

**ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**PAPER NO: AP24/05**

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –  
19 JANUARY 2024**

**SUBJECT: USE OF POLICE POWERS IN SUFFOLK –  
1 OCTOBER 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

**SUMMARY:**

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search, use of force and taser usage for the 12-month period 1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023. During the reporting period there were 3,268 stop searches, 6,191 reported instances of use of force and within this 299 Conducted Energy Device (Taser) usages.
2. There was a decrease of 19.2% in overall volume of stop searches when compared with the previous reporting period (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023). The average rate of searches resulting in No Further Action (NFA) was 58.7% (reduced from 61.2% previously), the positive outcome rate was 41.2% (up from 37.9%) and the arrest rate was 22.5% (up from 20.4%).
3. The highest rate of positive outcomes was within the Asian ethnicity group (54.2%), and the lowest was within the Not Stated ethnicity group (36.3%). In the White ethnicity group the rate was 42.9%, in the Mixed ethnicity group it was 40.0%, in the Black ethnicity group it was 38.2% and Other ethnicity 37.7%. Positive outcome rates increased for all ethnicity groups except Not Stated when compared with previous reporting period. Arrest rates were highest amongst the Asian ethnicity group (29.2%) and lowest in the Other ethnicity group (20.3%). Arrest rates increased for all ethnicity groups when compared with previous reporting period.
4. 712 subjects of stop and search were under 18, accounting for 21.8% of stop searches in the current reporting period. 72.1% (513) of under 18s were within the 15-17 age group.
5. 83.1% (2,717) of subjects of stop and search in the current reporting period were male. 14.3% (468) were female and 0.2% (6) were Other. Gender was not recorded in the remaining 2.4%.
6. An assessment of the reason for search shows that the majority of stop and searches were associated with drugs. 2,035 stop searches (62.3%) had controlled drugs as the reason for the search. Offensive weapons were the next highest reason for searches at 14.2% (464). This is an increase in percentage for both types of searches since the last reporting period (an increase of 0.3p.p for drugs and 2.3p.p for offensive weapons).

7. 190 strip searches (5.8%) were strip searches – a reduction from 259 conducted in the previous reporting period. Of these 190 strip searches, 184 (96.8%) were in relation to controlled drugs.
8. 23 strip searches (12.1%) were undertaken on Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals, 146 (76.8%) were undertaken on persons of white ethnicity, with the remainder (11.1%) undertaken on people who have declined to define or have misunderstood the reason for providing their ethnicity.
9. 159 strip searches (93.7%) were conducted on males, and 31 (16.3%) on females. 15 strip searches (7.9%) were carried out on subjects aged under 18.
10. The item(s) being searched for were found in 69 strip searches (36.3%), whilst additional items not being searched for were found in 19 strip searches (10.0%). Overall, 44.2% of strip searches resulted in an item being found (whether searched for or not).
11. The report provides analysis on the use of force where 6,191 reported instances were recorded in the current reporting period. This is an increase of just one event compared with the 12 months ending 31 March 2023.
12. Over the 12-month reporting period Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage (“usage” meaning – Drawn, Aim, Red-dot, Arc or Fire) totalled 299, with an average of 25 usages a month. 89.1% of the subjects where a C.E.D was used were of white ethnicity, 10.9% were Black and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals.
13. 5.9% of all usages resulted in the C.E.D being fired and therefore 94.1% of usages resulted in the device not being fired. 40.1% of usages resulted in the red dot being used on the target and 44.1% involved the device being drawn by the officer.
14. In November 2022 the force began to record data from vehicle stops under Section 163 of the Road Traffic Act. A peak was recorded in December 2022, with reduced levels since then. Over the 12 months October 2022 to September 2023, 2,193 vehicle stops have been recorded under Section 163. This will be developed over the coming months pending direction from the Home Office.

**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 2022 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2023**

- 1.1. "Police Powers" is the nationally recognised terminology. This report discusses some of these Police Powers including Stop & Search, Taser and Use of Force.
- 1.2. It is monitored through Joint Norfolk and Suffolk Use of Police Powers Board which is a quarterly meeting looking at areas of disproportionality, and where necessary Police complaints. This allows for additional scrutiny and early identification of issues. It is also the overarching board to manage 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).
- 1.3. A new Terms of Reference for the Joint Use Of Police Powers Board has now been agreed.
- 1.4. This report supports the Police and Crime Plan commitment in that the Constabulary will:
  - Ensure ethics, integrity and appropriate professional standards in the way it delivers policing (including transparency regarding its use of coercive powers including stop and search).
- 1.5. This report will predominantly focus on the use of stop and search and provide some detail around Use of Force and Taser. More detail will continue to be incorporated into future reporting.
- 1.6. Within the 2023-25 HMICFRS PEEL inspection Suffolk received a grading of "Good" for its use of Police Powers and Treating the Public Fairly And Respectfully.
- 1.7. Suffolk Constabulary are currently working with the Ipswich & Suffolk Council For Racial Equality (ISCRE) on a new proposal for Community Scrutiny for Police Powers to cover a broader range of themes rather than just Stop & Search and this forms part of a HMICFRS recommendation.
- 1.8. STOP & SEARCH
  - The HMICFRS PEEL report recognised the long-standing partnership with the Ipswich and Suffolk Council for Racial Equality (ISCRE) and recorded a strong external, independent stop and search scrutiny and challenge process.
  - The PEEL inspection also references the Annual Audit of Recorded Grounds where Suffolk remains one of the highest performers for this year's audit at 95.2.
  - A new national Chief Officer Lead for Stop & Search has now identified as Assistant Chief Constable Andy Mariner (Essex Police).
  - A new Regional Strategic Stop & Search Meeting has been created, chaired by Assistant Chief Constable Eamonn Bridger which will feed into a new National meeting.
  - Suffolk Constabulary is one of a small number of well performing forces invited to participate in a National Delivery Group which will aid in developing a consistent approach to Stop & Search nationally and review initiatives to help inform the future changes to Stop & Search Authorised Professional Practice.
  - Suffolk Constabulary has been selected to pilot a College of Policing funded, research opportunity examining disproportionality with initial discussions taking place over the next few months.

