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## Discrimination can never be positive, says Hopkins

A call by the head of the National Black Police Association for positive discrimination to be introduced to police recruitment procedures in this country has been condemned by Kris Hopkins, the Conservative Prospective Parliamentary Candidate for Keighley and Ilkley.

Cllr Hopkins said Commander Ali Dizaei's demand that the practice of discriminating against people because of their skin colour would be "divisive, counterproductive and wrong."

He commented:

"I support Commander Dizaei's wish for a police force more representative of the community as a whole but we must get there on the basis of merit, not discrimination.

"Greater efforts must be made to encourage larger numbers of individuals from black and minority ethnic backgrounds to join the police and the organisation he represents can clearly play a significant role in this.

"But the practice of so-called positive discrimination is in my view divisive, counterproductive and wrong.

"There is nothing positive about discrimination."

Commander Dizaei made his call earlier today during a speech to the National Black Police Association annual conference in York.

ENDS