

**ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**PAPER NO. AP17/32**

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –  
16 JUNE 2017**

**SUBJECT: USE OF STOP SEARCH IN SUFFOLK –  
APRIL 2016 TO MARCH 2017**

**SUMMARY:**

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve month period April 2016 to March 2017.
2. The number of stop and search used by Suffolk officers in the most recent quarter was 73% lower than at the commencement of new Home Office stop and search standards in April 2014.
3. 71% of the stop and searches were in relation to drugs and 61% of these searches resulted in no further action. 13% of stop and searches were strip searches, and of these 92% were in relation to drugs.
4. In quarter 4 of 2016/17, people whose ethnicity was categorised as Black and Ethnic Minority were 5.3 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity. This represents a slight increase following a general downtrend between quarter 1 and quarter 3 of 2015/16 and compares against a larger peak in quarter 1, 2016/17 (6.0).
5. Nine out of ten people stopped and searched reported that they understood the reasons for their search and were treated with respect and dignity by the officer(s).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

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

# 1 USE OF STOP/SEARCH IN SUFFOLK, APRIL 2016 – MARCH 2017

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 The Home Secretary wrote to all forces in April 2014 following the findings of an HMIC inspection of how stop and search powers are used. Two main concerns raised were that:
  - a) the HMIC found that fewer than half of police Forces in England and Wales complied with PACE 1984 requirements that arrangements are in place for stop and search records to be scrutinised by the communities they serve
  - b) some forces set officer targets in relation to stop and search
- 1.3 As a result, the Home Office and College of Policing introduced the ‘Best Use of Stop and Search’ scheme. Participating forces were asked to record the use of stop and search in more detail going forward in order to show the link (or otherwise) between the object of the search and the outcome. The scheme also introduced lay observation policies to enable members of the public to accompany officers on patrol and a ‘community trigger’ whereby police must explain to the public how powers are being used when there is a large volume of complaints.
- 1.4 This report (and future reports) is based on data collected from the new database. This report covers the period between 1 April 2016 and 31 March 2017 inclusive.

## 2 OVERALL TRENDS<sup>1</sup>

### 2.1 Use of stop and search

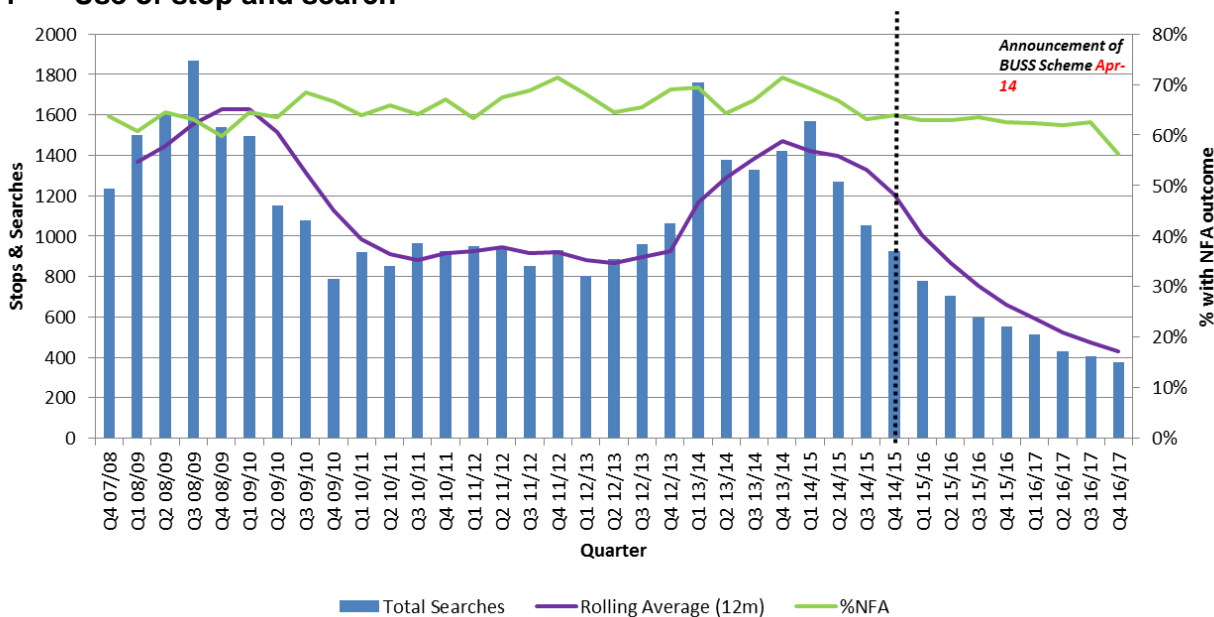


Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

- 2.1.1 Figure 1 displays long term trends in stop and search over time. A continued decline over the second half of 2016/17 reflects a consistent downward trend in stop and search since the announcement of the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme.

