



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

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SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –  
17 JANUARY 2025

SUBJECT: USE OF POLICE POWERS IN SUFFOLK –  
1 OCTOBER 2023 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

## SUMMARY:

1. Use of stop and search continues to decline in Suffolk, while positive outcomes and arrest rates have increased. Use of strip searches has also reduced.
2. Disproportionality rates have declined for Black ethnicity groups in recent years but may be starting to plateau. Rates fluctuate for the Other ethnicity groups but are broadly consistent for Asian and Mixed ethnicity groups.
3. When focussing only on Under 18s, disproportionality relating to ethnicity is only apparent within Black ethnicity groups.
4. Searching for Controlled Drugs is the reason for the majority of stop searches, and for all strip searches.
5. Use of strip searching on Under 18s has significantly reduced since the publication of figures by the Children's Commissioner.

## RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is asked to consider the progress made by the Constabulary and raise issues with the Chief Constable as appropriate to the PCC's role in holding the Chief Constable to account.

## 1. INTRODUCTION - USE OF POLICE POWERS – 1 OCTOBER 2023 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2024

- 1.1. Police powers are governed through the quarterly Joint Norfolk and Suffolk Police use of Powers Board which focusses on areas of disproportionality and where necessary Police complaints. This provides additional scrutiny and the early identification of issues and/or trends. It is the overarching board that tracks recommendations from the College of Policing, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).
- 1.2. Suffolk Constabulary continues to work with the Ipswich & Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) on the scrutiny of Police powers that now covers the broader range of Police Powers as opposed to just Stop & Search. Work with ISCRE has provided a new terms of reference that manages this proposal and recommendation from HMICFRS, which includes providing additional information and data associated with Use Of Force (UOF) and Taser.

### 1.3. Use of Force

- 1.3.1 New methods in the provision of data to ISCRE have been progressed to support and streamline the scrutiny of UOF and support work to address any issues relating to disproportionality.
- 1.3.2 The introduction of upgrades to the OPTIK system (used to record searches) allows the recording of handcuffing for the purposes of transport as opposed to searching which should now reflect UOF data more accurately.

### 1.4. Taser

- 1.4.1 The sharing of data with partners in ISCRE has been developed along with the provision of quarterly data to support the scrutiny process and challenging any concerns relating to disproportionality.

### 1.5. Section 163 Road Traffic Act (RTA)

- 1.5.1 Annual Data Requirements (ADR) for S163 RTA are expected and the development for OPTIK is on track and due to be live by end of Feb 25 along with a review of the reporting database changes.

## 2. OVERALL TRENDS - STOP AND SEARCH

### 2.1. Use of stop and search

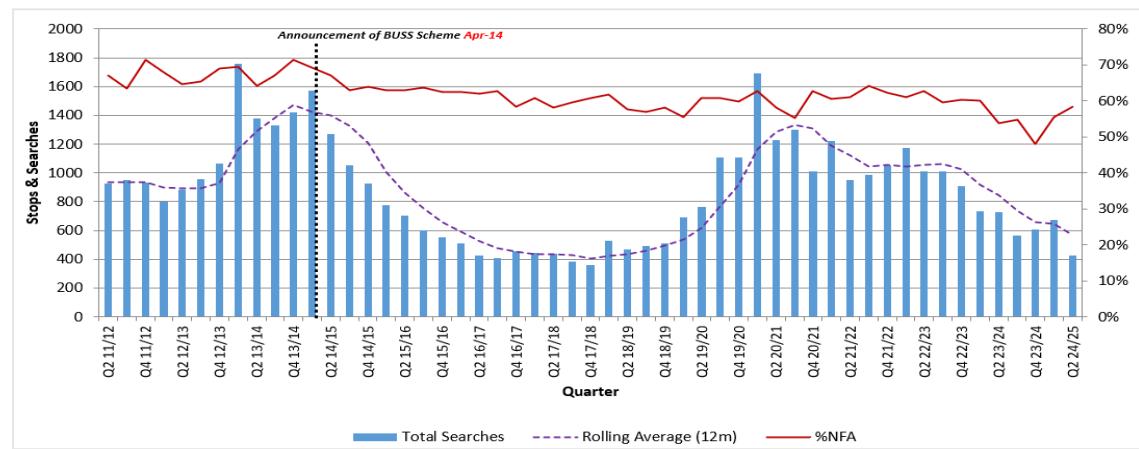


Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

Figure 1 displays long-term trends in stop and search over time, from Q2 2011/12 to Q2 2024/25. The general downward trend in volume since the pandemic has continued. The quarterly NFA rate has increased again since a dip in Q4 2023/24.

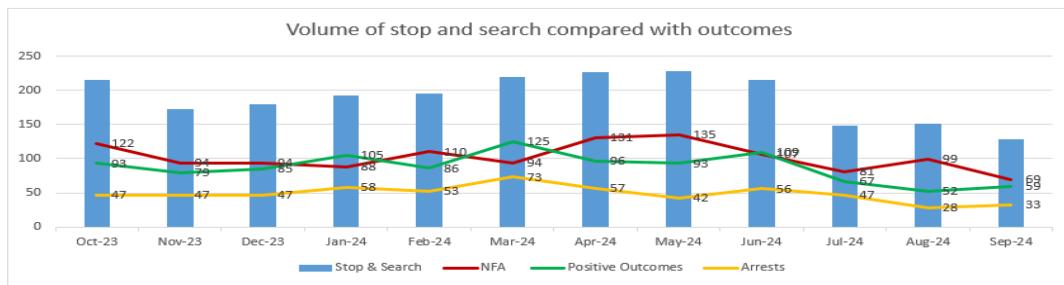


Figure 2: Monthly volume of Stop and Search compared with outcomes 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024

2.1.1. 2,273 stop searches took place in the current reporting period (01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024).

Figure 2 above displays the trend in usage of stop and search in Suffolk for each month, alongside the No Further Action (NFA), positive outcome and arrest rates. There was a decrease of 12.2% in overall volume over the last twelve months compared with the previous reporting period (01/04/2023 – 31/03/2023).

2.1.2. In the current reporting period, the rate of searches resulting in NFA was 53.8%, the positive outcome rate was 46.2% and the arrest rate was 25.9%. ‘Positive outcomes’ refers to all outcomes that are not NFA. The NFA rate in Suffolk has decreased by 0.8p.p since the last reporting period. The positive outcome rate and the arrest rate have both increased by 0.8p.p.

2.1.3. The positive outcome rate for white subjects was 46.7% compared with 43.3% for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups (BAME). For subjects where ethnicity was not stated/declined, the positive outcome rate was 45.6%. Within the positive outcomes, the arrest rate for white subjects was 25.5% compared with 27.0% for BAME groups. The NFA rate for white subjects was 53.8% and for BAME groups it was 56.7%.

## 2.2. Proportionality - Ethnicity

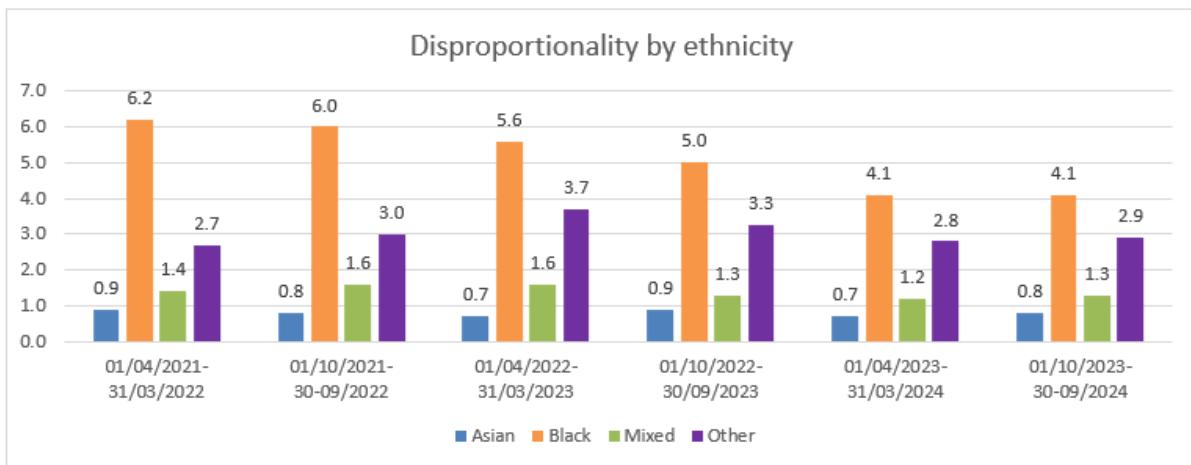


Figure 3: Disproportionality rates by ethnicity group and reporting period, 01/04/2021 – 30/09/2024

2.2.1. Disproportionality is calculated using Suffolk population data from the 2021 Census. A value of one would indicate parity while a figure greater than one indicates disproportionate use of stop and search. In the current reporting period, BAME individuals were 1.7 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than their white counterparts. This is a reduction from a value of 1.8 which was recorded in the previous reporting period.

