

ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE

PAPER NO. AP19/27

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –
5 JULY 2019**

**SUBJECT: USE OF STOP SEARCH IN SUFFOLK –
1 APRIL 2018 TO 31 MARCH 2019**

SUMMARY:

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve-month period 1 April 2018 to 31 March 2019. There were 1,971 stops during the reporting period.
2. The number of stop and search used by Suffolk officers in the most recent quarter (496) was 1,175 (68%) lower than at the commencement of new Home Office stop and search standards in April 2014.
3. An assessment of the reason for search and the object of the stop show that the majority of stop and searches are associated with drugs. 1275 (65%) of all stop searches have drugs as the reason for the search. 202 (10%) of stop searches were strip searches and of these, 197 (98%) were in relation to drugs.
4. In quarter four of 2018/19, people whose ethnicity was categorised as Black and Ethnic Minority were 3.4 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of White ethnicity. This represents a decrease from 3.8 in quarter four of 2017/18. There have been fluctuations in proportionality over the last 12 months with variations of disproportionality ranging between 3.4 and 5.3.
5. Eight 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 2018 – MARCH 2019

- 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 2018 and 31 March 2019 inclusive.

2. OVERALL TRENDS¹

2.1. Use of stop and search

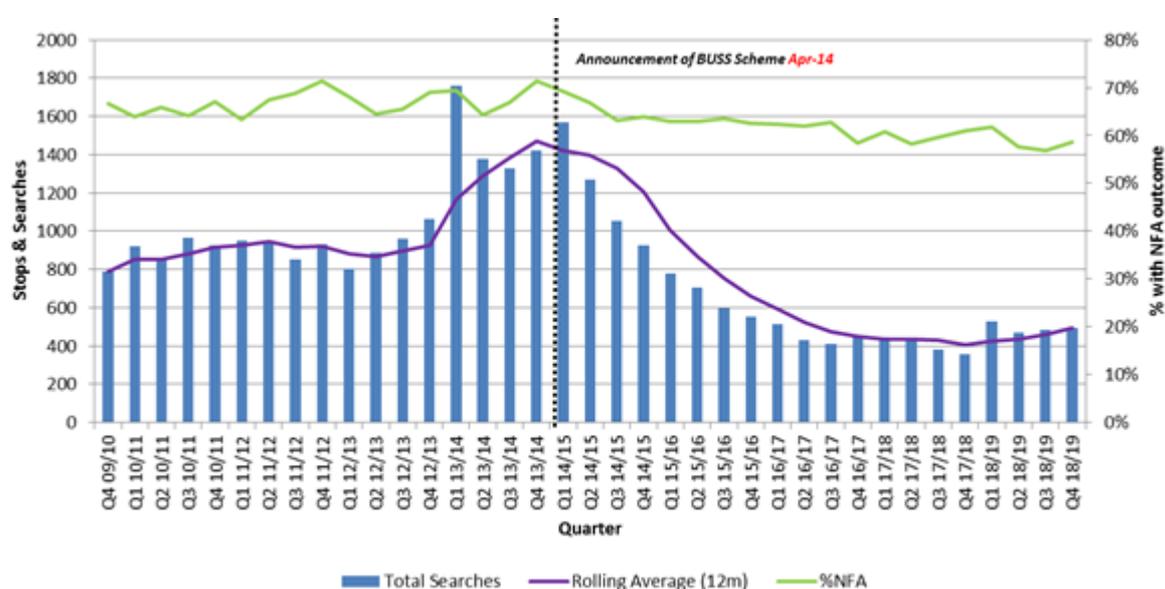


Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

- 2.1.1. Figure 1 displays long term trends in stop and search over time, from Quarter 4 2009/10 to Quarter 4 2018/19. Although there have been fluctuations in the number of stop searches conducted since Q2 2017/18, there is still a consistent downward trend in stop and search since the announcement of the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme.

¹ Rolling average based on a 12-month period

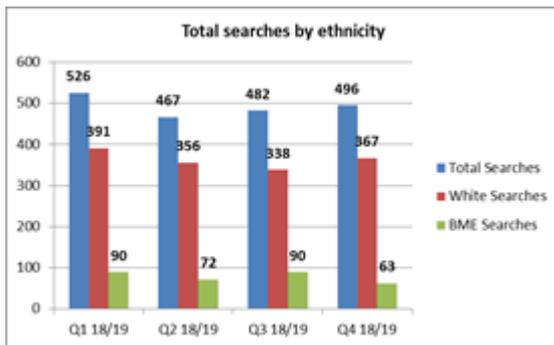


Figure 2: Total searches by ethnicity

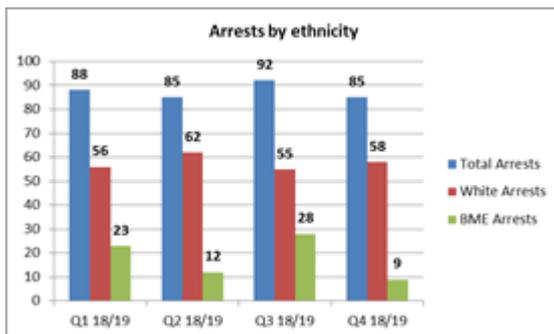


Figure 3: Total arrests by ethnicity (please note that an arrest may not result in a prosecution)