<sup>1</sup> Rolling average based on a 12 month period

2.1.2 Figure 2 displays the trend in usage of stop and search in Suffolk since the beginning of the reporting period and reflects the general downward trend previously mentioned since the introduction of BUSS. Since a peak of 420 average stop and searches per month in 2013/14, this has now reduced to an average of 130 per month in the last six months of 2016/17, with the number of stop and searches having remained below 200 per month for the last six months (October 2016 to March 2017).

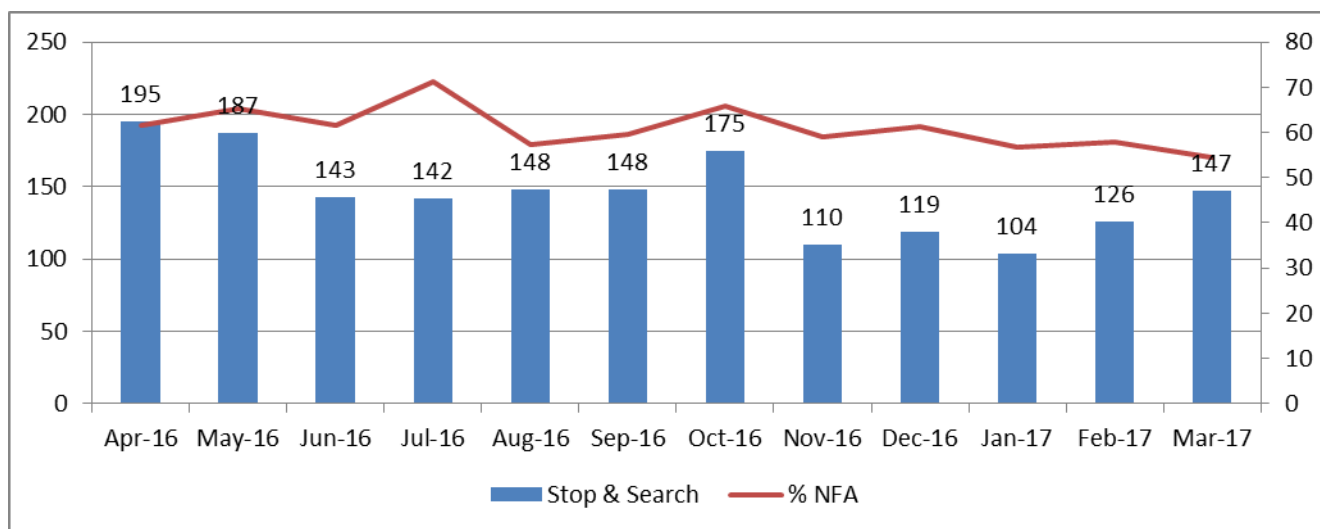


Figure 2: Volume of Stop and Search and % NFA Outcomes April 2016 – March 2017

2.1.3 Between April 2016 and March 2017, the rate of searches resulting in no further action taken (NFA) was 61% which is a reduction of 1.3% compared to the previous report covering October 2015 to September 2016. A continual decrease in NFA rate since the introduction of BUSS compares to moderate fluctuations prior to April 2014 (ranging between 60% in quarter 4 of 2008/09 and 71% in quarter 4 of 2013/2014).

## 2.2 Reasons and objects for search

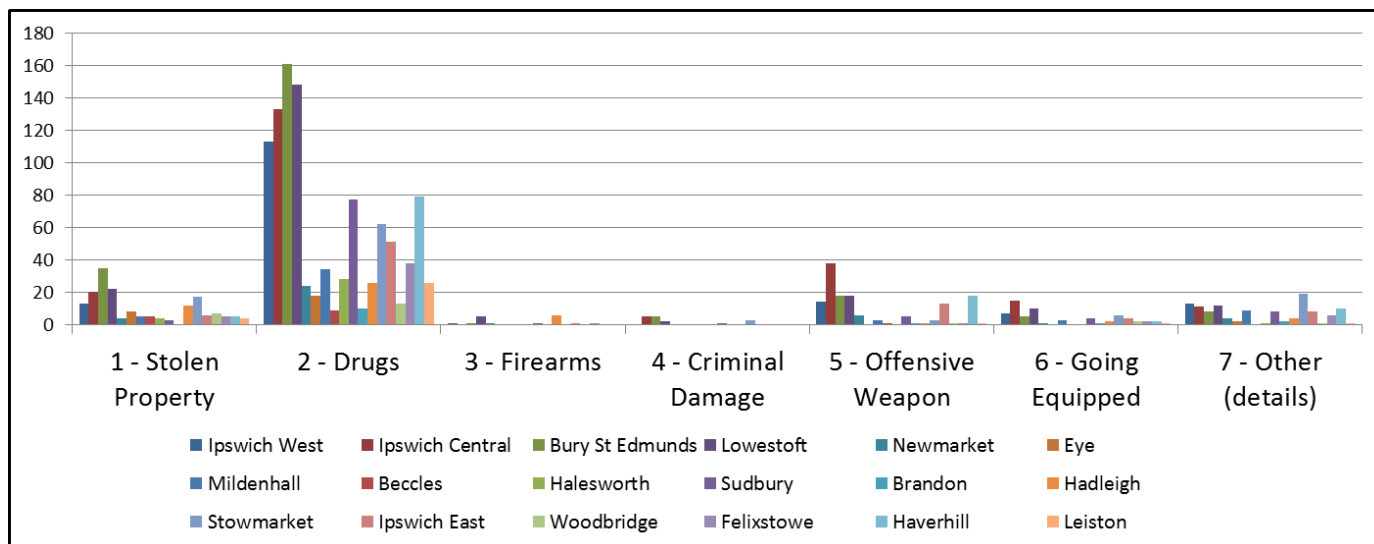


Figure 3: Object of search by SNT boundaries (previously by district)