- The Stop and Search Reference Group (SSRG) continues to engage with young people with recent events held at educational premises.
- Work is continuing to modernise the SSRG to broaden scope to cover Use of Force, Taser and other areas of Police Powers. A proposal has been drafted and currently being scoped. This forms part of a national His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) recommendation for all forces.
- The introduction of the Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) means that all Body Worn Video, relating to Stop & Search, will be retained for a minimum period of 3 months, in-line with entitlements for copies of a Stop & Search Form. This will aid in the resolution of Police complaints but also aids in the scrutiny of BWV through the Pre-SSRG BWV meeting.
- All frontline Officers will have completed a new Stop & Search Training package by the end of 2023 focusing on key learning over the last few years associated with scrutiny work.

1.9. As of autumn 2023, OPTIK is now the only method of recording Stop & Search. This will ensure a consistent approach and make best use of the functionality that OPTIK has available.

1.10. Changes to the Stop & Search module, that were originally due in the Summer 2023, will now take place in 2024. This delay is due to the amount of change required across multiple themes within the OPTIK software, and subject to prioritisation. Whilst the changes make the process for Stop & Search simpler, the delay will not impact performance.

1.11. The implementation of the SEE, KNOW, SUSPECT model in January 2023 has significantly improved Recorded Grounds and this has seen an increase in the quality of the information supplied to the Stop & Search Reference Group.

#### 1.12. Use of Force

- In January 2023 the Constabulary deployed a new combined recording form for Use of Force, Accident/Injury reporting and recording of Op Hampshire incidents, known as the Assaults, Force and Incident (AFI) form.
- A new Policy to underpin the use of this reporting system is currently in development and planned to be consulted upon early 2024.
- Data obtained through this form is already contributing to operational learning and feeding into current and future training requirements.
- The in-house form was recognised in summer 2023 as being an “innovative” solution by the Eastern Region Innovation Network, who look at initiatives that can be shared across forces.

#### 1.13. Taser

- All incidents (100%) where Taser has been utilised are reviewed and scrutinised by the Lead Taser Instructor.
- This includes where a Taser has been “Drawn”, “Aimed”, “Red-Dotted” and “Fired”.

- A full review of Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies Taser Capability began in June 2022, following new national licencing requirements, and this includes better scrutiny and accountability.
- This review was subject of a full Business Case earlier this year. This review is now moving to an implementation phase to be delivered by April 2024 and currently recruiting now Officers as part of the new training structure.

#### 1.14. Section 163 Road Traffic Act

- Currently all forces are awaiting direction from the Home Office on the data sets that are likely to be required under an Annual Data Requirement
- It was expected to be mandatory by April 2024 however delays are likely to see this pushed back.
- Section 163 already exists within OPTIK and from November 2023 the Constabulary will have a years' worth of performance data
- This will be developed further over the coming months in preparation for the national requirements.
- Internal work is underway to reduce duplication across enforcement activity.
- Whilst data is reported on work will continue to understand how best to use this data in combination with scrutiny work.