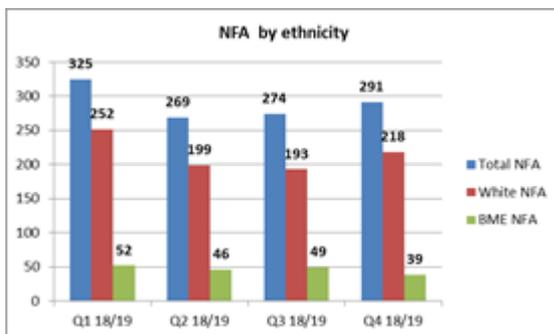


Figure 4: Total NFA by ethnicity

2.1.2. The above three charts (figures 2, 3 & 4) show the Stop and Search trend data for the last 12 months, split by ethnicity. Please note, that in some cases the ethnicity data does not add up to the total number of searches, arrest outcomes and no further action outcomes because on occasions the ethnicity is not stated within the data.

2.1.3. Figure 5 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. In the year that BUSS was introduced there was an average of 400 stop and searches per month; this has now reduced to an average of 163 per month in the last six months of the 2018/19 reporting period. During the last six months the number of stop and searches has fluctuated reaching a peak of 190 in January 2019.

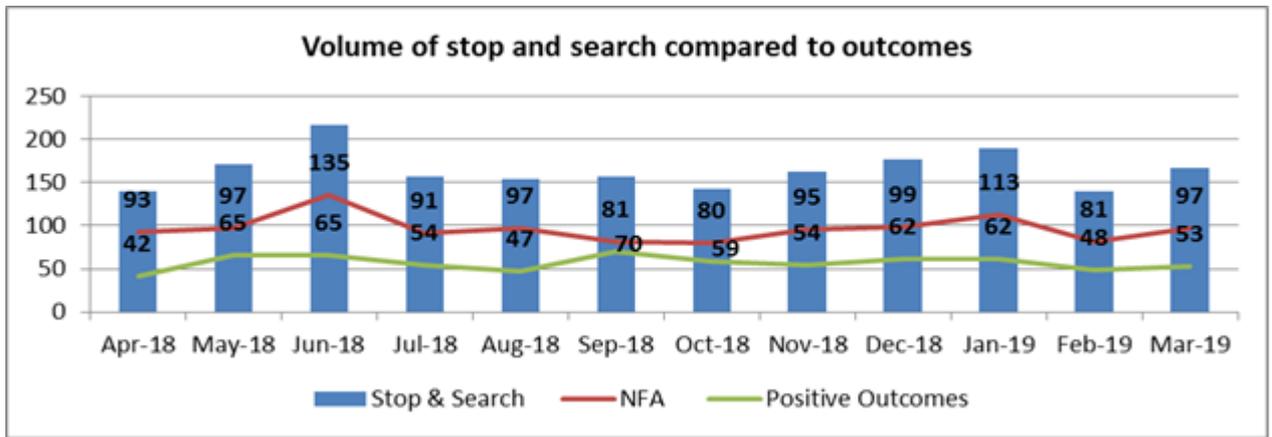


Figure 5: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes April 2018 – March 2019

2.1.4. Between April 2018 and March 2019 the average rate of searches resulting in no further action taken (NFA) was 59%. Although this is an increase of 2% from quarter three, in terms of quarterly statistics, there has been an almost continual decrease in NFA rate since the introduction of BUSS compared to moderate fluctuations prior to April 2014 (ranging between 63% in quarter one of 2011/12 and 71% in quarter four of 2013/2014).

