Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner

Making Suffolk a safer place to live, work, travel and invest

| ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE | PAPER NO: AP15/54 |

| SUBMITTED TO: | ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL – 4 SEPTEMBER 2015 |

| SUBJECT: | USE OF STOP AND SEARCH IN SUFFOLK – APRIL 2014 to MARCH 2015 |

SUMMARY:

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve month period April 2014 to March 2015.
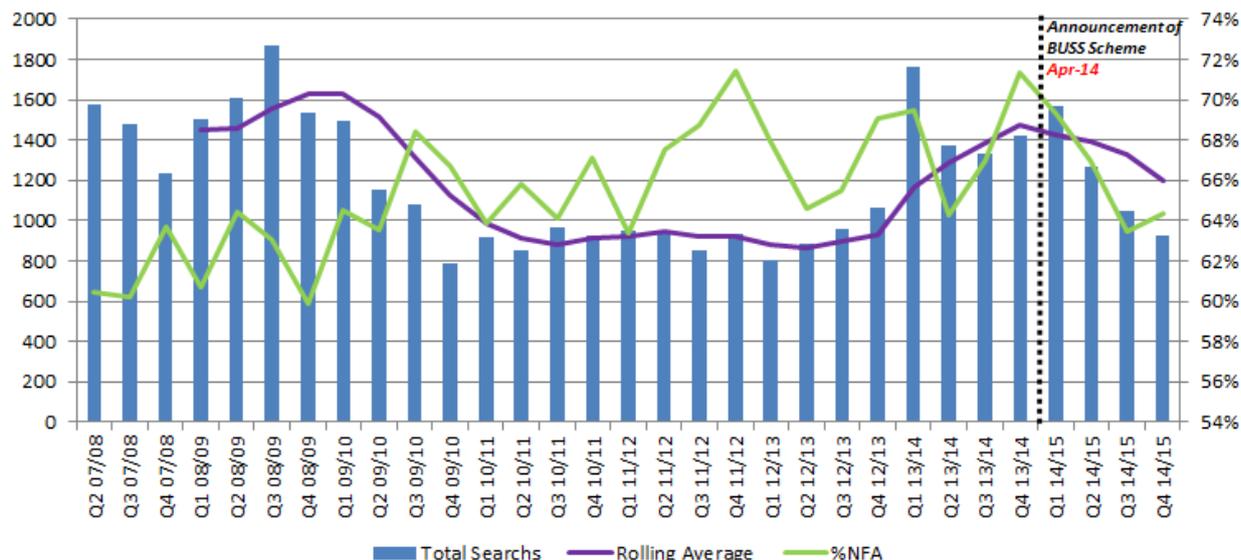
RECOMMENDATION:

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to take account of the steps that the Constabulary is taking to ensure stop and search legislation is used fairly and effectively.

1. USE OF STOP/SEARCH IN SUFFOLK, APRIL 2014 TO MARCH 2015

1.1. This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve month period April 2014 to March 2015.

1.2. A new database for recording Stop and Search and Stop and Account was implemented in Suffolk in December 2014, as directed by the Home Office. The rationale behind the new database is to allow for greater governance of the use of Stop and Search powers, and allow for the identification of trends in the use of powers by individual officers, teams or stations. The new database also allows for increased data collection on Stop and Search outcomes.

1.3. There are some significant differences in how records are coded between the old system and the new. In order to provide statistical reporting following the implementation of the new database, all data contained within the old system required converting into the same format as the new. This included codes used to indicate ethnicity of persons subject to stop search, codes to indicate the reason for the stop and search and codes indicating the outcomes of the stop and search.

2. OVERALL TRENDS[1]

Figure 1: Suffolk - Long Term Trends in Stop/Search Use and Outcomes 2007/08 to 2014/15

2.1. Figure 1 displays long term trends in Stop and Search over time. There has been a steady decrease in the use of stop and search over the course of 2014/15, which coincides with the announcement of the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme by the Home Secretary in April 2014. Q4 2014/15 has seen the lowest levels since Q3 2012/13.

2.2. Since Best Use of Stop Search was announced, Suffolk Constabulary has undertaken a face to face peer led training programme, and has trained more than 400 officers so far in what makes an effective stop and search. The Constabulary has continued to action recommendations coming from the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme, and strives to ensure that the stop and search tactic is used both fairly and effectively, and is intelligence led.

