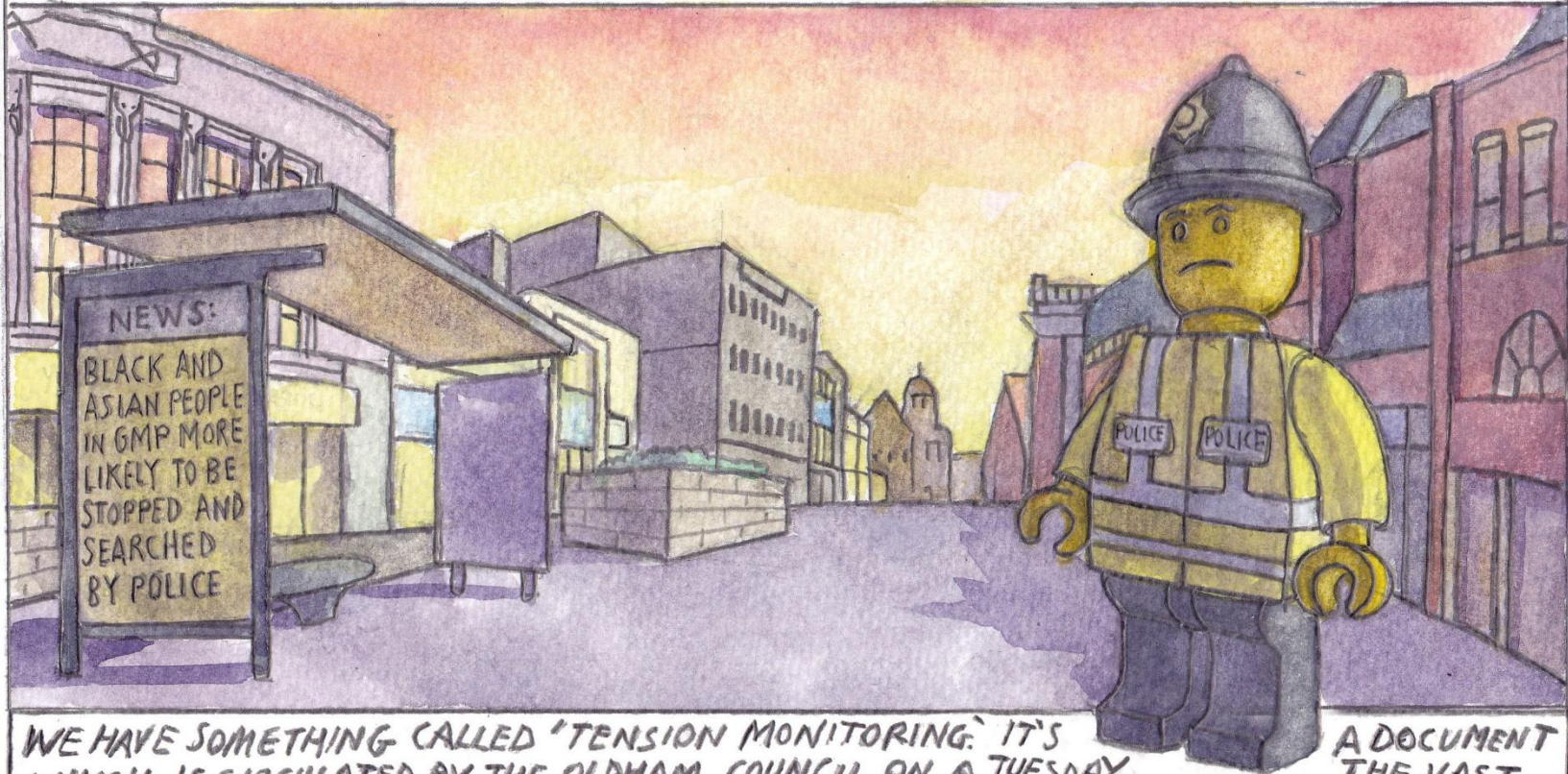


YOU SEE YOUNG BLACK LADS ARE TREATED WITH SUSPICION FOR JUST BEING. YOU DON'T NECESSARILY HAVE TO HAVE DONE ANYTHING AND YOU CAN BE LIKE STOPPED AND SOMEONE SEARCH YOU...



WE HAVE SOMETHING CALLED 'TENSION MONITORING' IT'S A DOCUMENT WHICH IS CIRCULATED BY THE OLDHAM COUNCIL ON A TUESDAY. THE VAST MAJORITY OF INCIDENTS LOGGED ARE RACIAL ABUSE. BEFORE BREXIT WE USED TO GET ONE OR TWO REPORTS OF RACIAL ATTACKS, NOW IT'S FIVE OR SIX.

In the year following the 2001 riots, Oldham witnessed a 25% rise in 'racially motivated crimes'. Some local people we spoke to suggested that policing had improved since, noting examples of good community policing. However, people we spoke to also commented on the police's use of their stop and search powers. Historically, the police have been criticised for disproportionately targeting people racialised as 'non-white'. Despite there being an overall decline in the number of recorded stop and searches at the national level, Stopwatch have recently reported that the disproportionate use of stop and search in Greater Manchester actually increased between 2016 and 2017. In comparison to white people, Black people were four times and Asian people just over twice as likely to be stopped and searched by the police. At the national level, there were 4 stop and searches for every 1,000 White people, compared with 29 stop and searches for every 1,000 Black people in 2016/17. Additionally, some of the local people who took part in our research pointed out that racist attacks and abuse had increased since the EU referendum. Home Office statistics have shown that Lancashire Police recorded a 36% increase in 'race-related' crimes in 2016/17. At the national level, Home Office figures also show that the police recorded 'unprecedented spikes' in hate crime following both the EU Referendum and recent terror attacks in Manchester and London. In fact, the 29% increase in the number of hate crimes reported in 2016/17 was the biggest annual increase since records began.

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