2.2. Object and reason for search

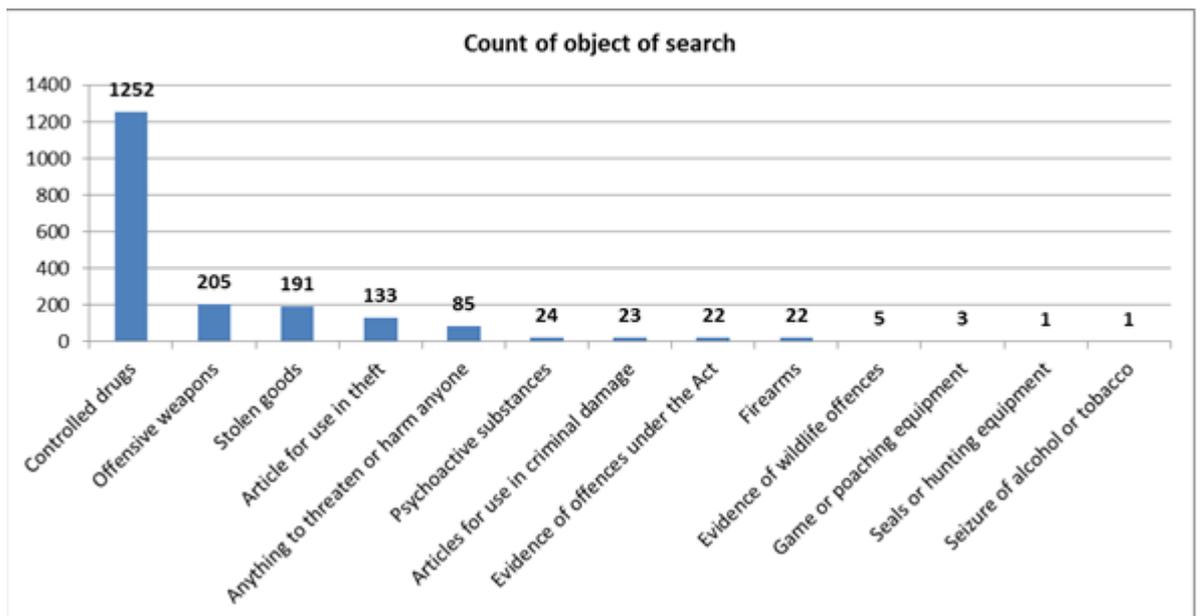


Figure 6: Count of Object of Search

2.2.1. Figure 6 displays the object of stops and searches undertaken in Suffolk, during the reporting period. In the majority of stop searches controlled drugs has been recorded as the object of search. The highest volumes of these searches have taken place in two of the main centres of population in Suffolk – Ipswich and St Edmundsbury districts which is where police intelligence indicates that there is a higher prevalence of drug dealing and usage activity. Drugs related stop and searches in Ipswich (n=407) accounted for 32% of the stop and searches where drugs was recorded as the object of the search, and in St Edmundsbury the percentage was 24% (n=297).

2.2.2. During the reporting period there were 1,275(65%) of stop and searches where the reason for the search was drugs. Analysis of these drugs searches shows that, 678 (53%) were carried out against persons aged under 25 years old. In respect of ethnicity, 206 (16%) of these searches were on those with a BME background, 941(74%) on those of White ethnicity and 128 (10%) were on people for whom the ethnicity is not known/not stated.

2.3. Use of strip search

2.3.1. Between April 2018 and March 2019, there were 202 strip searches, accounting for 10% of all stop and searches in Suffolk which is a decrease of 1% compared to the last report. Figure 7 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 197(98%) 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.

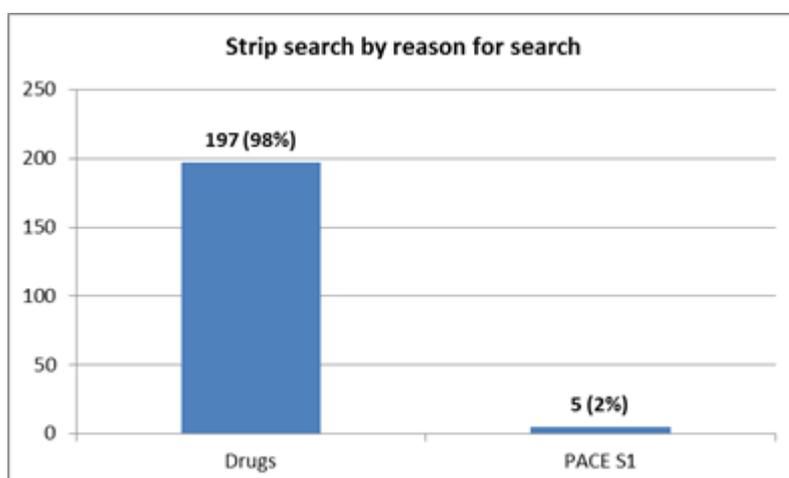


Figure 7: Suffolk strip search by reason for search

2.3.2. During the reporting period, 75 (37%) of all strip searches were undertaken on people of black or minority ethnic (BME) background, 106 (52%) on persons of White (British) ethnicity, with the remainder comprising 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 53(26%) of strip searches, whilst an item(s) not being searched for is/are found in 23 (11%) of strip searches.

Table 1: Strip search by reason and ethnicity

Strip search type	Count	Percentage	White	White %	BME	BME%	Not stated	Not stated %
Drugs	197	97.5%	107	52.8%	72	36.6%	21	10.7%
PACE S1	5	2.5%	2	40.0%	3	60.0%	0	0.0%
Totals	202	100.0%	109	52.5%	75	37.1%	21	10.4%

2.3.3. The above table shows stop search by reason and ethnicity. The first two columns show the count and percentage of stop searches according to the reason for search. The following columns assess the count/percentage according to ethnicity for each of the reasons for stop search, and this part of the table should be read crossways.

2.3.4. During the reporting period, the age category for which there were the most strip searches was 25 years and over for all strip searches irrespective of ethnicity and for those with a White background it was also 25 years and over and for BME subjects it was the 18-24 years age category.

Table 2: Age breakdown and ethnicity of people who were the subject of a strip search

Age category	Count of strip searches	Percentage of total	White count	Percentage of age category	BME count	Percentage of age category	Not stated count	Percentage of age category
10-14 years	2	1.0%	1	50.0%	1	50.0%	0	0.0%
15-17 years	21	10.4%	10	47.6%	9	42.9%	2	9.5%
18-24 years	75	37.1%	35	46.7%	35	46.7%	5	6.7%
25 years and over	98	48.5%	58	59.2%	30	30.6%	10	10.2%
Not known	6	3.0%	2	33.3%	0	0.0%	4	66.7%
Totals	202	100.0%	106	52.5%	75	37.1%	21	10.4%