2.2.2. Figure 3 displays the disproportionality by each ethnicity group in the current reporting period compared with the previous five reporting periods. Figure 3 shows the latest rates of disproportionality are very similar to those from the previous reporting period. Levels for the Black and Other ethnicity groups continue to show disproportionality whereas the Mixed ethnicity group is closer to parity and the Asian ethnicity group is below parity.

2.2.3. Not all persons that are subject of stop and search in Suffolk are resident in the county. This can influence disproportionality rates, as county population data is used for their calculation. In this reporting period, 12.7% (289) of persons subject to stop and search were not Suffolk residents and 23.8% (541) did not have an address recorded. The rate of subjects residing outside of Suffolk was most prominent within the Other ethnicity group; 23.3% of subjects from the Other ethnicity group who were stopped and searched recorded a home address outside of Suffolk compared with 22.2% of subjects from Black ethnicity groups, 21.9% of subjects from Asian ethnicity groups, 12.5% of subjects from White ethnicity groups, and 12.0% of subjects from Mixed ethnicity groups. When subjects with addresses outside of the county are excluded, disproportionality decreases for Black and Other ethnicity groups, remains stable for Mixed ethnicity groups, and increases slightly for Asian ethnicity groups to 0.9 (still under parity).

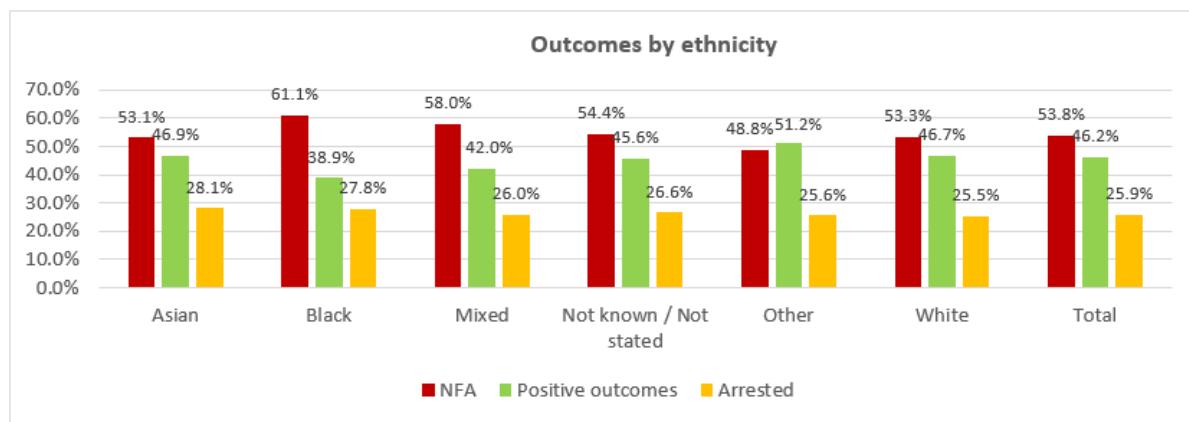


Figure 4: NFA, positive outcomes and arrests by ethnicity 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024

2.2.4. Figure 4 shows the rate of NFA outcomes, positive outcomes, and arrests in the current reporting period, split by ethnicity. The highest rate of positive outcomes is within the Other ethnicity group (51.2%). Arrest rates are highest within the Asian ethnicity group (28.1%). The highest rate of NFA outcomes is within the Black ethnicity group (61.1%).

District	BAME Population*	Stop search count	BAME stop search count	Disproportionality
Babergh	3,073	159	12	3.1
West Suffolk	14,792	664	53	1.2
Ipswich	21,886	775	100	1.2
Mid Suffolk	3,238	150	8	2.1
East Suffolk	9,433	491	36	2.6
<b>Suffolk total</b>	<b>52,422</b>	<b>2,239</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>1.9</b>

Table 1: Suffolk BAME population, number of stop & search, and disproportionality by district

\* As per 2021 Census, ONS

2.2.5. Suffolk is split by local authorities which do not precisely align with policing commands. Table 1 displays the rates of disproportionality by ethnicity for each district. The largest amount of stop and search occurred in Ipswich (34.6%). Some recorded searches were conducted outside of the five local authority areas, hence the total is not equal to 2,273 stop searches overall.

2.2.6. The highest rate of disproportionality is seen in Babergh district whereas West Suffolk and Ipswich have levels nearer to parity. Levels of disproportionality are more likely to fluctuate by

larger amounts when looking at small datasets. This is prevalent in districts with smaller population numbers, particularly relating to ethnicity groups with the smallest numbers.

### 2.3. Proportionality - Age

Age group	Count of stop search	Percentage of all stop search
10-14 years	97	4.3%
15-17 years	347	15.3%
18-24 years	639	28.1%
25 and over	1051	46.2%
Unknown	139	6.1%

Table 2: Count and percentage of stop searches by age group, 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024

2.3.1. Table 2 displays all stop searches by subject age group. 444 subjects of stop search were under 18, accounting for 19.5% of stop search in the current reporting period. 78.2% (347/444) of under 18s were within the 15-17 age group. An outlier record occurred within this reporting period where a nine-year-old was subject of a stop search. As this is an unusual event, for the purposes of the analysis this record has been included within the 10-14 age group.

2.3.2. In the current reporting period, and when looking only at under 18s, BAME individuals are 1.1 times as likely to be subject to stop and search as their white counterparts, increasing to 1.3 when non-Suffolk residents are included.

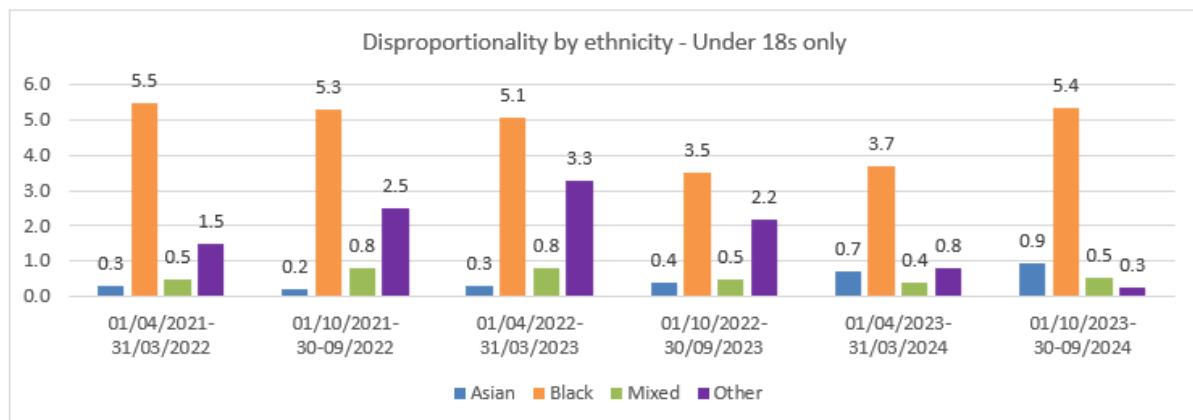


Figure 5: Disproportionality amongst under 18s by ethnicity, 01/04/2021 – 30/09/2024

2.3.3. However, figure 5 displays the disproportionality by each ethnicity group amongst under 18s against previous reporting periods, and shows that the Black ethnicity group still experiences disproportionality in this age group. Each of the other ethnicity groups sees a rate below parity. Figure 5 looks at all Under 18s, regardless of whether they reside in Suffolk or elsewhere.