2.3. The arrest rate which was previously displayed on the chart has been removed, due to changes in outcome codes introduced under BUSS scheme, which cannot be

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[1] Rolling average based on a 12 month period

retrospectively applied to historic data. The new codes to be applied are as per those outlined below:

- Arrest (as is currently required);
- Summons/ charged by post;
- Caution (simple or conditional);
- Khat or Cannabis Warning;
- Penalty Notice for Disorder;
- Community resolution; or
- A no further action disposal.

2.4. It is proposed that future top level reporting remains the same, in terms of volume of stop and search, the rolling average and % NFA. However, it is also proposed that data providing the full breakdown of stop and search outcomes is provided going forward. Please see Table 1 below for how this could be presented in the future. As the data builds up over time, it would be possible to present in a graphical format.

Table 1: Suffolk Stop/Search Use and Outcomes Q3 – Q4 2014/15

	Total Searches	Arrest	Charged	Summons / charged by post	Caution	Khat / Cannabis Warning	Penalty Notice for Disorder	Community Resolution	Total positive outcome	% positive outcome	Advised / Verbal Warning	% Advised	Other / Not stated	% Other	NFA	% NFA
Q3 14/15	1046	71	10	4	8	64	12	6	175	16.7%	66	6.3%	141	13.5%	664	63.5%
Q4 14/15	922	1	38	23	25	66	16	16	185	20.0%	1	0.1%	143	15.5%	593	64.3%

2.5. Whilst it appears the arrest rate has dropped significantly between Q3 and Q4, it is the case that officers now have a greater range of options to be more specific in the outcomes of the search. It is likely that some outcomes such as charged, cautioned and charged/summonsed by post would previously have been recorded under arrest, as the new outcome codes did not exist prior to the introduction of the new forms.

2.6. In 2011/12 and 2012/13 Suffolk saw a monthly average of little over 300 stop and searches per month. In 2013/14 usage of this tactic approached historic levels, with 5,880 searches carried out over the year, an average of 490 a month. In 2014/15 volumes have reduced, with 4,820 searches carried out over the year (or an average of 402 searches per month).

2.7. The breakdown of drugs searches remains above the national average of 51%, at 69% for the past 12 months (compared to 69% in 2013/14). Table 2 displays the breakdown of search codes for stop and searches in 2014/15, compared to the previous years. It has been possible to apply the new search codes retrospectively to allow for ongoing comparisons over time. There has been a steady increase in the proportion of drug searches, with the other types of search remaining comparatively stable over time.

Table 2: Suffolk Stop/Search Reason Codes 2011/12 to 2014/15

Financial Year	Criminal Damage	%	Drugs	%	Firearms	%	Going Equipped	%	Offensive Weapons	%	Other Power	%	Stolen Property	%	Terrorism S43 Terrorism Act	%	N/A	%	Grand Total
2011/2012	24	0.7%	2151	58.5%	50	1.4%	302	8.2%	224	6.1%	106	2.9%	780	21.2%	12	0.3%	28	0.8%	3677
2012/2013	37	1.0%	2253	60.7%	43	1.2%	290	7.8%	185	5.0%	98	2.6%	768	20.7%		0.0%	38	1.0%	3712
2013/2014	43	0.7%	3730	63.4%	36	0.6%	520	8.8%	274	4.7%	45	0.8%	1185	20.2%		0.0%	47	0.8%	5880
2014/2015	49	1.0%	3315	68.8%	37	0.8%	271	5.6%	245	5.1%	29	0.6%	812	16.8%	1	0.0%	63	1.3%	4820

2.8. In terms of the ethnic breakdown of all searches, Suffolk Constabulary recorded 12.6% from a BME background (compared to 11.3% in 2013/14), and a further 3.6% unstated. This compares to a national average, excluding London, of 13% and 4%.

2.9. Over the latest 12 month period the BME population in Suffolk saw 17.3 stop searches per 1,000 resident population, which is the same rate to that in 2013/14.

2.10. During Q4 of 2014/15 the ratio of BME to White stop searches is at 2.7:1, indicating that someone from a BME background is more than twice as likely to be stopped and searched than someone from a White background. Table 3 displays the trend in disproportionality over time. Whilst the volume of BME stop and searches has reduced over 2014/15, the total volume of stop and searches recorded has also reduced. It is important to note that the higher levels of dis-proportionality are not driven by an increase in the volume of BME stop and searches.