2.4. Stop and Search Outcomes

Table 3: Suffolk Stop and Search Outcomes

Outcome type	Count	Percentage of outcomes	White Count	Percentage of outcome code	BME count	Percentage of outcome code
Nothing found – No further action	1048	58.8%	862	82.3%	186	17.7%
Suspect arrested	300	17.8%	228	76.0%	72	24.0%
No Category	110	6.6%	91	82.7%	19	17.3%
Offender given drugs possession warning	114	5.9%	101	88.6%	13	11.4%
Article found - Detailed outcome	87	5.0%	82	94.3%	5	5.7%
Local resolution	50	2.7%	44	88.0%	6	12.0%
Suspect summonsed to court	30	1.6%	23	76.7%	7	23.3%
Offender cautioned	16	0.9%	12	75.0%	4	25.0%
Offender given penalty notice	8	0.4%	6	75.0%	2	25.0%
Suspected psychoactive substances seized – No further action	4	0.2%	3	75.0%	1	25.0%
Total	1767	100.0%	1452	82.2%	315	17.0%

2.4.1. When assessing outcome types for subjects from a White background and those from a BME background, the most common outcome for stop and search in Suffolk is 'No Further Action' (NFA), accounting for almost 60% of all outcomes, with a further 6.5% of searches where the outcome is not recorded, as displayed in Table 3. The NFA statistic is broadly consistent with the previous reporting period. However, there has been a slight increase (1%) 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 varies from district to district, ranging from 47.2% in Babergh, to 64.5% in Ipswich. The average percentage of NFA outcomes is 56.7%

2.5. Proportionality in the Use of Stop and Search

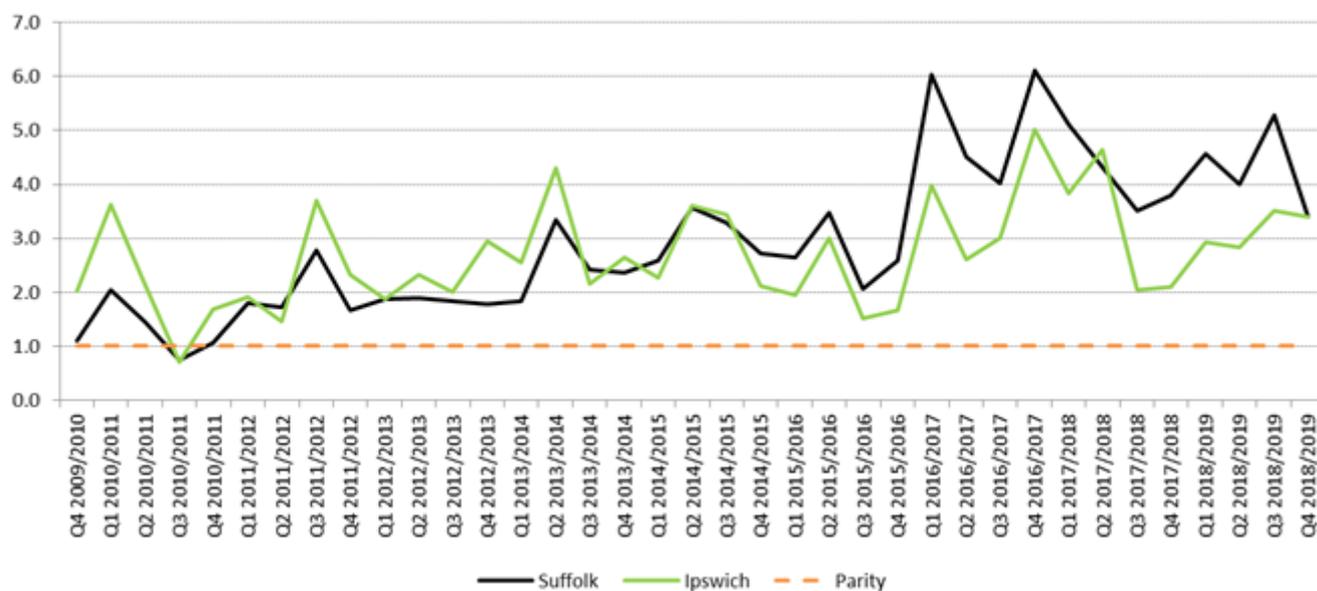


Figure 8: Proportionality in the use of Stop and Search in Suffolk

2.5.1. Figure 8 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 subjected to the use of stop and search compared to White people².

2.5.2. In the last quarter, people whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 3.4 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of White ethnicity when assessing the County as a whole. The statistics for Ipswich show that those whose ethnicity was categorised as BME are also 3.4 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of White ethnicity.

Table 4: Suffolk Stop and Search by district, broken down by White/BME ethnicity

	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 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	408	320	65	15.9%	48	37	10	20.8%	22	17	3	13.6%	98	67	25	25.5%	44	33	6	13.6%	109	94	10	9.2%	28	22	4	14.3%	59	50	7	11.9%
Q4 2016/17	455	327	101	22.2%	37	28	7	18.9%	27	21	6	22.2%	151	88	55	36.4%	44	43	1	2.3%	83	60	18	21.7%	27	20	5	18.5%	86	67	9	10.5%
Q1 2017/18	443	333	86	19.4%	33	27	4	12.1%	28	17	10	35.7%	135	86	41	30.4%	39	33	4	10.3%	136	107	21	15.4%	14	14	0	0.0%	58	49	6	10.3%
Q2 2017/18	438	335	73	16.7%	38	34	4	10.5%	37	30	7	18.9%	107	59	34	31.8%	63	57	3	4.8%	96	69	21	21.9%	40	34	3	7.5%	57	52	1	1.8%
Q3 2017/18	383	310	55	14.4%	27	22	4	14.8%	23	20	1	4.3%	99	75	19	19.2%	39	30	6	15.4%	96	73	19	19.8%	40	38	2	5.0%	59	52	4	6.8%
Q4 2017/18	358	277	53	14.8%	19	16	1	5.3%	42	26	9	21.4%	119	84	22	18.5%	36	34	2	5.6%	68	53	11	16.2%	26	24	2	7.7%	48	40	6	12.5%
Q1 2018/19	526	391	90	17.1%	57	44	5	8.8%	34	31	2	5.9%	159	107	39	24.5%	58	49	5	8.6%	117	87	18	15.4%	61	44	14	23.0%	40	29	7	17.5%
Q2 2018/19	467	356	72	15.4%	33	28	3	9.1%	27	21	5	18.5%	183	116	41	22.4%	37	28	6	16.2%	119	100	14	11.8%	21	20	1	4.8%	47	43	2	4.3%
Q3 2018/19	482	338	90	18.7%	26	15	6	23.1%	24	20	3	12.5%	208	128	56	26.9%	35	22	3	8.6%	104	81	13	12.5%	35	29	4	11.4%	50	43	5	10.0%
Q4 2018/19	496	367	63	12.7%	45	39	2	4.4%	27	25	0	0.0%	186	111	47	25.3%	22	17	1	4.5%	102	83	8	7.8%	56	45	4	7.1%	58	47	1	1.7%

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 last 12 months of district data (quarter by quarter comparisons) shows that from a county perspective the overall number of stop and searches has decreased for White stops in the first three quarters and then increased by almost 9% between quarter three and quarter four of 2018/19 for White stops. The number of BME stops has fluctuated during the year and decreased by 30% between quarter three and quarter four although taking the year as a whole, BME only stop searches have increased by 18% between 2017 and 2018 and White stops have shown an increase of 16%. In terms of the individual districts, there has been a general trend of increasing numbers of people who are the subject of stop and search tactics when comparing 2017 and 2018 statistics. In particular, the total number of stop and searches in Ipswich has increased by 60% between 2017 and 2018.

2.5.4. Furthermore, table 5 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 5, the overall disproportionality value for Suffolk has fluctuated over the last 12 months reaching a peak of 5.3 in quarter three of 2018/19 and reducing to 3.4 in the most recent quarter for which data has been analysed.

² Based on the ethnic breakdown for Suffolk / Ipswich given in the latest census (2011) - ONS

Table 5: Proportionality of Suffolk Stop and Search by district

Quarter	Suffolk		Babergh		Forest Heath		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		St. Edmundsbury		Suffolk Coastal		Waveney	
	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.	% BME	Prop.
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	15.9%	4.0	20.8%	12.2	13.6%	2.0	25.5%	3.0	13.6%	8.3	9.2%	2.6	14.3%	5.0	11.9%	5.9
Q4 2016/17	22.2%	6.1	18.9%	11.3	22.2%	3.2	36.4%	5.0	2.3%	1.0	21.7%	7.3	18.5%	6.9	10.5%	5.7
Q1 2017/18	19.4%	5.1	12.1%	6.7	35.7%	6.7	30.4%	3.8	10.3%	5.6	15.4%	4.8	0.0%	0.0	10.3%	5.2
Q2 2017/18	16.7%	4.3	10.5%	5.3	18.9%	2.6	31.8%	4.6	4.8%	2.4	21.9%	7.4	7.5%	2.4	1.8%	0.8
Q3 2017/18	14.4%	3.5	14.8%	8.2	4.3%	0.6	19.2%	2.0	15.4%	9.2	19.8%	6.3	5.0%	1.5	6.8%	3.2
Q4 2017/18	14.8%	3.8	5.3%	2.8	21.4%	3.9	18.5%	2.1	5.6%	2.7	16.2%	5.0	7.7%	2.3	12.5%	6.3
Q1 2018/19	17.1%	4.6	8.8%	5.1	5.9%	0.7	24.5%	2.9	8.6%	4.7	15.4%	5.0	23.0%	8.8	17.5%	10.2
Q2 2018/19	15.4%	4.0	9.1%	4.9	18.5%	2.7	22.4%	2.8	16.2%	9.8	11.8%	3.4	4.8%	1.4	4.3%	2.0
Q3 2018/19	18.7%	5.3	23.1%	18.1	12.5%	1.7	26.9%	3.5	8.6%	6.3	12.5%	3.9	11.4%	3.8	10.0%	4.9
Q4 2018/19	12.7%	3.4	4.4%	2.3	0.0%	0.0	25.3%	3.4	4.5%	2.7	7.8%	2.3	7.1%	2.5	1.7%	0.9

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 2018 and March 2019, there was a total of 1,971 stop and searches – 1,461 were on Suffolk residents, 243 on individuals who are resident outside Suffolk and 267 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 6.

Table 6: Suffolk stop and search broken down by postal address

	Total	White	BME	Ethnicity not stated	BME as percentage of total	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	1461	1144	198	119	13.55%	3.43
Postal address outside Suffolk	243	137	86	20	35.39%	12.44
Postal address not given	267	171	31	65	11.61%	3.59
Total	1971	1452	315	204		

2.5.6. Table 6 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons who are 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.