2.3.4. In smaller subsets of data, shifts can have a greater impact. This is particularly pronounced when reviewing under 18s as population data used is for ages 10-17 only and these are relatively small numbers. The rate of disproportionality seen within the Black ethnicity group (5.4) has increased since the previous reporting period (3.7). This rise in disproportionality equates to an additional three stop searches on Black subjects aged under 18 in this period compared with last period.

2.3.5. When under 18 subjects with addresses outside of Suffolk are excluded, disproportionality decreases to 4.6 for the Black ethnicity group. The Other ethnicity group value reduces to 0, and the Asian ethnicity group value increases to 1.0. The disproportionality rate for the Mixed ethnicity group remains 0.5.

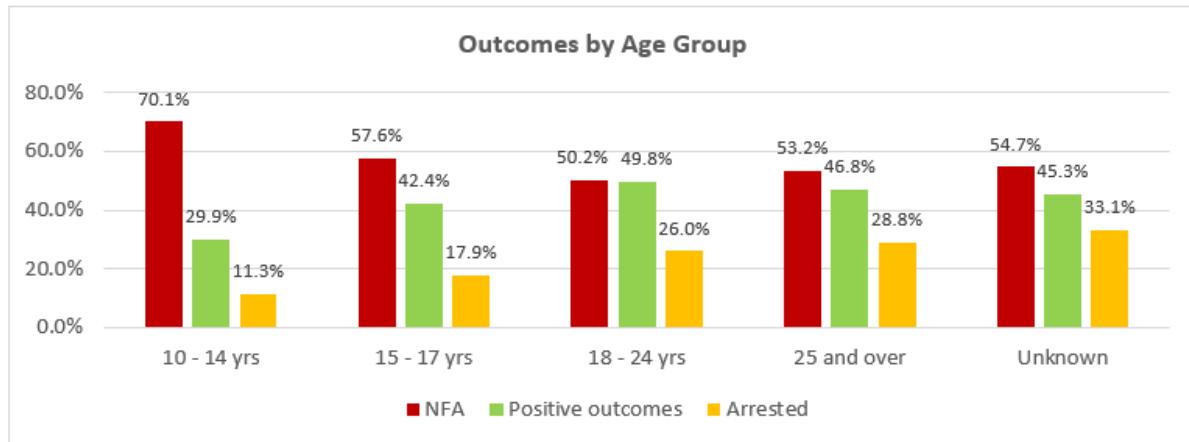


Figure 6: NFA, positive outcomes and arrests by age group 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024

2.3.6. Figure 6 shows the rate of NFA outcomes, positive outcomes, and arrests in the current reporting period, split by age group. The highest rate of NFA outcomes is within the group aged 10 to 14, and this age group also sees the lowest rate of arrests. The highest rate of positive outcomes is within the group aged 18 to 24. Arrest rates are highest in the unknown age group.

Age group	Male		Female		Other / Not stated	
	Count	Percentage of all ages	Count	Percentage of all ages	Count	Percentage of all ages
10 to 14	80	4.2%	14	4.4%	3	4.8%
15 to 17	309	16.3%	38	12.0%	0	0.0%
18 to 24	561	29.6%	75	23.7%	3	4.8%
25 and over	868	45.8%	181	57.3%	2	3.2%
Not known	76	4.0%	8	2.5%	55	87.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1894</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 3: Stop searches by gender and age group, 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024

2.3.7. 83.3% of subjects of stop search in the current reporting period were male, similar to the last reporting period (82.6%). 13.9% were female and 0.4% either stated Self Defined gender or Preferred not to say. 2.4% had no data recorded for gender. As shown in Table 3, stops on females were more likely to be in the 25 and over age group while males would more often be under 25.

## 2.4 Object of search

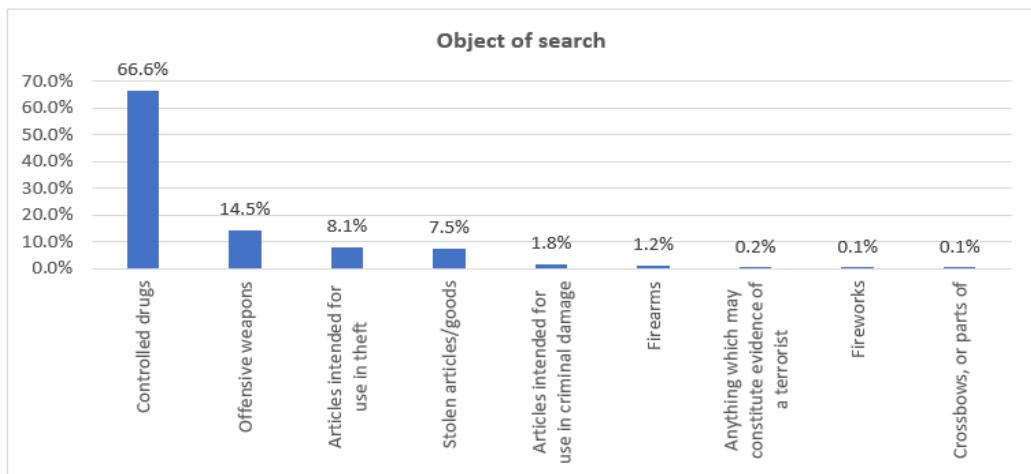


Figure 7: Percentage breakdown of Object of Search, 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024

2.4.1 Figure 7 displays the object of searches undertaken in Suffolk during this reporting period. In the majority of stop searches (1,514, 66.6%) controlled drugs has been recorded as the object of search. The highest volume of these searches took place in West Suffolk (493) followed by Ipswich (457).

2.4.2 Offensive weapons were the reason for search in 329 (14.5%) cases.

Object of search	Number of stop searches	Item searched for found	Find rate	Anything found (whether searched for or not)	Find rate for anything (searched for or not)
Controlled drugs	1514	512	33.8%	573	37.8%
Offensive weapons	329	49	14.9%	66	20.1%
Articles intended for use	183	30	16.4%	43	23.5%
Stolen articles/goods	171	66	38.6%	72	42.1%
Others	76	14	18.4%	19	25.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2273</b>	<b>671</b>	<b>29.5%</b>	<b>773</b>	<b>34.0%</b>

Table 4: Volume and percentage of searches where the item searched for was found – by Object of search

2.4.3 The Find Rate for stop searches during this period was 29.5%. This rate is higher for both Controlled drug searches and Stolen articles/stolen goods searches. There were also occasions where an item not being searched for was found. Combining these, 773 (34.0%) stop searches found something, whether it was being searched for or not.

## 2.5 Use of strip search

2.5.1 In August 2024, the Children's Commissioner published a report on strip searching of children in England and Wales. The report noted Suffolk as having the 5<sup>th</sup> highest search rate as a proportion of all local children aged 10 to 17 between July 2022 and June 2023. This prompted a local review of strip search data which uncovered some double-counting of strip searches.

2.5.2 Strip searches may be undertaken under stop and search powers but are also used within custody. While the two should be recorded separately, historical data has shown numerous records of stop and search leading to arrest and a subsequent custody strip search where officers have recorded a strip search within the stop and search data. This practice has vastly reduced in recent months, but further work is planned to assess the extent of this over-recording.

2.5.3 In the Children's Commissioner report mentioned above, Suffolk's rate of strip searching children came from 16 records, three of which appear to be double-counted from custody records. During the current reporting period of October 2023 to September 2024, Suffolk has recorded three strip searches of children, none of which appear to be double-counted.

2.5.4 In total, Suffolk has recorded 108 strip searches for the year, a reduction from 115 in the previous reporting period. All of these were searches for Controlled Drugs. 95 (88.0%) were conducted on males, and three (2.8%) were subjects known to be aged 15-17 years. No strip searches were conducted on children under 15 years of age.

Age group	Female	Male	Unknown	Total
15 - 17 yrs	0	3	0	3
18 - 24 yrs	4	24	0	28
25 and over	8	63	0	71
Unknown	0	5	1	6
<b>Total</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>108</b>

Table 5: Number of strip searches by Age group and Gender

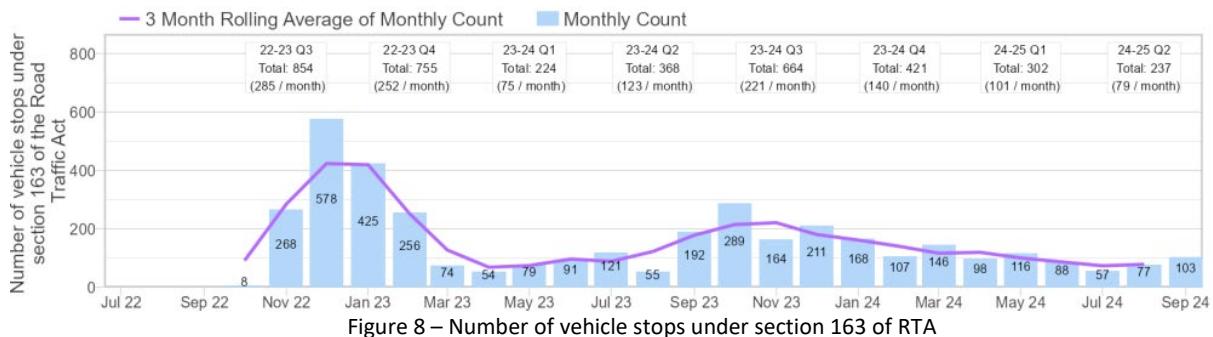
2.5.5 11.1% of the strip searches (12) were undertaken on subjects from ethnic minorities. This is a decrease of 0.2p.p from the previous reporting period where 11.3% of people subject to strip search were from ethnic minorities. Comparatively, 9.4% of all stop searches undertaken this

period were on individuals from ethnic minorities. The item(s) being searched for was/were found in 29 strip searches (26.9%), whilst additional items not being searched for were found in ten strip searches (9.3%). Overall, 39 out of 108 strip searches found something, whether it was the item being searched for or not, giving an overall find rate of 36.1% for strip searches. This is similar to the rate noted in the previous reporting period.

Self-defined ethnicity	Number of strip searches	Item searched for found	Find rate	Item not searched for found	Anything found (whether searched for or not)	Find rate for anything (whether searched for or not)
Asian	0	0	N/A	0	0	N/A
Black	8	1	12.5%	1	2	25.0%
Mixed	2	1	50.0%	0	1	50.0%
Other	2	1	50.0%	0	1	50.0%
White	85	23	27.1%	9	32	37.6%
Not known / Not stated	11	3	27.3%	0	3	27.3%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>108</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>26.9%</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>36.1%</b>

Table 6: Total strip searches and number where items found, by ethnicity

## 2.6 Use of Section 163 of the Road Traffic Act



2.6.1 Over the last 12-months, there have been 1,624 vehicle stops recorded under s.163 compared with 1,672 in the previous reporting period. Figure 8 shows a steady quarterly decline since an increase in Q3 of 2023-2024.

## 3. NATIONAL COMPARISON

- 3.1 The latest national stop and search data published was up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024. In the year ending March 2024 there were 530,093 stop and searches conducted by police in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police) under section 1 of PACE (and associated legislation), a decrease of 2.3% compared with the previous year. For the same period of time in Suffolk (April 2023 to March 2024) the number of stop and searches under section 1 of PACE decreased from 4,041 the previous year to 2,733 (-32.4%).
- 3.2 The latest national data for the year April 2023 to March 2024 shows that Suffolk conducted 3.5 stops per 1,000 population compared with 8.8 stops per 1,000 for England and Wales.
- 3.3 In the year ending March 2024, in England and Wales, those whose self-defined ethnicity was Black were approximately 3.7 times more likely to be stopped as those who identified as White, a reduction from 4.1 the previous year. For Asian ethnicity groups, the value was 1.3 (down from 1.4 the previous year). For Mixed ethnicity groups the value was 1.7, the same as the previous year. For Other ethnicity groups, the value was 1.4 (up from 1.3 the previous year).
- 3.4 In Suffolk, for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024, those whose self-defined ethnicity was Black were also 3.7 times more likely to be stopped as White subjects, although this figure increased to 4.1 times when including subjects not resident in Suffolk. The value for Asian and Mixed

ethnicity groups were lower than seen nationally (0.7 and 1.2 respectively). The value for Other ethnicities was 2.5, increasing to 2.8 when including subjects not resident in Suffolk. Having previously been highlighted as the Force area with highest rate for Other ethnicities, Suffolk is now third highest for this group.

#### 4. OVERALL TRENDS – USE OF FORCE



Figure 9: Number of reported instances of Use of force in Suffolk, 01/07/2022 – 30/09/2024

4.1 5,031 reported instances of use of force were recorded in the current reporting period. This is a reduction of 11.8% since the previous reporting period which had 5,702 (12 months ending March 2024).

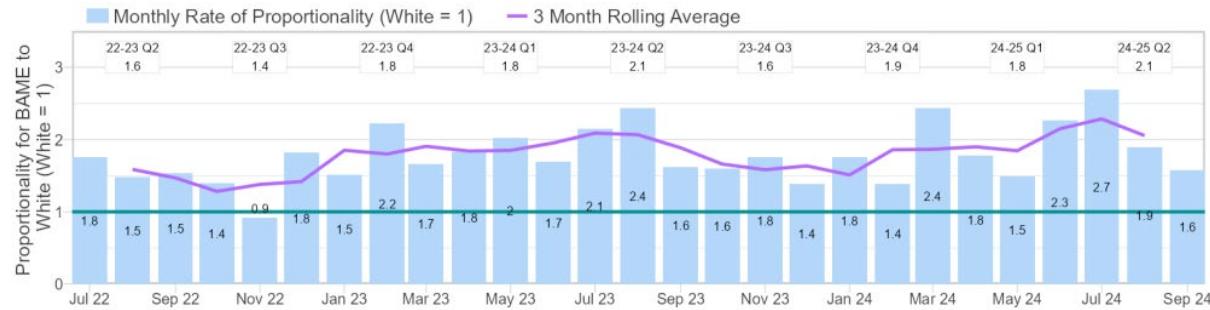


Figure 10: Disproportionality for BAME to White individuals subject to Use of force in Suffolk, 01/07/2022 – 30/09/2024

4.2 Between October 2023 and September 2024, a general upward trend of disproportionality can be seen in Figure 10. There was a peak in disproportionality rate for BME in July 2024 (2.7), with a decline in the two months following. The chart also shows a similar pattern occurred in the year before, increasing from January 2023 into the summer and then reducing in the Autumn.

#### 5. OVERALL TRENDS – CONDUCTED ENERGY DEVICE (C.E.D) – TASER USAGE

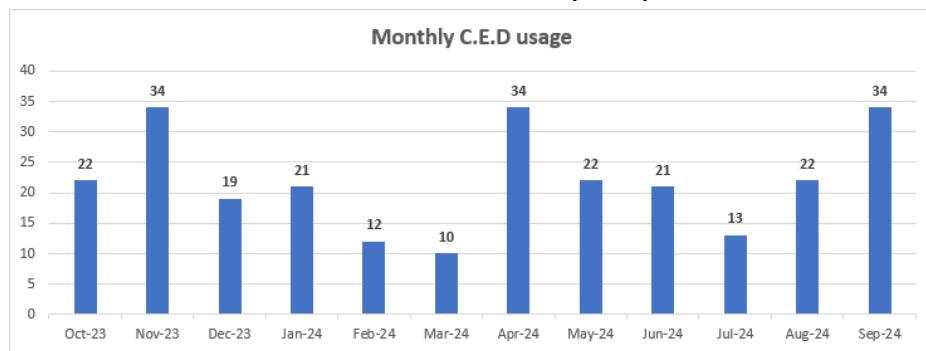


Figure 11: Monthly Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage 01/10/2023 to 30/09/2024

5.1 Over the 12-month reporting period Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage totalled 264, similar levels to the last reporting period (262). This represents an average of 22 usages a month.

5.2 89.0% of the subjects where a C.E.D was used were of white ethnicity, and 11.0% were from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (this includes all forms of C.E.D usage, not just when fired).

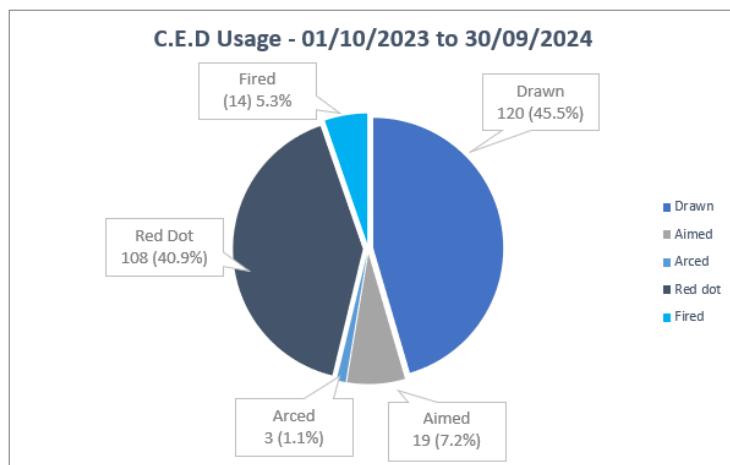


Figure 12: C.E.D usage breakdown 01/10/2023 – 30/09/2024

## 6. BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH (BUSS)/HMICFRS INSPECTIONS/ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CHILDREN (APPGC) RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 The Home Office has requested that all police forces in England and Wales provide returns in relation to progress against actions arising from Best Use of Stop and Search, HMICFRS PEEL Inspections and APPGC (in terms of use of stop and search on children and young people) in one standardised format.

6.2 Appendix A displays the latest statistics in respect of the Proportionality of Stop and Search Use in Suffolk in respect of BAME and Age, for the period 1 October 2023 to 30 September 2024. Please note this was produced for internal scrutiny purposes in November 2024 but has been included as it offers further information on proportionality with regard young people and ethnicity, in an accessible format.

## 7. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ISCRE ON THEIR WORK TO ADMINISTER THE POLICE POWERS SCRUTINY GROUP

7.1. A report compiled by ISCRE detailing their work to administer the Police Powers Scrutiny Group is attached at Appendix B.

## 8. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## 9. OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

9.1 There are no other implications or risks associated with this report.

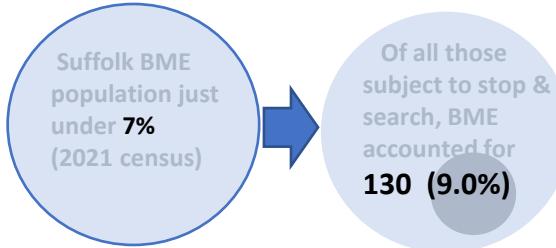
## 10. CHIEF OFFICER CONCLUSION

10.1 Suffolk continues to see work focussed on this important area of policing generating positive activity. Use of Stop search in Suffolk has continued to decline overall, following national trends. Outcomes, however, are increasing with increases in arrests and positive outcomes suggesting proportionate and targeted overall use of powers continues to improve. Strip searches have reduced including in U18s, again is reflective of national trends and post the

publication of the Childrens Commissioners report. Disproportionality remains a focus of the independent stop search reference group. Disproportionate numbers of searches of people self-defining as Black who reside out of the county remain a point of note.

# PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK – ETHNICITY

Date Range 01/10/2023 to 30/09/2024



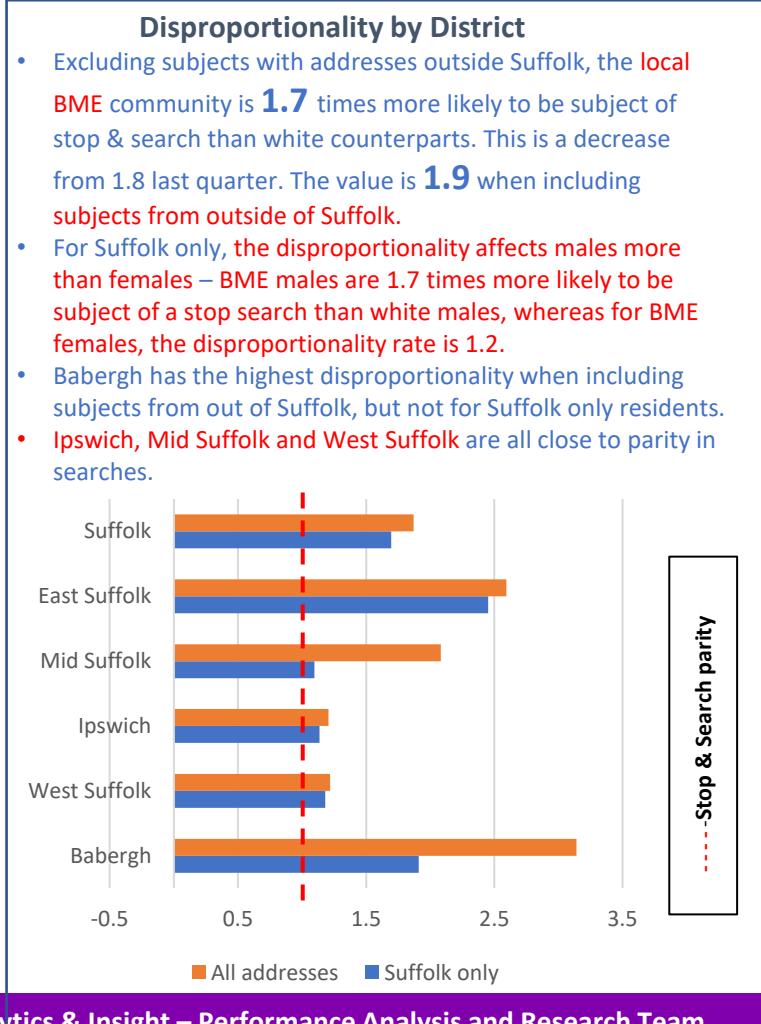
Unless stated, all numbers exclude subjects with addresses outside Suffolk.

Under 18 refers to those aged 10 to 17. A total of 1,443 stop searches were recorded during the reporting period.

## Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk

Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.9	3.3	1.3	2.3
All addresses	0.8	4.1	1.3	2.9

Since the last reporting period, there has been a reduction in disproportionality for the Black ethnicity group (from 3.9 to 3.3). The Other group has seen a small increase in disproportionality (from 2.2 to 2.3). The Mixed group has seen no change while the Asian group has increased slightly but remains below parity. See comparisons in the two charts below:

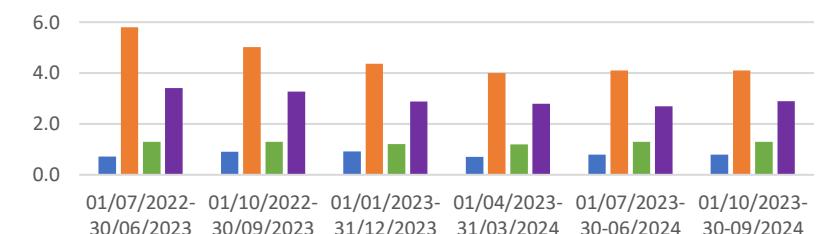
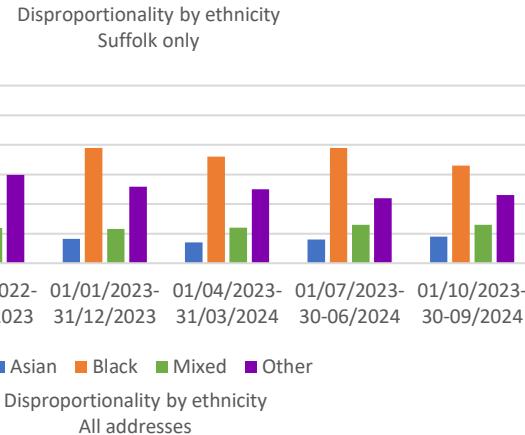


The majority of persons subject to stop & search are male (84.3%).  
Males are **5.8** times more likely to be subject of stop search than female counterparts.