## 2. OVERALL TRENDS - STOP AND SEARCH

### 2.1. Use of stop and search

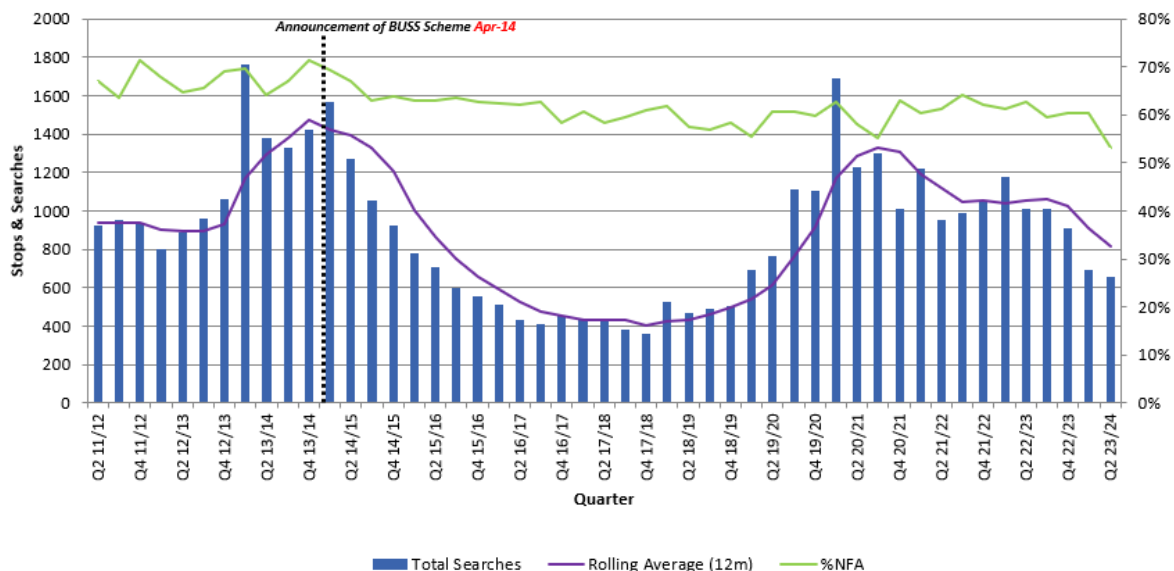


Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

2.1.1. Figure 1 displays long-term trends in stop and search over time, from Q2 2011/12 to Q2 2023/24. There has been a general downward trend in volume since the peak from the time of pandemic restrictions in 2020. The rolling 12-monthly totals are now lower than those reported

before 2020 (12 months ending Q2 23/24 shows a reduction of 11% compared with the 12 months ending Q4 2019/20).

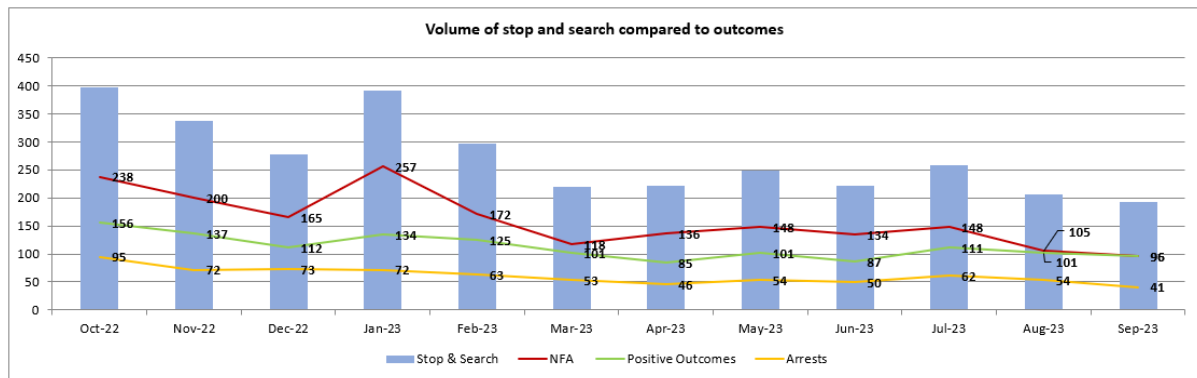


Figure 2: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes 01/10/2022 – 30/09/2023

2.1.2. 3,268 stop searches took place in the current reporting period (01/10/2022 – 30/09/2023). 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. This shows a fluctuating trend in volume, with peaks in October 2022 and January 2023. There was a decrease of 19% in overall volume over the last twelve months compared with the previous reporting period (01/04/2022 – 31/03/2023).

2.1.3. In the current reporting period, the average rate of searches resulting in NFA was 58.7%, the positive outcome rate was 41.2% and the arrest rate was 22.5%. ‘Positive outcomes’ refers to all outcomes that are not NFA or No Category. The NFA rate in Suffolk has decreased by 2.5p.p since the last reporting period. The positive outcome rate has increased by 3.3p.p since the last reporting period, and there has been an increase in arrest rate by 2.1p.p since the last reporting period. “No Category” (blank) outcomes decreased to 0.2% in this current reporting period.

2.1.4. The positive outcome rate for white subjects was 42.9% compared with 40.7% for Black and Minority Ethnic groups (BAME). For subjects where ethnicity was not stated/declined, the positive outcome rate was 36.3%. Within the positive outcomes, the arrest rate for white subjects was 22.6% compared with 25.3% for BAME groups. The NFA rate for white subjects was 56.9% and for BAME groups it was 59.0%.

2.1.5. Following discussion at the SSRG, the Constabulary is now looking at handcuffing data. At present, this is not a complete dataset but is available for around 97% of stop and search records. This data shows that handcuffs were used in 55% of all stop searches, reducing to 53% when subjects residing outside Suffolk were excluded.

2.2. Proportionality - Ethnicity

Ethnicity	Population*
Asian	17,485
Black	10,168
Mixed	17,810
Other	6,959
White	708,272

Table 1: Suffolk population by ethnicity  
\* As per 2021 Census, ONS

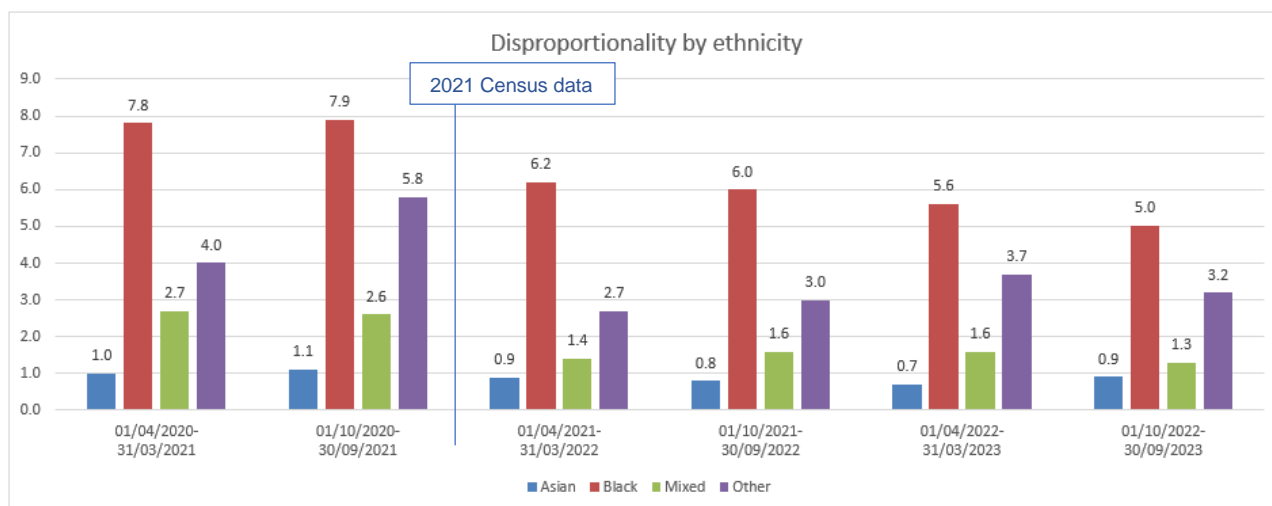


Figure 3: BAME disproportionality by reporting period, 01/04/2020 – 30/09/2023

2.2.1. Figure 3 displays the disproportionality by each ethnicity in the current reporting period, compared with the previous five reporting periods using specific ethnicity groups. As a guide, if the proportionality figure is equal to one, it equates to parity – or that a person of that ethnicity has an equal likelihood of being subject to a stop and search as a person of white ethnicity. Where the figure is greater than one, this indicates that the likelihood increases and becomes disproportionate for a person of that ethnicity. In the current reporting period, BAME individuals were 2.2 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than their white counterparts. This is a reduction from a value of 2.4 which was recorded in the previous reporting period.

2.2.2. Updated population data from the 2021 Census has been used to calculate disproportionality from 01/04/2021 onwards. Figure 3 shows that rates of disproportionality were less in each ethnicity group when the updated population data was used.

2.2.3. Since the last reporting period, there has been a reduction in disproportionality within the Black ethnicity group, the Mixed ethnicity group, and the Other ethnicity group<sup>1</sup>. Levels of disproportionality for the Asian ethnicity group have been consistently close to or below parity throughout the time frame of Figure 3.

2.2.4. 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, 10.4% (340) of persons subject to stop and search were not Suffolk residents and 24.0% (783) did not have an address recorded. The rate of subjects residing outside of Suffolk was most prominent within the Asian ethnicity groups; 16.7% of subjects from Asian ethnicity groups who were stopped and searched recorded a home address outside of Suffolk compared with 15.9% of subjects from Black ethnicity groups, 15.9% of subjects from Other groups, 10.8% of subjects from White ethnicity groups and 8.6% of subjects from Mixed ethnicity groups. When subjects with addresses outside of the county are excluded, disproportionality decreases for every ethnicity.

<sup>1</sup> The list of self-defined ethnicity groups used by the Home Office can be found here: [self-defined-ethnicity-18plus1.pdf \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#) 'Other' includes Arab and Any other