2.2.1 Figure 3 displays the object of stops and searches undertaken in Suffolk, broken down by SNT boundaries. The prevalence of this tactic in relation to drugs is immediately apparent, with this reason for the search accounting for 70.7% of all stops and searches, and 59.3% of all objects searched for (drugs may have been the object of search where the reason for the stop differed). The highest volumes of these searches have taken place in the three main centres of population in Suffolk – Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft which is where

police intelligence indicates most drug dealing and usage activity takes place. Drugs related stop and searches in Ipswich accounted for just over a quarter (26%) of all 'drugs stops'.<sup>2</sup>

2.2.2 During the reporting period 52.8% of stop and searches where the reason for the search was drugs were carried out against persons aged under 25 years old. This is broadly consistent with the profile of drug supply in Suffolk. The profile of all suspects dealt with by police for supply of drugs between 1 November 2015 and 31 October 2016 in Suffolk shows that 49% of offenders were aged under 25 years old.

## 2.3 Use of Strip Search

2.3.1 Between April 2016 and March 2017, there were 225 strip searches, accounting for 13% of all stop and searches in Suffolk which is an increase of 2% from the last report. Figure 4 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 93% being drug related. Drug dealers are known to use various tactics to conceal drugs about their person, including the concealing of drugs in body cavities, hence the high prevalence of the use of strip searches in relation to drugs.

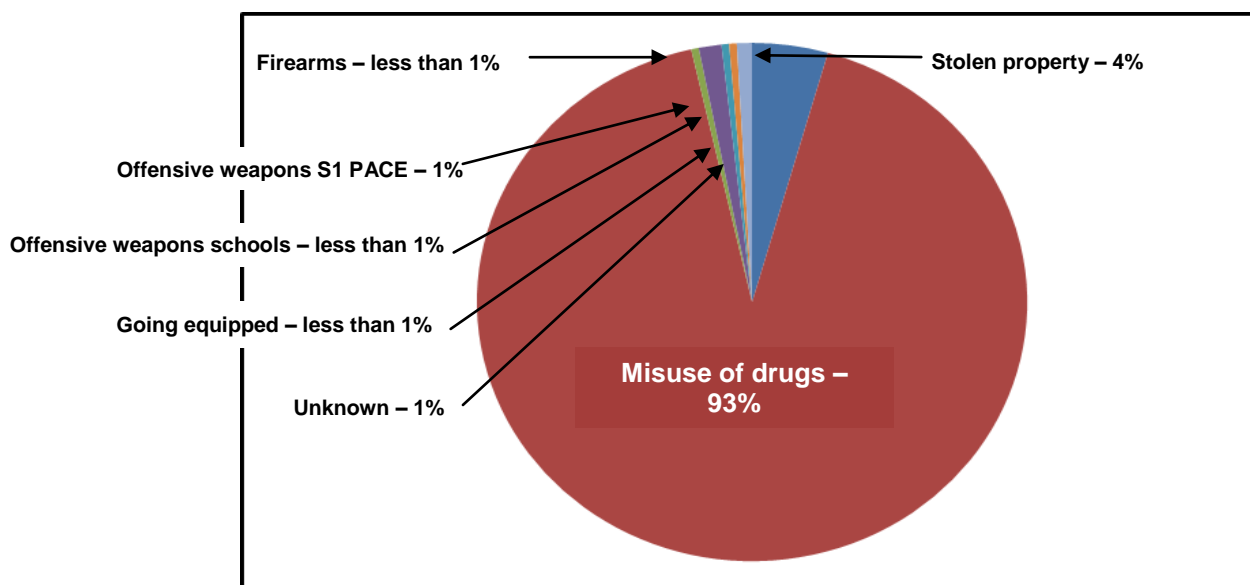


Figure 4: Suffolk Strip Search by reason

2.3.2 35% of all strip searches are undertaken on people of black or minority ethnic (BME) background, 61% on persons of White (British) ethnicity, with the remainder comprised of persons who have declined to define their ethnicity, or do not understand what is required. The item(s) being searched for is/are found in 32% of strip searches.

2.3.3 The age breakdown of persons subject to strip searches is reflective of the higher proportions of strip searches carried out for drugs, with 50% of all strip searches on persons aged under 25 y/o. As mentioned in section 2.2.2, this is consistent with the age profile of suspects involved in drug supply offences in Suffolk. As illustrated in Table 1, the age composition is broadly consistent with previous reports however there has been a continued reduction in the proportion of persons aged 25-29 subjected to a strip search (from 11.4% of all strip searches, to 10.5%). (Blanks x 6 excluded from these calculations)

<sup>2</sup> The 'reason' field was blank (reason for search) in less than 1% of all stop searches, and the 'object of stop and search' field was blank in 19% of stop and searches.

Table 1: Age breakdown of people subject of a strip search

Age Category	Strip Searches	Percentage
Under 20 y/o	51	23.29%
20-24 y/o	59	26.94%
25-29 y/o	23	10.50%
30-34 y/o	18	8.22%
35-39 y/o	25	11.42%
40-44 y/o	25	11.42%
45-49 y/o	11	5.02%
50+ y/o	7	3.20%

## 2.4 Stop and Search Outcomes

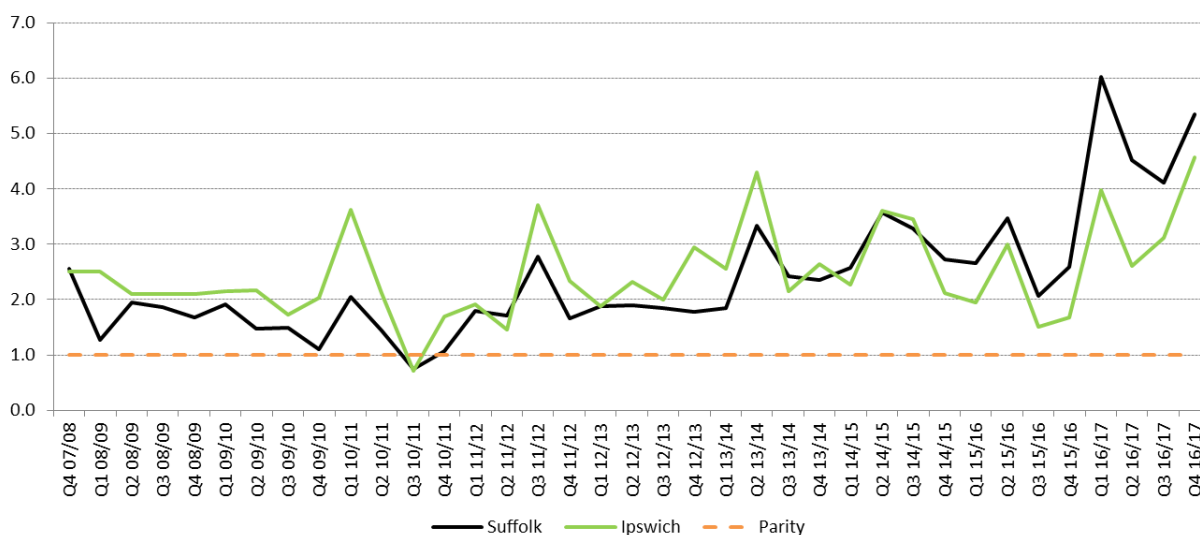
Table 2: Suffolk Stop and Search Outcomes

Outcome	Count	Percentage
1 - Summons/Charged by post	37	2.12%
2 - Caution (simple or conditional)	25	1.43%
3 - Khat or Cannabis Warning	102	5.85%
4 - Penalty Notice for Disorder	13	0.75%
5 - Community Resolution	37	2.12%
6 - No Further Action	1069	61.30%
7 - Arrested	261	14.97%
Not stated	200	11.47%

2.4.1 The most common outcome for stop and search in Suffolk is 'No Further Action' (NFA), accounting for almost 61.3% of all outcomes, with a further 11.5% of searches where the outcome is not recorded, as displayed in Table 2. The NFA statistic is consistent with the previous reporting period. However, there has been a reduction of 3.6% in the number of stop and searches that do not have the outcome stated.

2.4.2 The proportions of stop and search where NFA is the recorded outcome vary from district to district, ranging from 54.9% in Suffolk Coastal, to 70.2% in Mid Suffolk. Suffolk Coastal remains as the district with the lowest percentage of NFA outcomes, and in this reporting period Mid Suffolk is the district with the highest percentage of NFA outcomes. The average percentage of NFA outcomes is 61.4%.

## 2.5 Proportionality in the Use of Stop and Search



*Figure 4: Proportionality in the use of Stop and Search in Suffolk*

- 2.5.1 Figure 4 displays the ethnicity proportionality of the use of stop and search for Suffolk as a whole and for Ipswich (where the use of stop and search is most prevalent). As a guide, if the proportionality figure is equal to one, it equates to parity – or that a BME person has had an equal likelihood of being subject to a stop and search as a white person. Where the figure is greater than one, BME people have been disproportionately subject to the use of stop and search compared to white people<sup>3</sup>.
- 2.5.2 In the last quarter, people whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 5.3 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity.