Of all U18s subject to stop & search, BME=9.2%

Reviewing just the U18 population, BME subjects were **1.1** times more likely to be stop searched than white peers.

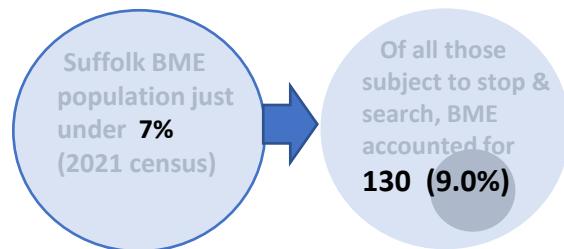
District	Suffolk addresses		All addresses	
	BME	White	BME	White
All	<b>130</b>	<b>1036</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>1509</b>
East Suffolk	26	266	36	348
Mid Suffolk	3	84	8	118
Ipswich	63	298	100	446
West Suffolk	33	312	53	486
Babergh	5	76	12	111



The table to the left displays the counts of stop searches conducted on persons split by White/BME and District.

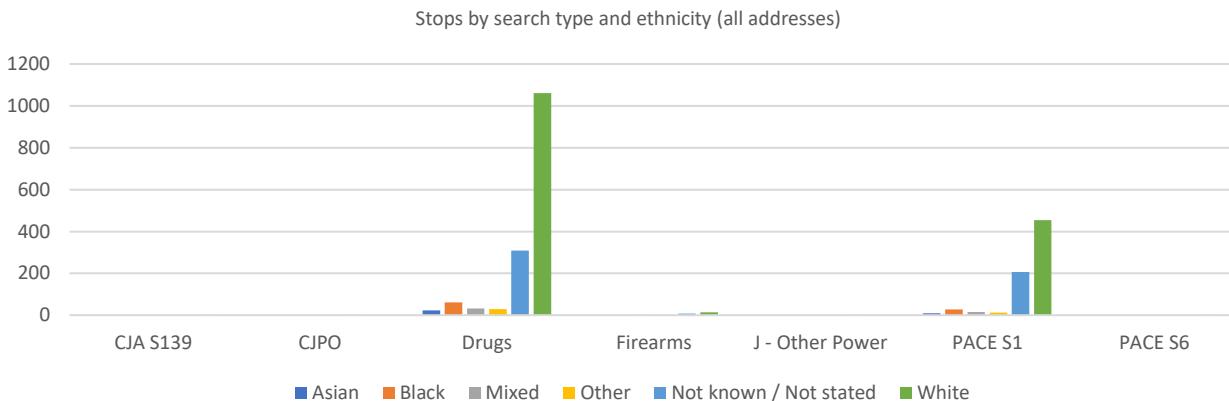
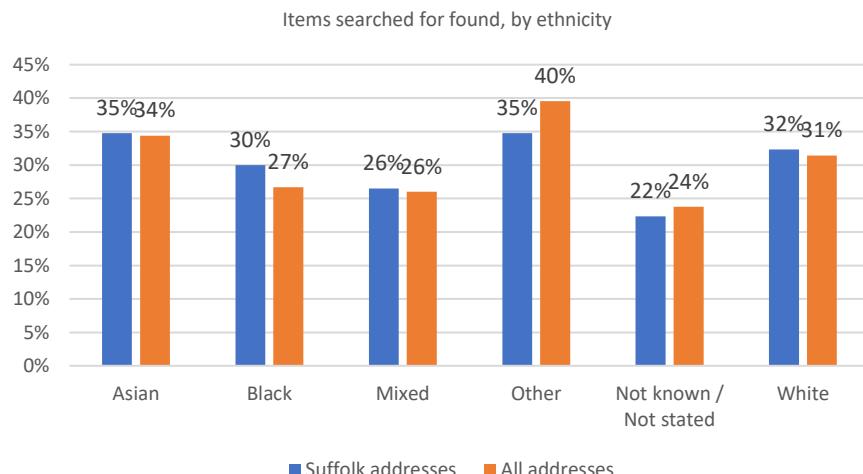
# PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK – ETHNICITY

Date Range 01/10/2023 to 30/09/2024

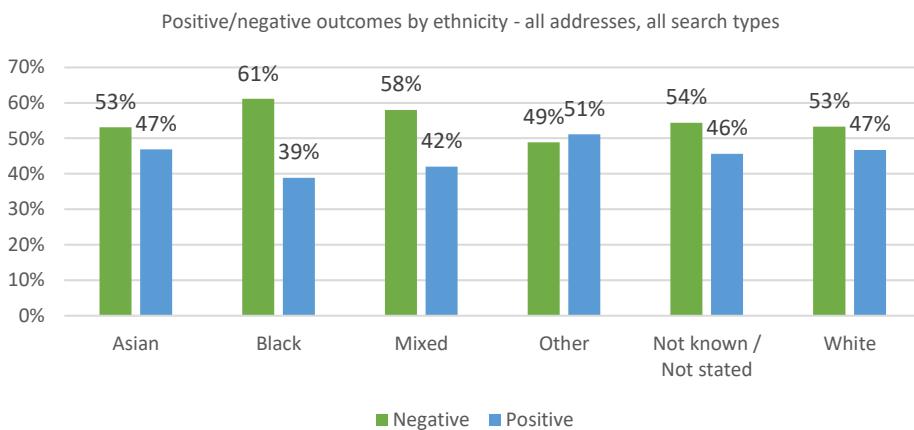


For Suffolk residents, Find rates for items that have been searched for irrespective of ethnicity have decreased from 30.8% in the previous quarter to 30.3%. The Find rate for items searched for, for all addresses is 29.5%. Find rates have increased for the Asian, Mixed and Other ethnicity groups since the previous quarter but have decreased for White and Not known. The Find rate for the Black ethnicity group is the same as last quarter.

The (Suffolk residents) Find rate is higher for females (37.5%) than males (29.6%).



The most prevalent reason for search is Drugs (S23 Misuse of Drugs Act). This has remained stable since previous reporting periods.



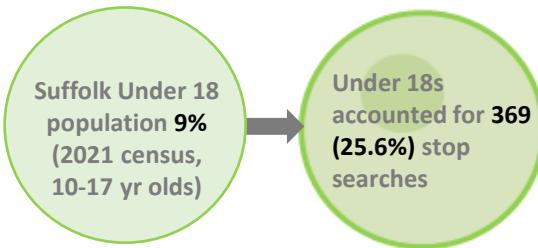
The percentages in the graph above are the percentages of each ethnicity total rather than a percentage of all stops in Suffolk. Negative relates to NFA and positive is all other outcomes.

For all addresses since last reported, Positive outcome rates increased for the Asian (+6%), Mixed (+4%), Other (+9%) and Not known (+1%) ethnicity groups. There were decreases in positive outcome rates for the Black ethnicity group (-6%), and the White ethnicity group (-1%).

The overall positive outcome rate has reduced slightly since the last reporting period to 46.2% (down 0.6p.p). The positive outcomes rate was slightly better for males (45.9%) than for females (44.9%).

# PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK - AGE

Date Range 01/10/2023 to 30/09/2024



Unless stated all numbers exclude subjects with addresses outside Suffolk

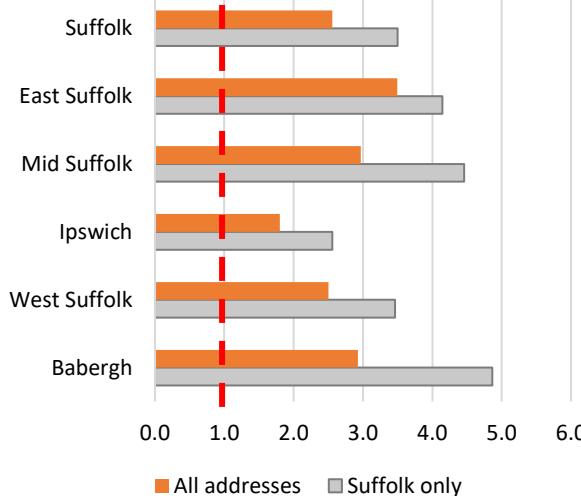
Under 18 refers to those aged 10 to 17. A total of 1,443 stop searches were recorded during the reporting period.

## Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk for Under 18s

Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	1.0	4.6	0.5	0.0
All addresses	0.9	5.4	0.5	0.3

Disproportionality for Under 18s from the Black ethnicity group is higher than for adults and has increased from 3.9 last quarter to 4.6. When including non-Suffolk residents, the rate is higher still. All other ethnicity groups either show parity or are below parity for Under 18s.

## Age disproportionality by district

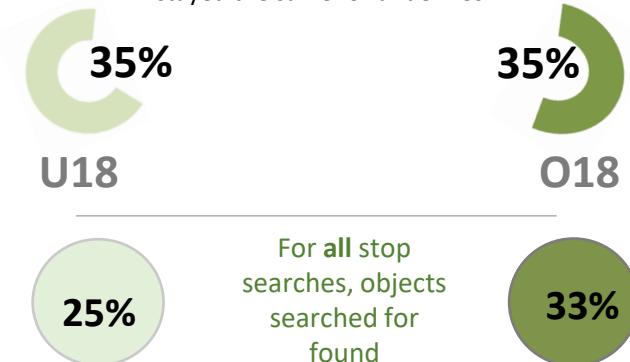


Stop & Search parity

- The Suffolk U18 community is **3.2** times more likely to be subject of stop/search than over 18 counterparts, decreasing to **2.4** times when including subjects from outside Suffolk.
- This age disproportionality reduced for females (2.2) but was consistent for males (3.2).
- This is a small decrease in age disproportionality since the levels in last reporting period (down 0.3).
- The rate has increased this quarter in Babergh, stayed the same in Ipswich and reduced in all other districts.

## Items Searched for by reason for search

Drugs were the most common items searched for overall; 66% of stops gave Drugs as the reason for search. Find rates for drugs decreased for Over 18s since the last reporting period and stayed the same for under 18s.

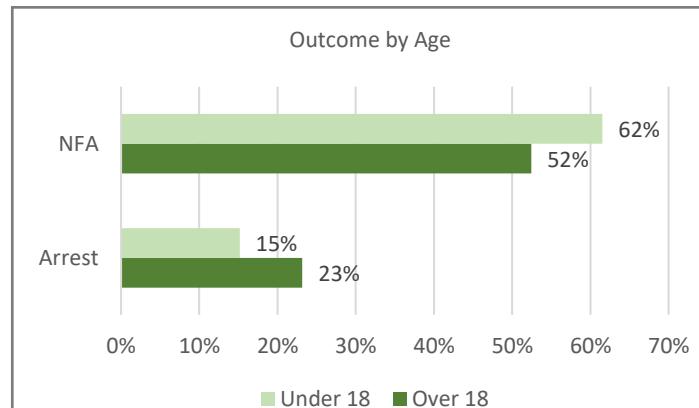


The percentage of objects searched for found is the same as the last reporting period for both age groups.

## Under 18 Disproportionality within Suffolk's BME communities:

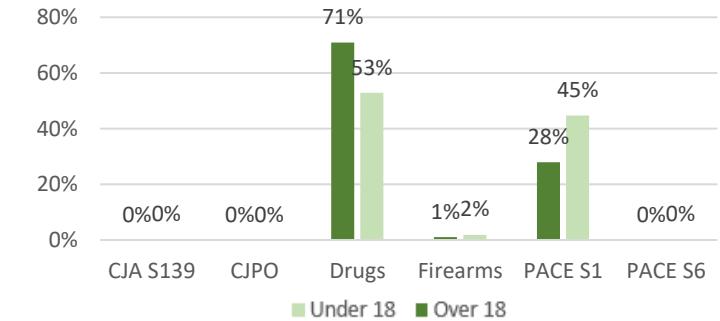
Looking only at Suffolk's BME communities, under 18s are **1.8** times more likely to be subject of stop and search than over 18s. This is lower than the overall Age Disproportionality value.

## Outcome by Age



Following stop search, under 18s are subject to NFA more often than over 18s, and subject to arrest less often. Rates are similar to those seen last quarter.

## Stop search by type and age



Drugs and PACE S1 are the most common reason for stop searches. Rates are similar to those seen last quarter.



## ISCRE's Report on the Police Powers Public Scrutiny Group December 2024

### Suffolk Police Powers Public Scrutiny (SPPPS)

ISCRE facilitates the Suffolk Police Powers Public Scrutiny (SPPPS). This includes the public scrutiny of police Use of Force, Taser Incidents and Stop/Searches.

ISCRE, with the community, has been scrutinising one element of police powers since 2009, police stop & searches. This was on the back of research undertaken in 2008 to investigate the causes of disproportionality against people from minority ethnic backgrounds, particularly people as visible colour being stopped and searched by the police.

Whilst we have seen significant improvements in the disproportionality reduced from 9% to 5%, it remains, not only in police stop searches, but also in the police Use of Force and Taser incidents. A decision was therefore made that scrutiny would be extended to wider police powers to include of their Use of Force and Taser.

The purpose of the panel is to bring together members of the community and the police to discuss firstly, are the police using their powers fairly, secondly, why is disproportionality happening, and to look at what needs to be done to bring parity or proportionality in the way that Suffolk Police use their powers in stop searches, the Use of Force and Taser incidents.

### Why Scrutinise?

Scrutinising police powers is essential for maintaining a fair and just society. It ensures that the police operate within the bounds of the law and with the consent of the public they serve.

**Transparency** – Public scrutiny helps to improve transparency and better public understanding of how powers are applied appropriately according to official guidance and standards.

**Accountability** - Police officers have significant power. Scrutiny helps to ensure they use it appropriately and are held responsible for misuse.

**Public Trust** - When the public feels the police are fair and accountable, they are more likely to cooperate with investigations and feel safe.

**Effectiveness** - Scrutiny can identify areas where police practices could be improved upon, leading to more effective crime prevention.

### Memorandum of Understanding

The MoU between Suffolk Constabulary, ISCRE and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk was agreed in March 2024 to allow members of the local community to review individual police interactions with the public and to consider any disparity in use of wider police powers.

The reflections from the SPPPS group are that our observations and feedback are helping Suffolk Police to learn lessons from participants' lived experiences, thereby helping to improve services and ensure greater accountability.

The relationship between the SPPPS and the police continues to improve with individual police attending scrutiny panel reporting that it has helped them to use their powers more confidently with the backing of the community. Young people report that the group's work improves their understanding of how and why police powers are used in Suffolk.

There are still a few teething challenges around the scrutiny process including unavailability of some body worn video footage and delays in receiving information, but these are being worked through and we hope to see improvements in the new year.

## **Use of Force & Taser Training – Observation Sessions for ISCRE Staff**

During this reporting period, ISCRE staff who are a part of the SPPPS scrutiny, have attended as observers, Use of Force and Taser training sessions and Suffolk Police HQ. This not only gave ISCRE valuable insight into the level of training that police officers are involved in, but it also helped ISCRE to be able to better support the community in its scrutiny processes with;

**Improved understanding** - ISCRE gained a deeper understanding of the situations where force is necessary, the types of force available for use, and the decision-making process involved. There may also be situations where ISCRE staff can provide a valuable independent perspective on training scenarios and the appropriateness of force used. This scrutiny can help identify potential areas for improvement in training and policies.

**Enhanced decision-making** – Our new knowledge and understanding has led to better decisions when scrutinising incidents involving the use of force.

**Increased trust and accountability** – Having a better understanding of the realities of policing where force is used, has helped ISCRE understand the challenges police officers face, helping us develop greater trust in the training process and the decision-making of officers. This also increases accountability by providing the community with a better understanding of the standards and procedures in place.

**Improved communication** - Shared training experiences we believe has led to better communication and understanding between police officers and ISCRE staff, which helps to reduce misunderstandings in the public scrutiny process.

**Potential to reduce complaints** - Having a better understanding of the circumstances in which force is used can help ISCRE to share the information with the community at scrutiny meetings, helping to reduce complaints through a lack of understanding or awareness.

**Improved policies and procedures** – ISCRE, with this training can provide valuable insights into the development of policies and procedures related to the use of force from the publics perspective.

## **Public Scrutiny Meeting held July 31st**

Attendance: - 26

Venue: - Held in person at ISCRE

<b>Stop &amp; Search</b>	There was a total of 450 stop and search forms, and out of that we selected the following, to audit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• W1 – 12 out of 246 forms</li><li>• BAME – 5 out of 28 forms</li><li>• White Other – 3 out of 63 forms</li><li>• Ethnicity Not Stated – 6 out of 113</li></ul>
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<b>Use of Force</b>	52 Samples – Reviewed down to 10 samples with more detailed analysis, 2 taken to panel for further scrutiny.
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<b>Taser</b>	50 Samples – Reviewed down to 3 samples with more detailed analysis, 1 taken to panel for further scrutiny.
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## **Public Scrutiny Meeting held September 25<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance: - 18

Venue: - Via Teams

<b>Stop &amp; Search</b>	There was a total of 177 stop and search forms, and out of that we selected the following, to audit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• W1 – 5 out of 89 forms</li><li>• BAME – 5 out of 29 forms</li><li>• White Other – 2 out of 22 forms</li><li>• Ethnicity Not Stated – 2 out of 37</li></ul>
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<b>Use of Force</b>	132 Samples – Reviewed down to 10 samples with more detailed analysis, 2 taken to panel for further scrutiny.
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<b>Taser</b>	32 Samples – Reviewed down to 3 samples with more detailed analysis, 1 taken to panel for further scrutiny.
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## Public Scrutiny Meeting held November 27<sup>th</sup>

Attendance: - 62

Venue: - Held in person at Suffolk Once College

<b>Stop &amp; Search</b>	There was a total of 349 stop and search forms, and out of that we selected the following, to audit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• W1 – 18 out of 178 forms</li><li>• BAME – 16 out of 47 forms</li><li>• White Other – 5 out of 54 forms</li><li>• Ethnicity Not Stated – 7 out of 70</li></ul>
<b>Use of Force</b>	28 Samples – Reviewed down to 10 samples with more detailed analysis, 2 taken to panel for further scrutiny.
<b>Taser</b>	57 Samples – Reviewed down to 3 samples with more detailed analysis, 1 taken to panel for further scrutiny.

### Main Points

- Raw data provided to us still presents as an issue in some areas. The data is not always being provided within reasonable timescales due to police resourcing capacity. This has had an impact on the time ISCRE has to fully review the data and request further information when necessary, the resourcing issue is being addressed with recruitment of staff.
- For Use of Force and Taser, the initial details from the raw data does not provide enough information for selection of incidents where we require further information for analysis and selection for scrutiny. This is something we are all currently working on with the police.
- August data for September's scrutiny meeting was particularly a challenge with timescales for receiving data and the final numbers received were lower than usual, *'Not many reviews in August as our training demand was low and our leave demand high'*.
- We are still experiencing instances of not enough information being provided by some officers on the forms. While better justification and grounds is provided following our requests, we continue to push for this information to be put on the forms in the first instance.
- It now appears that the recording of the grounds in the See - Know - Suspect model

is automatically populated within the police system. This is a positive step and provides consistency.

- It is positive that more officers are appreciating the value of public scrutiny and the role of the SPPPS group and that feedback is being welcomed positively.

At November's meeting the panel took advantage of the number of students in attendance and supported the police to deliver a Know Your Rights workshop.

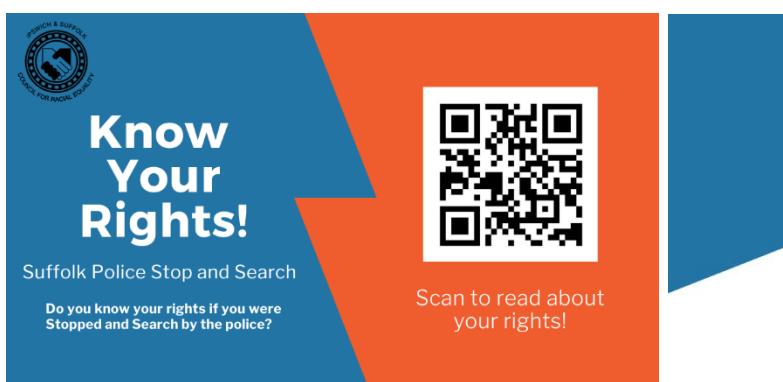
Theories and GOWISELY was explained to the young people, who volunteered to take part in the scenarios and role play provided by the police.

There was excellent engagement and interest from the young people, and a number of thought-provoking questions.

Positive feedback was received to include...  
*"I thought it was going to be a bit of a dry session, but it was really interesting and I learned a lot of information".*



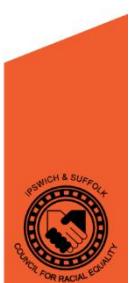
Following the session delivered on Know Your Rights, this is an example of cards that were handed out to students and visitors for them to be able to access further information about knowing their rights in a stop & search scenario. The QR code accesses the information booklet on ISCRE's website.



## Know Your Rights

Scan the QR code to access a guide on knowing your rights during a police stop-and-search encounter.  
Gain the knowledge and understanding to confidently respond to the situation and ensure your rights are respected.

[www.iscre.org.uk](http://www.iscre.org.uk)  
Office@iscre.org.uk



## **Body Worn Video (BWV) were reviewed by ISCRE on the following dates:**

- July 18<sup>th</sup>
- September 18<sup>th</sup>
- November 5<sup>th</sup>

## **Main Points from BWV Reviews**

In the July and September reporting period there were a number of BWV's requested that were not available to us for review. Reviewing the BWV's allows for context to the narrative on the forms presented. It also allows us to understand differences between what has been recorded on the forms and what has actually happened and provides an extra layer of scrutiny.

The BWV also helps the police in instances where accusations have been made, we can see from visible evidence what occurred. At the July public meeting, many members of the public voiced their concern and questioned if there were any underlying motives as to why so many of the videos we had chosen to view were not available to be viewed. We did however see a significant improvement in November where all BWV's requested were available to us for reviewing.

Some of the BWV's that were reviewed, some officers only switched on to recording once they had already detained the suspect or suspects were in handcuffs. We are aware there is a pre-record function on the BWV's, however there have been times where that has not been utilised. This does not allow for a full level of scrutiny as we were not able to see the approach that the officer had taken and the grounds given to the suspect in some cases.

## **Suffolk Police Powers Public Scrutiny dates in 2025:**

**January 29<sup>th</sup>** - Via Teams

**March 26<sup>th</sup>** - We are planning for this meeting to take place in Leiston as we endeavour to move some of the meetings across the county.

**May 28<sup>th</sup>**

**July 30<sup>th</sup>**

**September 24<sup>th</sup>**

**November 26<sup>th</sup>**

Sharon Lee - ISCRE