

Met faces another racism case as senior black officer claims he was sidelined

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A top black officer is suing the Met for race discrimination amid claims that senior police covered up a damaging report alleging racism in the ranks.

Superintendent Paul Wilson, one of the Yard's most respected ethnic minority officers, claims he was sidelined after he wrote a report exposing bias in the force.

Mr Wilson, 51, in charge of Safer Neighbourhood teams in Lambeth, was asked to carry out a survey of the experience of black officers in the borough at the height of the Met "race war" in 2008, when Britain's most senior Muslim officer, Tarique Ghaffur, was suing the then Commissioner, Sir Ian Blair, alleging racism. The claim was later withdrawn and Mr Ghaffur agreed an out-of-court settlement.

Mr Wilson's study raised concerns over the "quite disturbing" way in which it found some black and ethnic minority officers were treated in Lambeth. But he claims his report was suppressed and he was then sidelined for criticising the Met.

He said: "I think I was supposed to write a two-page report and go away." He added: "As the year went on after I submitted the report I found I was marginalised. All my colleagues were promoted but I was never given the opportunities for promotion."

Mr Wilson, in the force for 31 years, claimed: "It is a sad indictment of how the organisation has consistently failed to embrace the learning process in the 10 years since the Stephen Lawrence case inquiry." He launches his action at an employment tribunal next week.