*(continued overleaf)*

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<sup>3</sup> Based on the ethnic breakdown for Suffolk / Ipswich given in the latest census (2011) - ONS

	Suffolk				Babergh				Forest Heath				Ipswich				Mid Suffolk				St Eds				Suffolk Coastal				Waveney			
	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME
Q3 2011/12	854	716	100	11.7%	47	44	3	6.4%	91	77	11	12.1%	196	128	59	30.1%	26	25	0	0.0%	208	184	15	7.2%	79	74	3	3.8%	200	184	9	4.5%
Q4 2011/12	930	813	70	7.5%	59	58	0	0.0%	80	74	5	6.3%	200	145	42	21.0%	31	29	2	6.5%	228	210	11	4.8%	65	57	6	9.2%	247	240	4	1.6%
Q1 2012/13	802	684	64	8.0%	82	74	7	8.5%	83	72	9	10.8%	145	107	25	17.2%	22	16	4	18.2%	193	180	8	4.1%	72	58	5	6.9%	190	177	6	3.2%
Q2 2012/13	887	727	68	7.7%	103	98	1	1.0%	121	106	8	6.6%	145	104	30	20.7%	48	44	1	2.1%	216	191	11	5.1%	64	53	4	6.3%	145	131	13	9.0%
Q3 2012/13	959	827	78	8.1%	99	99	0	0.0%	90	79	8	8.9%	213	165	41	19.2%	69	60	5	7.2%	181	166	7	3.9%	76	60	9	11.8%	207	198	8	3.9%
Q4 2012/13	1064	933	82	7.7%	122	119	2	1.6%	118	99	15	12.7%	138	93	34	24.6%	69	63	2	2.9%	243	224	10	4.1%	61	52	8	13.1%	297	283	11	3.7%
Q1 2013/14	1759	1510	141	8.0%	252	229	8	3.2%	141	117	15	10.6%	221	154	49	22.2%	91	83	2	2.2%	394	345	29	7.4%	103	91	10	9.7%	535	491	28	5.2%
Q2 2013/14	1376	1087	183	13.3%	125	113	5	4.0%	164	120	24	14.6%	309	183	98	31.7%	95	82	5	5.3%	279	251	13	4.7%	71	56	14	19.7%	316	282	24	7.6%
Q3 2013/14	1329	1116	132	9.9%	67	62	2	3.0%	124	102	15	12.1%	352	265	71	20.2%	108	98	5	4.6%	261	226	20	7.7%	103	90	7	6.8%	292	273	12	4.1%
Q4 2013/14	1420	1211	143	10.1%	140	128	8	5.7%	133	118	6	4.5%	304	222	73	24.0%	167	153	8	4.8%	337	307	19	5.6%	102	86	11	10.8%	227	197	18	7.9%
Q1 2014/15	1570	1320	170	10.8%	97	88	6	6.2%	180	138	35	19.4%	364	272	77	21.2%	123	115	2	1.6%	342	311	20	5.8%	150	136	9	6.0%	288	260	21	7.3%
Q2 2014/15	1268	1015	181	14.3%	88	73	11	12.5%	122	102	17	13.9%	336	216	97	28.9%	80	75	3	3.8%	257	225	18	7.0%	171	150	16	9.4%	201	174	19	9.5%
Q3 2014/15	1053	862	138	13.1%	78	74	4	5.1%	80	65	14	17.5%	291	189	81	27.8%	58	50	6	10.3%	235	218	10	4.3%	114	100	9	7.9%	183	166	14	7.7%
Q4 2014/15	927	800	110	11.9%	112	101	10	8.9%	91	75	12	13.2%	217	167	46	21.2%	82	80	2	2.4%	177	152	20	11.3%	54	49	3	5.6%	194	176	17	8.8%
Q1 2015/16	776	667	89	11.5%	83	70	12	14.5%	98	86	8	8.2%	190	148	36	18.9%	81	70	9	11.1%	157	133	20	12.7%	28	25	2	7.1%	139	133	2	1.4%
Q2 2015/16	885	724	127	14.4%	85	75	8	9.4%	79	71	6	7.6%	219	153	57	26.0%	66	55	5	7.6%	167	141	24	14.4%	65	55	8	12.3%	204	174	19	9.3%
Q3 2015/16	744	653	68	9.1%	82	71	11	13.4%	73	65	6	8.2%	145	117	22	15.2%	33	30	2	6.1%	161	142	17	10.6%	34	30	2	5.9%	216	198	13	6.0%
Q4 2015/16	715	605	79	11.0%	43	36	4	9.3%	53	41	12	22.6%	151	120	25	16.6%	47	42	3	6.4%	149	125	20	13.4%	36	31	5	13.9%	236	210	10	4.2%
Q1 2016/17	524	391	119	22.7%	46	40	6	13.0%	38	25	13	34.2%	173	107	61	35.3%	38	28	8	21.1%	115	92	19	16.5%	30	27	1	3.3%	84	72	11	13.1%
Q2 2016/17	428	338	77	18.0%	32	29	3	9.4%	33	26	6	18.2%	110	72	29	26.4%	24	22	2	8.3%	97	75	21	21.6%	57	50	6	10.5%	75	64	10	13.3%
Q3 2016/17	391	303	63	16.1%	42	31	10	23.8%	21	16	3	14.3%	92	62	24	26.1%	39	28	6	15.4%	108	94	9	8.3%	35	29	4	11.4%	54	43	7	13.0%
Q4 2016/17	387	286	78	20.2%	36	27	7	19.4%	27	21	6	22.2%	97	58	34	35.1%	43	42	1	2.3%	82	60	18	22.0%	30	23	5	16.7%	72	55	7	9.7%

Table 3: Suffolk Stop and Search by district, broken down by white / BME ethnicity

2.5.3 In order to add some context to proportionality, table above displays volumes of stop and searches over time in Suffolk at district level, broken down by white and BME stop and searches. The rate of stop and search on white individuals shows a general decline, with slightly more fluctuation among the BME cohort, but with a marked reduction in the number of searches since quarter 1 of 2016/17.

2.5.4 Furthermore, table 4 displays stop and search over the same period, showing the percentage of all stop and searches on persons of BME ethnicity, along with the proportionality ratio. With reference to Table 4, the overall disproportionality value for Suffolk has increased during quarter 4, 2016/17 compared to quarter 2, 2015/16. This affected the majority of districts with the exception of Suffolk Coastal and Mid Suffolk which were the only two districts to experience a reduction in disproportionality. Babergh experienced the biggest spike in disproportionality in quarter 4, 2016/17. During quarter 4, the disproportionality value increased for Suffolk as a whole, with Mid Suffolk experiencing the greatest reduction.

Table 4: Proportionality of Suffolk Stop and Search by district

Quarter	Suffolk		Babergh		Forest Heath		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		St. Edmundsbury		Suffolk Coastal		Waveney	
	% BME Prop.	2.6	% BME Prop.	3.1	% BME Prop.	2.9	% BME Prop.	2.3	% BME Prop.	0.8	% BME Prop.	1.6	% BME Prop.	1.8	% BME Prop.	3.5
Q1 2014/15	10.8%	2.6	6.2%	3.1	19.4%	2.9	21.2%	2.3	1.6%	0.8	5.8%	1.6	6.0%	1.8	7.3%	3.5
Q2 2014/15	14.3%	3.6	12.5%	6.8	13.9%	1.9	28.9%	3.6	3.8%	1.9	7.0%	2.0	9.4%	3.0	9.5%	4.7
Q3 2014/15	13.1%	3.3	5.1%	2.4	17.5%	2.5	27.8%	3.4	10.3%	5.7	4.3%	1.1	7.9%	2.5	7.7%	3.7
Q4 2014/15	11.9%	2.7	8.9%	4.5	13.2%	1.8	21.2%	2.2	2.4%	1.2	11.3%	3.3	5.6%	1.7	8.8%	4.2
Q1 2015/16	11.5%	2.7	14.5%	7.8	8.2%	1.1	18.9%	2.0	11.1%	6.1	12.7%	3.7	7.1%	2.2	1.4%	0.7
Q2 2015/16	14.4%	3.5	9.4%	4.8	7.6%	1.0	26.0%	3.0	7.6%	4.3	14.4%	4.2	12.3%	4.1	9.3%	4.7
Q3 2015/16	9.1%	2.1	13.4%	7.0	8.2%	1.1	15.2%	1.5	6.1%	3.2	10.6%	3.0	5.9%	1.9	6.0%	2.9
Q4 2015/16	11.0%	2.6	9.3%	5.0	22.6%	3.4	16.6%	1.7	6.4%	3.4	13.4%	4.0	13.9%	4.5	4.2%	2.1
Q1 2016/17	22.7%	6.0	13.0%	6.8	34.2%	5.9	35.3%	4.6	21.1%	13.1	16.5%	5.0	3.3%	1.0	13.1%	6.5
Q2 2016/17	18.0%	4.5	9.4%	4.7	18.2%	2.6	26.4%	3.2	8.3%	4.2	21.6%	6.8	10.5%	3.3	13.3%	6.6
Q3 2016/17	16.1%	4.1	23.8%	14.6	14.3%	2.1	26.1%	3.1	15.4%	9.8	8.3%	2.3	11.4%	3.8	13.0%	6.8
Q4 2016/17	20.2%	5.3	19.4%	11.7	22.2%	3.2	35.1%	4.5	2.3%	1.0	22.0%	7.2	16.7%	6.0	9.7%	5.3

2.5.5 A potential limitation of using census population data on which to base proportionality calculations is that not all persons that are subject of stop and search in Suffolk will be resident in the county. Between April 2016 and March 2017, there was a total of 1,744 stop and searches – 1,236 were on individuals resident in Suffolk, 315 on individuals resident outside Suffolk, and 193 where the address was not stated. Therefore, a further analysis was undertaken at a county level, looking at disproportionality of stops and searches only where the postal address of the subject is identified as within Suffolk, displayed in table 5.

Table 5: Suffolk stop and search broken down by postal address

	Total	Ethnicity			Percentage BME	Proportionality
		White	BME	NS		
Postal address in Suffolk	1236	1016	185	35	15.40	3.60%
Postal address outside Suffolk	315	194	112	9	36.60	11.44%
Postal address not given	193	130	40	23	23.53	6.09%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1744</b>	<b>1340</b>	<b>337</b>	<b>67</b>		

2.5.6 Table 5 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons resident outside Suffolk has on overall figures. For the reasons stated in 2.5.5, it is argued this is a more balanced way of looking at proportionality of stop and searches in Suffolk, if using the demographic profile of Suffolk residents as a basis for judging proportionality. Clearly, the use of stop and search remains disproportionate when looking at this sub-sample, but not as disproportionate.



## 2.6 Community Satisfaction / Quality of Service

Table 6: Responses to the question: Did you understand the reason for being searched?

	Total	Male	Female		Asian	Black	Mixed	N Codes	Chinese/Other	White
Didn't Answer	12.54%	10.32%	0.87%	Didn't Answer	9.30%	6.45%	7.22%	64.06%	25.00%	10.92%
NO	1.32%	0.98%	0.29%	NO	4.65%	1.08%	2.06%	1.56%	12.50%	1.13%
YES	86.14%	72.49%	9.57%	YES	86.05%	92.47%	90.72%	34.38%	62.50%	87.95%

2.6.1 Table 6 displays the responses to the question 'Did you understand the reason for being searched?' As the table shows, the majority of respondents did understand the reason for the search (86%) with a further 12% not answering the question. Just over 1% of respondents answered that they did not understand why they were searched.

Table 7: Responses to the question: Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?

	Total	Male	Female		Asian	Black	Mixed	N Codes	Chinese/Other	White
Didn't Answer	13.63%	11.78%	0.98%	Didn't Answer	9.30%	6.99%	8.25%	62.50%	25.00%	12.27%
NO	1.27%	1.04%	0.18%	NO	2.33%	3.76%	1.03%	3.13%	12.50%	0.75%
YES	85.11%	75.84%	10.19%	YES	88.37%	89.25%	90.72%	34.38%	62.50%	86.97%

2.6.2 Table 7 displays responses to the question 'Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?' Responses are similar to the previous question, with 85% of respondents answering that they did and just over 1% saying they did not.

2.6.3 While the satisfaction of those identifying as Chinese/Other is significantly lower than for other ethnicities, it should be noted that during the reporting period the number of stop searches for Chinese/Other amounts to 8 (less than 1% of total stop searches) of which there were two reports of dissatisfaction.

## 3 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

3.1.1 The Stop and Search Reference Group (SSRG) is a community group set up to:

- Openly discuss the disproportionality in 'Stops and Searches' of people defining their own ethnicity as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME).
- Improve trust and confidence in the way Police conduct Stops and Searches
- Improve community cohesion in Suffolk

3.1.2 The location of these meetings has historically been the ISCRE offices on St Matthews Street, but identifying alternative venues remains a standing agenda item for the group to increase interest in the group from new and different groups. Recent meetings have been held at the University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich.

3.1.3 The following section outlines some of the operational context within which the Stop and Search tactic has been used in Suffolk this year.

### 3.2 East Suffolk

3.2.1 Stop and Search is a tactic that has been used with significant success throughout this year by the east Scorpion team in Lowestoft, specifically in relation to Operation Boulevard. The objective of this operation is to target the external supply of Class A drugs into the area and disrupt those county lines businesses from operating within East Suffolk. The area has benefited recently from an increase in the amount of time the East Scorpion team has been able to remain in the local area and this has resulted in an increase in productivity. The most successful tactic has been to deploy plain clothes officers to hot spot areas and utilise their powers of stop and search under the Misuse of Drugs Act (1971). These street searches have gathered evidence of personal drug use (recent purchases) and also identified premises where dealers have established themselves, often within local vulnerable drug addicts' homes. This evidence and additional information has allowed the spontaneous entry into these premises to arrest person(s) on suspicion of drug supply. Again, there has been

considerable success in using this methodology with a number of criminals from outside of the county being found and arrested in possession of large quantities of Class A drugs.

3.2.2 During the reporting period the following results have been recorded by the East Scorpion team:

- Stop Searches: 103
- Positive searches: 54
- Number of Class A wraps found: 362
- Weight of Class A wraps found: 135.6g
- Cash seized: £4,875
- Number of weapons seized: 7
- Number of premises at which warrants were executed: 14

3.2.3 Please note that the East Scorpion team was not fully operational during the months of August, September and October.

3.2.4 Operation Theodore also relates to Class A drug use and supply offences along with anti-social behaviour in the Leiston area. Youth Offending/Integrated Offender Management intervention teams are working with parenting and educational establishments to address drug abuse among younger individuals. This work helps towards reducing the risk of youngsters reoffending or becoming more established within criminal groups. The East Scorpion team has had very similar success in targeting the issues in Leiston through the use of Stop and Search as previously described.

3.2.3 The use of Stop and Search also helps to provide community reassurance and ensures that the wider public are not adversely affected by an increase in acquisitive or violent crime that often accompanies any widespread increase in Class A drug availability.

