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THE PRIME MINISTER

7 September 2016

Daw Nreda

Last week I announced that the Government would conduct an unprecedented Race Disparity Audit across Whitehall, to reveal racial disparities in our public services and help us to bring an end to the injustices that many people experience.

We know that there can be huge disparities in the way that different racial groups experience public services. In the UK there is a 10 percentage point employment gap between ethnic minorities and the national average. In England and Wales, black people are still four times more likely to be stopped and searched by the police than their white counterparts. And in England, white working class boys are less likely to go to university than anybody else. But at the moment we do not have a complete picture, because public services do not systematically capture and publish this information.

The Audit will expose disparities where they exist, allowing Government and the public to hold the providers of public services to account and identify areas where change is needed. By breaking the data down by geographic location, income, socio-economic class and gender, we will be able to identify disparities in outcomes for white working class groups, as well as BAME communities.

I know that racial disparity is an issue that affects people across the United Kingdom and tackling injustice is a goal shared by our Governments. I would therefore like to invite you to be part of this exercise and provide useful information on racial disparity to people in Scotland. As many of the public services that we will be looking at are devolved, I would value your help to capture the right information to provide an accurate picture of the experience of citizens across the whole of the United Kingdom.

I have no doubt that this Audit will reveal difficult truths, but firmly believe that this work is vital if we are to shine a light on injustices as never before and build a country that works for everyone, not just the privileged few.

I am copying this letter to the Secretary of State for Scotland, as well as the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, Sajid Javid, and the Minister for the Cabinet Office, Ben Gummer, who will be taking joint responsibility for the Audit within the UK Government.

Yours sincerely



The Right Honourable Nicola Sturgeon MSP