Table 7: South Suffolk (Ipswich) stop and search broken down by postal address

	Total	White	BME	Ethnicity not stated	BME as percentage of total	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	564	369	133	62	23.58%	2.89
Postal address outside Suffolk	64	24	33	7	51.56%	11.03
Postal address not given	108	69	17	22	15.74%	1.98
Total	736	462	183	91		

2.5.7. As in Table 6, the data in Table 7 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons who are resident outside Suffolk has on overall figures. Table 7 is an assessment of stop and searches in South Suffolk (Ipswich). In line with County statistics, the use of stop and search remains disproportionate when analysing this sub-sample, but not as disproportionate.

2.6. Community Satisfaction/Quality of Service

Table 8: Responses to the question: Did you understand the reason for being searched?

	Total	Male	Female	Asian	Black	Mixed	Chinese/Other	White
Didn't Answer	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
No	17%	17%	13%	6%	11%	10%	22%	14%
Yes	83%	83%	87%	94%	89%	90%	78%	86%

2.6.1. Table 8 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 (83%) with 17% of respondents indicating that they did not understand why they were searched.

Table 9: Responses to the question: Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?

	Total	Male	Female	Asian	Black	Mixed	Chinese/Other	White
Didn't Answer	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%	0%
No	19%	19%	14%	4%	15%	14%	28%	16%
Yes	81%	81%	86%	96%	85%	86%	72%	84%

2.6.2. Table 9 displays responses to the question 'Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?' Responses are similar to the previous question, with 81% of respondents answering that they did and 19% saying they did not.

2.6.3. In terms of public satisfaction, it can be seen that just over eight out of ten stop search subjects were satisfied with the way in which they were treated by officers. Although the most dissatisfaction was experienced by those subjects from a Chinese/Other ethnic background, this equated to ten negative responses.

3. THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION HAS BEEN PROVIDED BY ISCRE ON THEIR WORK TO ADMINISTER THE STOP AND SEARCH REFERENCE GROUP (SSRG)

3.1. The 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.

3.2. The aim of the SSRG is to build a sustainable relationship between members of the community and Suffolk Police by improving community confidence in the use of stop and search. The Group does this through robust public scrutiny that stop and search is used fairly, justly and lawfully by the Constabulary.

3.3. We facilitate SSRG in order to build trust and confidence in the use of stop and search powers. The group provides people from BAME communities and others with a safe space and a neutral platform to share their experiences whilst challenging unfairness in order to reduce disproportionality in the use of the policing tool.

3.4. We held community led SSRG meetings at our Ipswich offices, on the following dates attended by members of the public, ISCRE and the police representatives:

- 30th January 2019
- 27th March 2019
- 29th May 2019

3.5. The September 2019 meeting is being planned for Lowestoft with other future meetings to be held in Stowmarket and Bury St Edmunds.

- 3.6 We use a random dip sampling method to identify stop and search forms that we will review from across the whole county. We randomly pick out 33% of all the BAME forms, 33% of White Other, 10% of White British and 33% of the unstated forms. We use the self-defined ethnicity codes to do this. It is agreed that this sampling method will provide a representative picture of any trends pertaining around Suffolk in the use of stop and search.
- 3.7 Over the period we selected and audited the following stop and search forms:
- 56 BAME forms
 - 53 White British forms
 - 42 White Other forms
 - 26 unstated forms
- 3.8 Whilst the issues vary, most searches are for drugs and a significant number of the searches result in no further action.
- 3.9 Members of the community who attend the SSRG are generally happy with the independence of the group, the participation and openness of the police, the robustness of the challenge. They also find it pleasing that recommendations are taken on board and some go on to inform stop and search training.
- 3.9 There is concern that stop and search continues to be used disproportionately against people from BAME backgrounds and that signs of implicit bias can still be seen on some of the forms on the grounds used to stop people from those backgrounds. There have been improvements over the years but use of discredited grounds like ‘smell of cannabis’, ‘known to the police’, ‘in an area known for drug dealing’ still crop up now and then. More recently, reference (without seemingly any justification) for the perceived nationality/ethnicity of Romanians has been noted in three forms and concerns about implicit bias raised in the group towards that community.
- 3.10 More positively we are seeing an improvement in the legality of the grounds and the introduction onto the spreadsheet of supervisors written comments is demonstrating that recent training of them has resulted in them picking up similar concerns to ones we have expressed previously.
- 3.11 The group has highlighted to the constabulary the need for up-to-date and consistent performance information to be available on the police website for the public to see. There is also inconsistency in the information on the Suffolk Police, www.police.uk and other independent sites like StopWatch UK and on national reports such as The Colour of Injustice.
- 3.12 The group has begun scrutinising body-worn video footage as part of its public scrutiny role. We were pleased with the arrangement agreed. It is envisaged that this will give a better perspective of the circumstances surrounding the decisions the police make, and the group will be able to give better informed advice.
- 3.13 We organised a successful Pause, Rewind Conference on 1st March 2019 to review 10 years of the work of the SSRG and explore opportunities to improve. The conference was well attended by members of the community, public bodies, schools and colleges and the police. Speakers included DCC Rachel Kearton, representatives from StopWatch UK and the London School of Economics, ISCRE and Franstine Jones from the National Black Police Association. Videos from the conference are available here: <http://www.iscre.org.uk/media-downloads/videos/>
- 3.14 We note that attendance at the SSRG since the conference has increased noticeably with the new participants influenced by attending that conference.
- 3.15 In March, ISCRE Director Audrey Ludwig did a workshop about the role of the SSRG to staff at the Independent Office for Police Conduct in Canary Wharf.

4 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

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

4.2 East Suffolk

- 4.2.1 Operation Theodore had been running up until March 2019 focusing on drug related crime in the Leiston area. The majority of the proactive work completed in the area was undertaken by the Scorpion team. Individuals believed to be involved in the supply of Class A drugs were targeted and the use of stop and search formed a significant part of the tactics used. This operation has now been decommissioned following various successful prosecutions. The impact of using stop and search leading to police arrests and ultimately criminal charges had had a really positive impact on the local community.
- 4.2.2 The positive use of stop and search has helped to ensure that criminal groups outside the county have not been allowed to establish a secure foothold within the area. This has meant that criminal networks have been disrupted making the area unattractive for criminal drugs gangs to operate in.
- 4.2.3 Uniformed patrol officers have also used stop and search in a positive way, acting on intelligence which has resulted in individuals and vehicles have being searched.
- 4.2.4 Officers from the Safer Neighbourhood Teams (SNT) support the Scorpion teams with days of action. This team work is showing an increase in the number of stop and searches across the teams as well as increasing the confidence of younger in-service officers who are keen to be more proactive.
- 4.2.5 Many positive results can be attributed to the Neighbourhood Response Teams (NRT) using stop and search to positively identify suspects involved in recent theft from motor vehicle offences and dwelling burglary offences to name but a few.

4.3 West Suffolk

- 4.3.1 Stop search remains a positive policing tool in West Suffolk, with officers encouraged to use it lawfully and proactively, particularly in respect of County Lines drug dealing, knife crime, and acquisitive crime such as burglary. The emphasis for Western Area intelligence officers is to develop accurate and current intelligence, thereby providing operational officers with the best possible information allowing them to use stop search effectively and maximising the likelihood of a positive search.
- 4.3.2 Stop search has been used to very positive effect in respect of County Lines, and examples include:
 - 4.3.3 In January 2019 in Sudbury, officers stop checked a vehicle for which there was current intelligence linked to County Lines drug dealing. A search of the driver revealed £1300 cash, whilst a vehicle search identified five deals of crack cocaine and a potentially stolen Rolex wrist watch. Having failed a drugs wipe the driver was arrested for money laundering, being concerned in Supply of Class A drugs and drug driving. The passenger was arrested for being concerned in supply of Class A drugs. Stop searches and arrest achieved asset seizure/financial disruption/increased perception of risk to drug dealing associates.
 - 4.3.4 In February 2019, Bury St Edmunds Response Officers noted a vehicle which had recently been circulated via the local intelligence unit as being of interest. Officers stopped the vehicle and spoke with the occupants, all of whom it transpired were heavily linked via recent intelligence to County Lines drug dealing. A search of the vehicle and occupants resulted in seizure of £1,500 cash, a quantity of Class A and Class B drugs and multiple mobile phones. All three occupants were arrested on suspicion of being concerned in the supply of Class A drugs and the driver arrested for drug driving. Further Section 18 searches of home addresses resulted in the seizure of ammunition. Within the custody environment one detainee was found to have been secreting further Class A drugs within a body orifice.

- 4.3.5 Use of stop search of persons and vehicles has a significant contribution to the West's overall effectiveness when it comes to disrupting County Lines drug dealing activity.
- 4.3.6 Following national publicity in respect of knife crime, in West Suffolk there has been an increased focus on the targeted use of stop and search specifically in relation to knife crime. Whilst West Suffolk remains a very safe place to work and live, incidents of knife crime do occur, and hence a decision has been taken to focus the need for intelligence products and use of stop search in this area of policing.
- 4.3.7 In March 2019, intelligence was received relating to a male suspected to be dealing drugs and believed to be in possession of an edged weapon. Officers on patrol spotted the male in a public place and, having engaged with him, decided to employ their use of stop search. As a result, a quantity of cannabis was seized, as well as two knuckle dusters and a folding credit card knife. The male was subsequently arrested, and a S18 search conducted of his home address resulting in numerous knuckle dusters and knives being seized.

4.4 **South Suffolk**

- 4.4.1 The effective and legitimate use of stop and search is being actively used within the Southern Area's high crime areas to detect, prevent and disrupt knife crime, robbery and drugs. Intelligence, crime mapping, Ipswich Borough Council Drug Litter find data and community feedback is used to identify and prioritise key areas.
- 4.4.2 During the reporting period, one Section 60 authority was put in place in the Ipswich area. This was in June 2018 following the murder of Tavis Spencer Aitken. Twenty five stop and searches were completed, with nine positive outcomes under the Section 60 between 4 June 2018 and 6 June 2018.
- 4.4.3 During the summer months of 2018 under the banner of Operation Parkland officers conducted targeted patrols in particular hot-spot locations where members of the public had reported various incidents of unacceptable behaviour. Officers conducted dedicated patrols, arresting suspects, engaging with members of the local community, including victims of ASB and offenders and their families and issuing warning letters. Plans are being formulated for 2019.
- 4.4.4 Operation Sceptre is a national week of action to tackle knife crime and was run in September 2018 and March 2019. The operation includes a number of tactics which forces can utilise, choosing those that best fit the local crime profile and needs. During the weeks of action, Suffolk focussed on stop and search, weapons sweeps, intelligence led action against individuals identified as being involved with knife related incidents and serious violence offences. Suffolk is also continuing to work with partners to deliver educational work within schools and colleges.

4.5 **Operation Velocity**

- 4.5.1 Operation Velocity is an initiative focussing on all drugs use/supply in Suffolk. During the reporting period, 107 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to these operations with Ipswich and St Edmundsbury districts each recording 38 stops which equated to 72% of the overall stop and searches attributed to Operation Velocity. In St Edmundsbury the number of stops on subjects from a White background was 24 compared to 10 for those from a BME background. In Ipswich 19 stops were on those from a White background and 16 stops were for people from a BME background.
- 4.5.2 The countywide statistics are shown in the table below:-

Table 10: Countywide comparisons for Operation Velocit.

District	Number of stops	Number of BME stops	Number of White stops	Strip searches	NFA outcome	Address in Suffolk	Address out of Suffolk
Babergh	3 (3%)	1 (33%)	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	1 (33%)	2 (67%)	1 (33%)
Forest Heath	9 (8%)	1 (11%)	8 (89%)	6 (67%)	7 (78%)	7 (78%)	1 (11%)
Ipswich	38 (36%)	16 (42%)	19 (50%)	15 (39%)	22 (58%)	18 (47%)	13 (34%)
Mid Suffolk	4 (4%)	0 (0%)	2 (50%)	2 (50%)	3 (75%)	3 (75%)	0 (0%)
St. Edmundsbury	38 (36%)	10 (26%)	24 (63%)	21 (55%)	20 (53%)	21 (55%)	6 (16%)
Suffolk Coastal	3 (3%)	0 (0%)	2 (67%)	1 (33%)	2 (67%)	3 (100%)	0 (0%)
Waveney	12 (11%)	1 (8%)	11 (92%)	4 (33%)	5 (42%)	9 (75%)	2 (17%)
Total	107 (100%)	29 (27%)	68 (64%)	50 (47%)	60 (56%)	63 (59%)	23 (21%)

4.5.3 In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Velocity, 63 (59%) were Suffolk addresses, 23 (21%) were addresses outside Suffolk and the address had not been stated in 21 (20%) of cases.

4.5.4 The NFA rate for Operation Velocity is 56% (n=60).

4.6 Ride-Along Scheme

4.6.1 The Suffolk Constabulary Ride-Along Scheme currently provides officers and staff the means to facilitate lay observation of policing duties. This was introduced following the adoption of the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSS) and later expanded to afford the opportunity to observe other policing duties. Currently the scheme is in its initial phase, in order to establish the demand and impact it is likely to have on resourcing, what technology is required to facilitate applications and the feedback process. During this period persons taking part on the scheme are by internal referral only. This means that officers and staff identify individuals who may benefit or contribute through lay observation. These are largely through community groups, partner engagement, recruitment and scrutiny processes. The long-term aim of the scheme is to improve public confidence and transparency of policing in Suffolk, by becoming a public facing scheme in which members of the public will be able to directly apply to take part.

4.6.2 During the reporting period, one stop and search was observed as part of the Ride-Along Scheme.

5 NATIONAL COMPARISON

5.1 The latest national stop search data is published to March 2018³. In the year ending March 2018 there were 279,598 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales including the British Transport Police under section 1 of PACE, a fall of 8% compared with the previous year. For the same period of time in Suffolk (April 2017 to March 2018) there was a reduction in all stops of 10%. Between the year ending March 2018 and the year ending March 2019 the number of stops increased from 1622 to 1971 (21.5%) in Suffolk. National data for this reporting period will not be published until October 2019.

5.2 The latest national data are for the financial year 2017/2018. This data shows that Suffolk conducted up to 2 stops per 1,000 of population compared to 3 stops per 1,000 of population in the previous financial year. In England and Wales there were 5 searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2018.

5.3 In the year ending 31st March 2018, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups (Black, Mixed Race, Asian and minority ethnic) were 4 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. The difference between the two groups narrowed to twice as likely between the years ending March 2013 and 2015, rising to 3 times as likely in the year ending March 2016 and rising again to just over 3 and a half times as likely in the year ending March 2017. This is likely to be because, as mentioned above, searches have fallen more amongst the White group than among BME groups in the latest year driving the disparity rate.

5.4 A similar pattern was seen for the Black Ethnic Group (a subset of BME covering Black, Black African, Black Caribbean and other Black backgrounds) which fell from 6 times as likely to just

³ Police Powers and Procedures England and Wales Year Ending 31 March 2018

over 4 times as likely between the years ending March 2012 and 2015, before rising to 6 and a half times as likely in the year ending March 2016 and rising again to over 8 times as likely in the year ending March 2017. In the year ending March 2018, the rate has risen again, with those who considered themselves to be Black 9 and a half times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White.

- 5.5 In Suffolk, for the year ending 31st March 2019, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just over 4 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. This is consistent with data for the year ending 31st March 2018 which showed that those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just over 4 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. These statistics show a slight improvement in disproportionality in Suffolk as at the end of the year ending March 2017 those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just over 5 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be from a White background. A decrease in disproportionality is usually evidenced when the number of searches falls more amongst BME groups than among the White group between time periods being compared.

6 BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH (BUSS/HMIC 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, HMIC 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 BME and Age. This report is for quarter four, 2018-2019 and analyses data from 1 April 2018 to 31 March /2019.

7 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

8 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS

- 8.1 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?	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