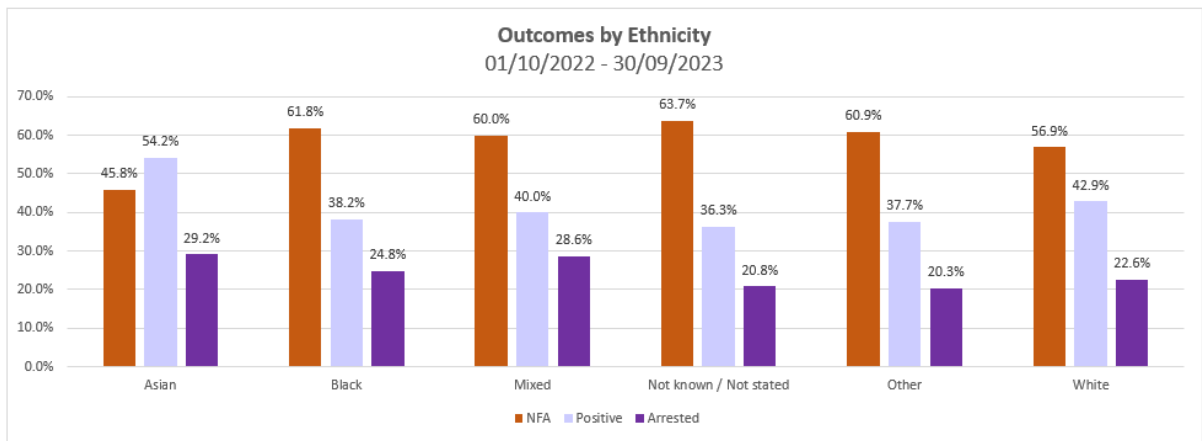


Figure 4: NFA, positive and arrest outcomes by ethnicity 01/10/2022 – 30/09/2023

2.2.5. Figure 4 shows the rate of NFA outcomes, positive outcomes, and arrests in the current reporting period, split by ethnicity.

2.2.6. The highest rate of positive outcomes is within the Asian ethnicity group. Arrest rates are also highest within the Asian ethnicity group. The highest rate of NFA outcomes is within the group that did not state/declined to provide ethnicity (63.7%). In cases where the self-defined ethnicity of the person searched was not stated, officer-observed ethnicity can be used as a replacement, for analytical purposes. Self-defined ethnicity is the preferred method to use, however, owing to the not stated group having the highest NFA rate, the addition of officer-observed ethnicity for this group has been analysed for comparison. When using this alternative method, the NFA rate increases for all ethnicity groups (except for Not known/Not stated): the highest rate is now found in the Black ethnicity group (64.1%), followed by Other (62.3%), Mixed (61.1%), White (58.5%), and Asian (51.6%).

District	BAME Population*	Stop search count	BAME stop search count
Babergh	3,073	249	16
West Suffolk	14,792	727	47
Ipswich	21,886	1,409	238
Mid Suffolk	3,238	150	7
East Suffolk	9,433	696	32
Suffolk Total	52,422	3,231	340

Table 2: Suffolk BAME population and total number of stop & search by district

\* As per 2021 Census, ONS

2.2.7. Suffolk is split by local authorities which do not precisely align with policing commands. The largest amount of stop and search occurs in Ipswich (44%). Some recorded searches were conducted outside of the five local authority areas, hence the total is not equal to 3,268 stop searches overall.

Quarter	Babergh				West Suffolk				Ipswich				Mid Suffolk				East Suffolk			
	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other
Q3 2022/23	8.1	2.0	0.0	7.9	2.9	0.2	0.7	1.3	4.0	1.2	0.4	2.3	0.0	1.9	0.0	14.2	5.7	2.1	0.0	6.7
Q4 2022/23	15.7	1.9	0.0	7.6	1.0	1.0	0.6	0.9	3.0	0.9	0.9	2.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	1.8	0.0
Q1 2023/24	5.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.2	1.0	0.3	1.4	2.7	0.3	0.8	2.7	6.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	1.8	0.0	0.0
Q2 2023/24	4.2	0.0	4.9	0.0	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.7	5.2	0.9	0.5	1.6	9.0	6.8	0.0	0.0	1.3	1.4	0.0	7.7

Table 3: Disproportionality by ethnicity and District, 01/10/2022-30/09/2023

2.2.8. Table 3 displays the rates of disproportionality by ethnicity, district, and quarter. Levels of disproportionality are more likely to fluctuate by larger amounts when looking at small numbers. This is prevalent in districts with smaller population numbers as shown in Table 2



(Babergh, Mid Suffolk, East Suffolk), particularly relating to ethnic groups with the smallest numbers, such as Other and Black ethnicities. The highest rate of disproportionality amongst Black ethnicity is seen in Babergh in Q4 2022/23, though this represents small numbers (three stop searches). The highest rate of disproportionality amongst “Other” ethnicity is seen in Mid Suffolk in Q3 2022/23 and this also relates to very small numbers (two stop searches). Babergh, located on the southern border of Suffolk, contains the A12 which is a key route into the county from Essex and London. This location is often targeted by the Sentinel Team, a proactive resource focussing on activity on the Suffolk road network. Stop searches conducted by this team have been found to increase disproportionality recorded in Babergh. Compared with the other Suffolk districts, Babergh records a greater proportion of BAME subjects of stop and search who have come from outside of the county. In Babergh during this reporting period, 25% of BAME subjects of stop and search provided a non-Suffolk address. (The next highest proportion was in West Suffolk with 19.2%). Therefore, the proximity of Babergh to more diverse locations of Essex and London may offer some explanation as to the higher rate of disproportionality often seen in this district.

2.2.9. West Suffolk has the lowest values for quarterly disproportionality, and when looked at for the year period overall is found to have parity between stops on BAME subjects compared with white subjects. West Suffolk is currently the only district where this is the case.

2.2.10. A Section 60 authority was used in Ipswich in Q2 2023/24 following an incident involving weapons in the vicinity of the Old Cattle Market. A Section 60 was also used in Ipswich in Q4 2022/23 following a murder in the town centre. If stop searches relating to section 60s are removed, overall BAME disproportionality for Suffolk decreases to 2.0.

District	Stop searches of subjects with non-Suffolk address
Babergh	40
West Suffolk	111
Ipswich	100
Mid Suffolk	18
East Suffolk	45
<b>Suffolk Total</b>	<b>314</b>

Table 4: Stop searches of non-Suffolk residents by District, 01/10/2022-30/09/2023

2.2.11. Table 4 above shows that West Suffolk had the most stop searches of subjects who live outside of Suffolk, followed by Ipswich. Mid Suffolk district had the fewest.

2.2.12. Where handcuffing data is available, it shows that in general the disproportionality experienced by BAME subjects is slightly higher than seen for stop searches. While BAME individuals were 2.2 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than their white counterparts, they were 2.4 times more likely to subject to a stop and search where handcuffs were used. Mid Suffolk was the only district where this was not the case – in Mid Suffolk the handcuffing rate was lower within ethnic minority groups.

### 2.3. Proportionality - Age

Age group	Count of stop search	Percentage of all stop search
10 to 14	199	6.1%
15 to 17	513	15.7%
18 to 24	825	25.2%
25 and over	1532	46.9%
Not stated	199	6.1%

Table 5: Stop searches by age, 01/10/2022-30/09/2023

2.3.1. Table 5 displays all stop searches by subject age group. 712 subjects of stop search were under 18, accounting for 21.8% of stop search in the current reporting period. 72.1% (513/712) of under 18s were within the 15-17 age group.

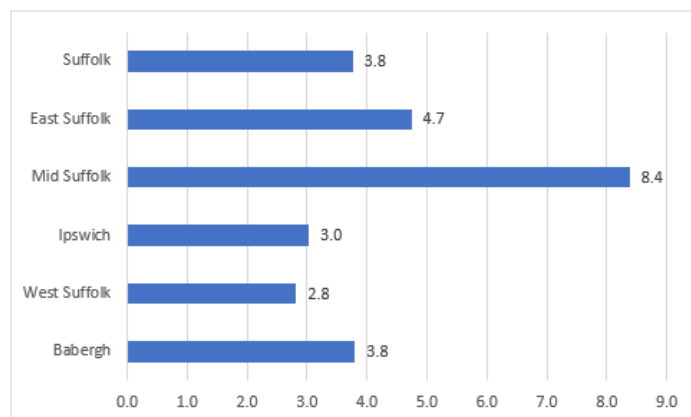


Figure 5: Under 18 Disproportionality by district, 01/10/2022-30/09/2023

2.3.2. Figure 5 shows the rate of disproportionality of under 18s being subject of stop and search, compared to over 18s, by district. This is for subjects with an address within Suffolk, with under 18s referring specifically to 10-17 year olds. Overall in Suffolk, local under 18s were 3.8 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than their over 18 counterparts. Since the previous reporting period, this value has increased in Mid Suffolk and Babergh and reduced in the other districts. The values range between 8.4 times more likely in Mid Suffolk and 2.8 times more likely in West Suffolk. If subjects with addresses outside Suffolk are included, the rate of under 18s being stopped reduces to 2.7 times more likely than over 18s.

Ethnicity	Population* (under 18s only)
Asian	2,009
Black	1,021
Mixed	3,501
Other	779
White	60,734

Table 6: Suffolk population of Under 18s

\* As per 2021 Census, ONS. In this report, under 18s refers to 10-17 year olds only

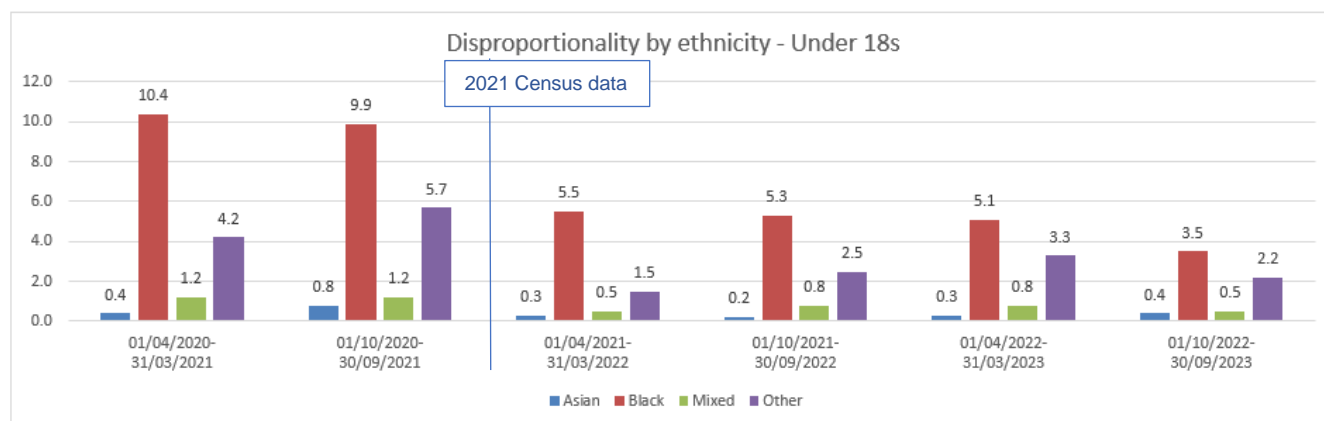


Figure 6: Disproportionality amongst under 18s by ethnicity, 01/04/2020 – 30/09/2023

- 2.3.3 In the current reporting period, amongst just under 18s, BAME individuals are 1.1 times as likely to be subject to stop and search than their white counterparts, showing that disproportionality between BAME and White is mainly within the adult age range.
- 2.3.4 Figure 6 displays the disproportionality by each ethnicity amongst just under 18s in the current reporting period, compared with the previous five reporting periods. This splits BAME ethnicity grouping by specific ethnicity.
- 2.3.5 As previously referenced, changes in demographics from the 2021 census have a noticeable impact on the disproportionality rates. In smaller subsets of data, shifts can have a greater impact. This is particularly pronounced when reviewing under 18s as this relates to ages 10-17 only and these are relatively small numbers, as shown in Table 6. The highest rate of disproportionality is seen within the Black ethnicity group (3.5), followed by the Other ethnicity group (2.2). A smaller percentage of under 18s subject of stop and search have a home address outside of Suffolk when compared with over 18s. This is the case in all ethnicity groups except Black ethnicity, where the percentage of under 18s providing non-local addresses was larger than that for over 18s: 31.3% (10/32) of under 18 subjects within the Black ethnicity group had a home address outside of Suffolk compared with 6.5% in White, 7.1% in Other, and 16.7% in the Asian ethnic group. None of the under 18s from the Mixed ethnicity group had a home address outside Suffolk in this reporting period.
- 2.3.6 When under 18 subjects with addresses outside of the county are excluded, disproportionality decreases to 1.0 for all BAME groups. For the Black ethnicity group the value reduces to 2.9, the Other ethnicity group value reduces to 2.1, and the Asian ethnicity group value reduces to 0.3. The disproportionality rate for the Mixed ethnicity group increases to 0.6.

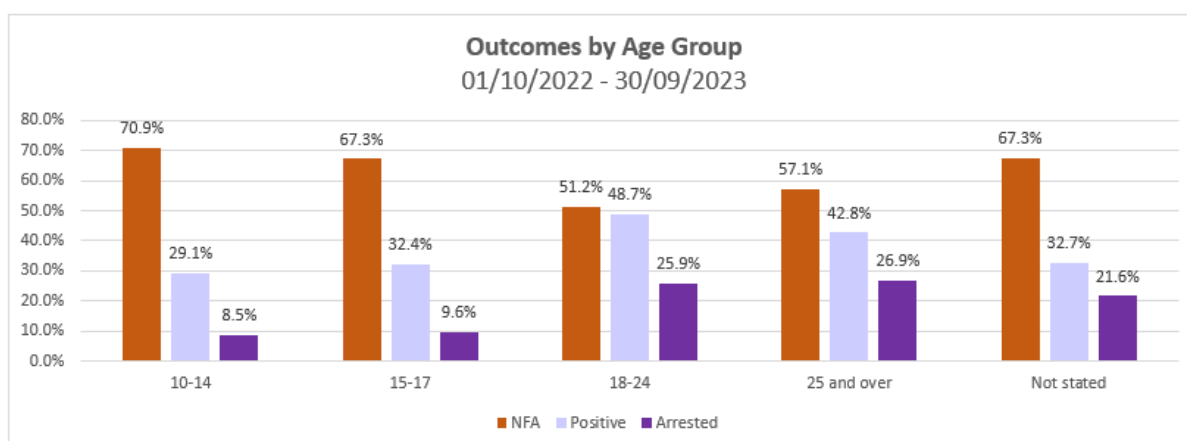


Figure 7: NFA, positive and arrest outcomes by age group 01/10/2022 – 30/09/2023

- 2.3.7 Figure 7 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 positive outcomes and the lowest arrest rate. The highest rate of positive outcomes is within the group aged 18 to 24. Arrest rates are highest in the group aged 25 and over.