### **3.3 West Suffolk**

3.3.1 Stop and Search has continued to be used to support Operation London predominantly in Haverhill, Sudbury and Bury St Edmunds. The overall aim of this operation is to disrupt the various Class A drug dealing businesses in West Suffolk by bringing those engaged in drug crime to justice and reducing harm to vulnerable groups.

3.3.2 Operation London is considered to be 'daily business', and enforcement opportunities are being maximised, subject to staffing issues. The use of Stop and Search powers by officers in a targeted and intelligence-led manner has contributed to frustrating, dismantling and disrupting dealers of Class A controlled drugs and to gathering intelligence/evidence on other persons involved in the supply of Class A controlled drugs.

3.3.3 There have been multiple targeted weeks of action aligned to Operation London since the beginning of 2017, during which there were positive warrants and seizures following targeted enforcement campaigns. The positive outcomes achieved attract significant media attention. Future proposed actions include continued proactive intelligence based disruption and enforcement activity.

3.3.4 The Western Area Scorpion team (tactical response team) are regular exponents of utilising Stop and Search powers and remain the area leaders in Stop and Search submissions and arrests resulting from stop searches.

### **3.4 South Suffolk**

3.4.1 Stop and search continues to be used to support Operation Volcanic in Ipswich. The overall objective of this operation is to disrupt the various Class A drug dealing businesses in the town. The majority of these are organised by gangs in London utilising young or vulnerable people to deal drugs on their behalf in the Ipswich area. The Drugs team operate on an intelligence led basis, effecting highly targeted stop searches. Stop search activity is focused primarily on the drug dealers.

Staff across South Suffolk brief from the Operation Volcanic Athena briefing document that contains details of individuals who are active with drug dealing and enforcement opportunities are taken on this informed basis.

- 3.4.2 During the reporting period, 88 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to Operation Volcanic. 31(35%) resulted in a strip search. 17 (55%) of the stop and searches were used on those of white ethnicity and 13 (42%) on BME, with ethnicity not stated in 1 (3%) of cases.
- 3.4.3 In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Volcanic, 55 (63%) were Suffolk addresses, 21 (24%) were addresses outside Suffolk and the address had not been stated in 12 (14%) of cases.
- 3.4.4 The NFA rate for Operation Volcanic is 61% (54 out of 88).
- 3.4.5 Operation Volcanic remains a priority for Suffolk Police within the Southern Area. The drugs team and Scorpion team are tasked around intelligence led enforcement, and multi-agency work continues through the Gold Group structure.
- 3.4.6 During the reporting period, the following results have been recorded:
- Cash seized: £39,235
  - Crack/heroin seized: 226g
  - Class A wraps: 1923
- Please note that the above statistics are approximate, as confirmed results are awaited.*
- 3.4.7 Operation Woven is an intervention focusing on preventing younger drug group members from committing crime in the Southern Area over the summer period. It was established during March 2017 which means that there would have been a limited impact on the statistics for the reporting period. However, 15 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to this operation. 4 (26.7%) resulted in a strip search. 9 (60%) of the stop searches were used on those of white ethnicity and 4 (26.7%) on BME with ethnicity not stated in 2 (13.3%) of cases.
- 3.4.8 The age range of those individuals stopped in respect of Operation Woven was between 15 years and 23 years.
- 3.4.9 In respect of the postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Woven, 13 (86.7%) gave Suffolk addresses and the address was not stated in 2 (13.3%) of cases.
- 3.4.10 The NFA rate for Operation Woven is 73.3% (11 of 15).

#### **4 NATIONAL COMPARISON**

- 4.1.1 The latest national stop search data is published to March 2016. In the year ending March 2016 there were 386,474 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales under Section 1 of PACE, a decrease of 28% compared with the previous year.
- 4.1.2 The latest national data are for the financial year 2015/16. This shows Suffolk with the 11th lowest volume of stop and search in the country (from 5th in 2013/14), and 13th lowest rate (from 18<sup>th</sup>) with four searches per 1,000 head of population compared to a national average of seven.
- 4.1.3 Nationally, the proportion of stops and searches involving individuals of black or minority ethnicity was 30% in the twelve months up to March 2016, which represents an increase from 25% in the previous twelve month period, and compares to 20.2% across Suffolk as a whole for Quarter 4 of 2016/2017(table 3, section 2.5.3)<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>4</sup> Home Office Stop and Search collection, October 2016.

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

- 5.1.1 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, HMIC PEEL Inspections and APPGC (in terms of use of stop and search on children and young people) in one standardised format.
- 5.1.2 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 Organisation Board (chaired by Deputy Chief Constables), where the Constabulary's lead for stop and search (ACC Rachel Kearton) is held to account.
- 5.1.3 This plan is also available to members of the public via the Suffolk Constabulary website via the following link:

[http://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/page/downloads/norfolk\\_suffolk\\_stop\\_search\\_action\\_plan\\_v2.pdf](http://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/page/downloads/norfolk_suffolk_stop_search_action_plan_v2.pdf)

## **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

<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	No
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
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