2.11. As an example of this, stop and searches of individuals from a BME background in Ipswich stood at 44 in Q4 2014/15, compared to 88 in Q3 and 97 in Q2. In Ipswich, the ratio of BME to white stop searches stands at 2.1:1, lower than for the county as a whole.

Table 3: Suffolk Stop/Search Disproportionality 2013/14 to 2014/15

Q	White	BME	%BME	Ratio	White Pop	BME Pop
Q1 2013/2014	1530	142	8.5%	1.8	693,200	32,000
Q2 2013/2014	1104	183	14.2%	3.3	693,200	32,000
Q3 2013/2014	1133	136	10.7%	2.4	693,200	32,000
Q4 2013/2014	1220	144	10.6%	2.3	693,200	32,000
Q1 2014/2015	1343	172	11.4%	2.5	693,200	32,000
Q2 2014/2015	1025	183	15.1%	3.5	693,200	32,000
Q3 2014/2015	863	143	14.2%	3.3	693,200	32,000
Q4 2014/2015	793	108	12.0%	2.7	693,200	32,000

2.12. Whilst arrest rates are no longer comparable with historic data, NFA rates stand at 64% in the final quarter of 2014/15, which is below the three year average of 67%.

3. OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

3.1. At present, Operation Volcanic is the only ongoing operation which documents Stop and Search as being a specific tactic used in the operational strategy. As discussed in previous reports, Operation Volcanic, targets Class A drug dealing in the town (particularly that run by London based dealers operating in Ipswich) and seeks to reduce the associated violence and acquisitive crime linked to Class A drug markets. Many of the individuals from these London businesses are of non-white ethnic backgrounds, which have impacted on proportionality rates of stop search in Ipswich previously.

3.2. As has already been discussed, the use of the stop and search tactic has reduced across the county generally over 2014/15, and particularly against individuals of BME backgrounds in Ipswich. There were a total of 220 stop and searches in Ipswich in Q4, 162 of which (74%) were drug related. Of those 162 drug related stop and searches, 36 (or 22%) were carried out on individuals of BME backgrounds.

3.3. Operation London began in West Suffolk in June 2015. This operation is similar to Operation Volcanic, albeit on a smaller scale. The operation will target London based Class A dealers operating in Newmarket, Haverhill and Bury St Edmunds, and will use stop and search as a documented tactic. Whilst this operation will have had no impact on year-end data for 2014/15, its impact will be considered in the next stop and search report.

3.4. "Quality of service" questions were introduced within the revised stop/search forms during 2009. The data below is based on those who provided a response to the questions as issues such as public order risks may stop the questions being asked.

- Overall, 4280 people (89%) said that they understood the reason for the search. In respect of the BME community, 89% understood. In comparison, in 2013/14 5169 people (88.4%) said they understood the reason for the search, and in respect of the BME community, 90% understood.

- A total of 4268 people said that they were treated professionally during the search (88.5%). Of the 205 persons who stated they felt they were not treated professionally, with respect, 153 were from a "White" background, 23 from a BME background, with the ethnicity of the remaining 30 not recorded. In comparison, in 2013/14 a total of 5163 people said that they were treated with respect during the search (88.3%). Of those who stated they felt they were not treated with respect, 55 were from a "White" background, 16 from a BME background and seven did not state a background.

4. NATIONAL COMPARISON

4.1 The latest national data, published in April 2015, is for the financial year 2013/14. This shows Suffolk with the 5th lowest volume of stop/search in the country (from 4th in 2012/13) and 8th lowest rate (from 4th) with seven searches per 1,000 head of population compared to a national average (excluding London) of 13.5. Given the historic nature of national stop and search data reporting, it is of limited use. The next national data will be published in April 2016 for the financial year 2014/15.

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

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

5.2 Appendix A displays the latest version of the Suffolk and Norfolk collaborated response to progress against these actions. All of the recommendations contained within have been loaded into the force tracking system, and progress against them is monitored at the Joint Operational Improvement Group (chaired by Chief Officers), where the Constabulary's lead for stop and search (T/ACC David Skevington) is held to account.

5.3 Suffolk is assessed to be in a strong position when compared against other forces in relation to progress against these recommendations. This plan is also available to members of the public via the Suffolk Constabulary website on the following link:

http://www.suffolk.police.uk/aboutus/equalityanddiversity/stopandsearch2.aspx

6.   FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1   There are no financial implications associated with this report.

7.   OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

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

ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)	PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	N/A
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	N/A
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	N/A
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes