mentioned above but also you will be able to ask for a record of the search for your keep. From analysing statistics from the metropolitan police and the home office, from recent research, she has analysed recent trends in stop searches across the country. From the graph statistics, we can identify that across England between 2007 and 2008 you can see the disproportionality ratio Cleary states that there is a higher rate of black people and Asian people being stopped and searched than white people. However, on the topic of excess searches with the percentages below, more stops on black and Asian people are conducted with it being to the nearest thousand 150,000 excess stop searches were conducted on black people in England and Wales whereby black innocent people who go by their daily lives may feel threatened by the police and that they are targeting them as their race may seem that they are doing or carrying something they shouldn't. According to the recent trends from the Home of National Statistics, London has the highest stop and search rate where the total search rate was 60 per 1,000 between 2007 and 2008 but this is more than half this is where the

Black and Asian population live so police had targeted their community for stop and searches.

Table 1: Stop and search rates, disproportionality ratios and excess stops and searches in England and Wales, 2007/08

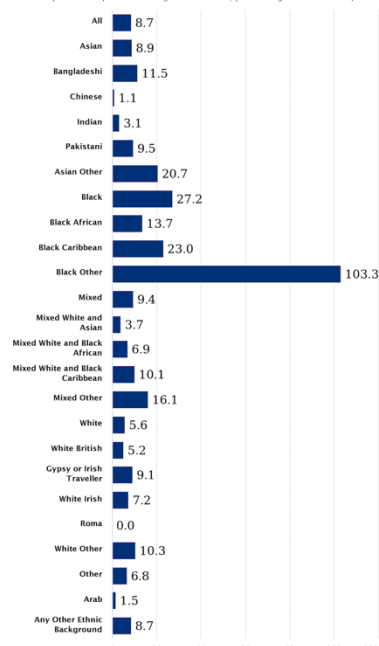
	England and Wales	England and Wales excluding London	London
Rates per 1,000			
White	16.9	14.0	40.8
Black	128.8	67.7	167.8
Asian	39.7	25.8	62.6
Other	32.1	15.0	55.4
Total	21.6	15.5	60.4
Disproportionality ratios			
Black/white	7.6	4.8	4.1
Asian/white	2.3	1.8	1.5
Excess stops and searches (to nearest thousand)*			
Black	150,000	28,000	104,000
Asian	52,000	17,000	19,000

(Equality and Human Rights Commission,2010)

The Home Officer has stated how the stop and search rate is affected by ethnicity, between the years 2011 and 2020 there was population data collection from people who were stopped and searched by the police, by ethnicity the higher rate of people stopped and

searched were black other at 103.3 whilst on the other hand there is a rate of 5.2 white British stopped and search. These two are two different numbers on the spectrum which analyses that black people are victimised for stop and searches, what she has found from the data is that the individuals who consider themselves 'black other' have not identified as black African or black Caribbean but with the overall of 103 stop and searches per 1,000 this is considered quite high in comparison to others.

Title: Stop and search rate per 1,000 people, by ethnicity. Location: England and Wales. Time: 2022. Source: Police powers and procedures: England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2022. | Ethnicity



(Home Office,2023)

The Metropolitan police force has also been criticised for using stop and searching also criticised for their use of their use of stop and search after finding multiple errors. Following Wales and England, black people are at least more likely to be stopped by police. The Met is one of the biggest forces in Britain however they are the most criticised force for the use of unnecessary stop search but to be able to conduct a legal stop search they must have reasonable grounds to suspect unlawful

activity. The Police Commissioner reviewed stop search complaints and he concluded evidently that officers are using a lack of body-worn cameras to hide how they are doing stop searches however, officers' confidence in the communities across London symbolises that they target the black communities which is why complaints are coming in because how officers are undertaking stop and searches (Dodd,2020). Following on from the met police, a report has stated that they have been forced to pay a large lump sum of money for an unlawful stop search and handcuffing of a mixed-race boy. Two white male police officers stopped this young boy, they grabbed him and handcuffed him without lawful excuse. The young boy has the right to know GOWISELY in relation as to why he is being stopped and searched however the officers conducted this search as to his skin colour but likely if Jason (victim) was white this wouldn't have happened (White,2022). In conclusion, the black community feel targeted by the police force, by multiple black people getting unlawfully stopped and searched their confidence runs low but officers see it as a joke but initially, they are targeting racism with unnecessary force in the police.

Secondly, it is evident that on the topic of section 1 powers stop and search the standard of professional behaviour. Standards of professional behaviour meaning under the code of ethics is being a part of the police force but acting with self-control and treating members of the public and your colleagues with the right respect. Under professional standards of behaviour, Police officers do not abuse their use of force or powers, but they are there to uphold the law and enforce rules and policies when needed (Northamptonshire Police,2023). Recently a police officer was jailed for life after online child offences and blackmail. A Bridgend man who was working in South Wales police has lost his job and has been arrested following further investigation. 23-year-old Lewis Edwards was a serving police officer where police received intelligence about online activity and downloading indecent images of children from the web. A warrant was executed at his last known address, and he was arrested in February 2023 and remanded in custody. Edwards was suspended from the police force, and he resigned but he was recently added to the barred list which prevents him from returning to policing. Under the standards of professional behaviour, the allegation made against Edwards found that he had breached that, but the offence made was then therefore against the police force which made them look bad and undermined the public confidence in policing in the public (South Wales Police,2023). After this allegation against former police constable Lewis Edwards, a misconduct hearing was held on the 13th of March where Chief Constable Vaughan had stated that "police officers should be trusted to go about everywhere wearing the badge" holding so much authority and access to people's details etc he has breached the standards of Professional behaviour and the code of ethics (South Wales Police,2023b). In conclusion, the police force had failed concerning one of their own who had a misconduct criminal offence whilst acting as a serving police officer had a bad effect on the nation. Following this it has been suggested that new laws and regulations must support social media platforms to keep young users safe from people like Edwards. This can hurt young children as it comes across as a

danger, but it needs reforms urgently as it may interest others which is not preventing safe online usage (Mansfield,2023).

Following in from the stop search section 1 police officers targeted the black community far more than the white community but also used unlawful stop searches and did not turn on their body-worn cameras so when reviewing back there is no evidence that they conducted that search on the individual if a complaint report is received. However, on July 4th 2020 2 Police officers were patrolling the roads and they stopped a vehicle which contained two black known athletes a report was that they were driving suspiciously but also failed to stop so the police stopped this car and detained them for a section 1 pace search, at this scene the individuals of that car were told they were being searched on possession of having drugs and weapons in them. There was no report of this however the officers on duty had assumed that they were armed because of their race. In the back of the car was their 3-month-old son who was also left in the hands of the police whilst Athlete A and Athlete B were being searched, this then had a detrimental effect on the pair the fact that officers had distressed the situation by searching for items that are not known to innocent people as there was no suspicious intel on them but also being targeted once again for being black. The couple denied the allegations made by the police, but Athlete A believes that he was targeted for the stop as he was Black or even driving a Mercedes which may trigger officers as it's not known regularly but even this is a breach in professional standards as these officers were not told anything about this couple. The integrity of the officers was breached, officers are supposed to uphold the law and the values, but they devalued the use of their powers and broke their trust in the uniform. These two officers were later sacked in respect of the stop and search ongoing issues within the black community (Newton,2023).

Lastly, the last piece of analysis brought into this essay is the Brixton Riots. After discussing the black community being targeted after the Brixton riots took place black people are still at least 50% more likely to be targeted for stop and search than white people. The Brixton riots took place in 1981 when a divide had happened for police being brutal about black men which then resulted in the community coming together and confronting the police, but fights broke out between protesters and police officers which continued for 3 consecutive days. Day after day fights would happen but most of these fighters were black men fighting for their peace and to end brutal racism however, it escalated causing injury to many people and a high value estimate of the damage caused to the homes of loved ones and their communities (BBC,2021). Since the 1981 Brixton riots policing ways have changed in British society. Black people are still undergoing issues about being searched, arrested and prosecuted for the use of drugs but without evidence, white people are no different to black people in carrying or supplying substances. Policing in the community for the last 40 years has changed over the years for example they have brought in which constituted the first piece of legislation against Racial Discrimination, but this didn't stop the police as it did not apply to the forces at the time (Thomas,2022). Furious residents broke out in the community as they were tired and sick of the black

targeting issues that were carrying on so it arose and got serious where the people would come together and set fires in the streets and throw bottles etc showing how furious they were. The Brixton riots had demonstrated the use of the current police officers with their racial disadvantage and what they were doing to favour white people but accusing black people of carrying illegal substances to wanting to carry out an unlawful stop search caused disruption and unfortunate events. Although this had caused major issues within the community the Brixton riots finished in the early April of 1981 but everyone who was a part of it without injured and as bad as it was, they had fought for their equal right standing up as the black community for equal treatment as it was very unnecessary and ongoing (Fraga K,2021). In conclusion, the Brixton riots had a large impact on the use of stop search powers, communities arose against the issues and asked for equal treatment against them but also how the standards of professional behaviour looked like in 1981 in comparison to now there are still ongoing issues in certain countries with targeting the black community. After the Brixton riots, there was a change over time in policing when the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 was introduced but known as PACE.

After some careful Analysis you can evaluate that past incidents within the community had shaped the way how section 1 stop search powers have affected people in different ways. From her findings she has found that there is a number of police forces who target the black community which still happens through England and Wales and as the percentages are rising for the amount of unlawful stop search the percentage of officers are dropping as it's leading to investigations by the police commissioner who decides that what they are doing is wrong and that they are abusing their powers rather than upholding their values. Furthermore, officers are neglecting their use of force by applying handcuffs for non-needed situations and assuming that people are carrying illegal items just because of their race. The police commissioner had stated that laws will need to be reformed and with the case of Edwards in the police force, going forward officers will need to be supervised at all times and make sure they understand the standards of professional behaviour. To conclude, the use of body-worn video will be a priority to be switched on when attending calls.

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