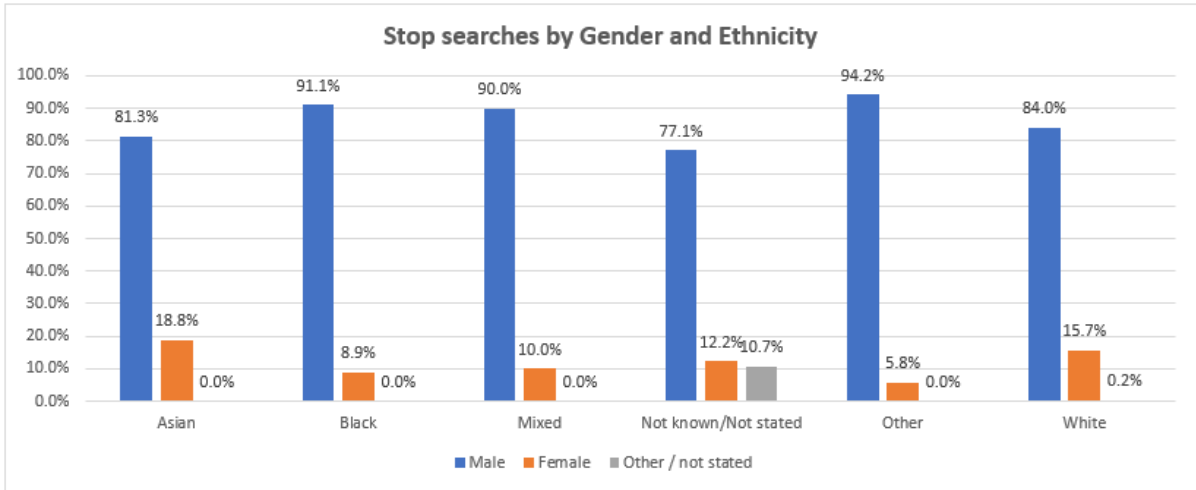


Figure 8: Stop searches by gender and ethnicity, 01/10/2022-30/09/2023.

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	164	6.0%	35	7.5%	0	0.0%
15 to 17	452	16.6%	61	13.0%	0	0.0%
18 to 24	717	26.4%	106	22.6%	2	2.4%
25 and over	1272	46.8%	257	54.9%	3	3.6%
Not known	112	4.1%	9	1.9%	78	94.0%

Table 7: Gender by age group, 01/10/2022-30/09/2023

2.3.8 83.1% (2,717) of subjects of stop search in the current reporting period were male which is similar to the last reporting period (84.1%). 14.3% (468) were female and 0.2% (6) were Other. 2.4% (77) had no data recorded for gender. Figure 8 displays the rates by ethnicity.

2.3.9 As shown in Table 7, the majority of under 18s were aged between 15-17 years, for all genders.

## 2.4 Object of search

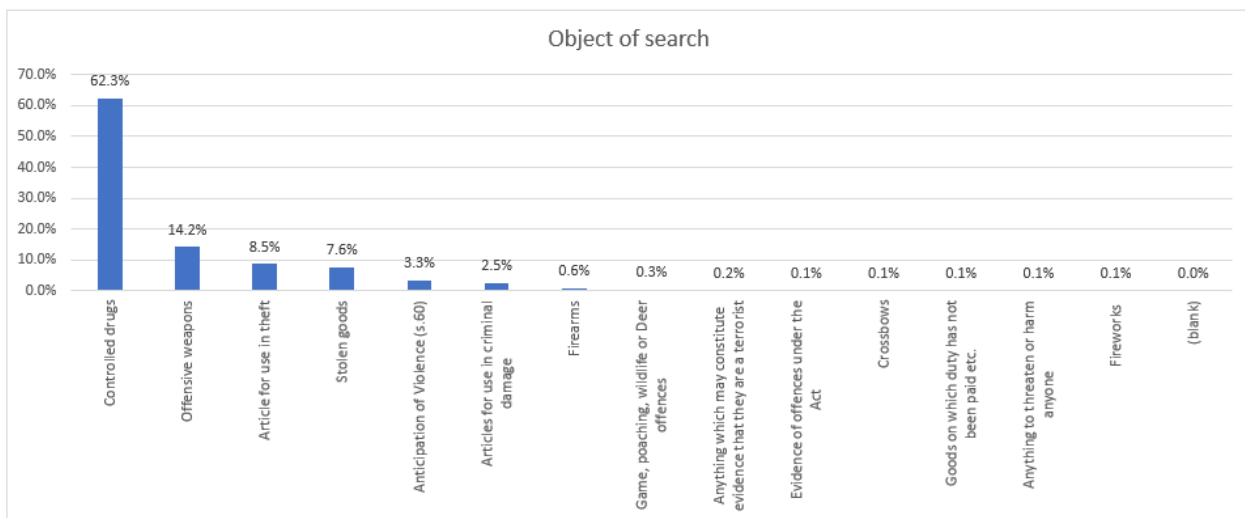


Figure 9: Percentage breakdown of Object of Search, 01/10/2022-30/09/2023

2.4.1 Figure 9 displays the object of searches undertaken in Suffolk during this reporting period. In the majority of stop searches (2,035, 62.3%) controlled drugs has been recorded as the object of search. The highest volume of these searches took place in Ipswich (804) followed by West Suffolk (546). Controlled drug related stop and searches accounted for 57.1% of the total

number of stop searches in Ipswich, and 75.1% of the total number of stop searches in West Suffolk.

District	White	BME	Not stated/ declined
Babergh	78.7%	8.5%	12.8%
East Suffolk	79.4%	4.2%	16.5%
Ipswich	58.5%	17.9%	23.6%
Mid Suffolk	75.5%	6.4%	18.1%
West Suffolk	73.4%	6.4%	20.1%
Out Of Force	70.0%	10.0%	20.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>69.2%</b>	<b>10.7%</b>	<b>20.1%</b>

Table 8: Controlled drug searches by district and ethnicity

2.4.2 In terms of ethnicity, 218 (10.7%) of these searches (Controlled drugs) were on those of Black and Minority Ethnicities, 1,408 (69.2%) were on those of white ethnicity and 409 (20.1%) were on people for whom ethnicity is not known or not stated.

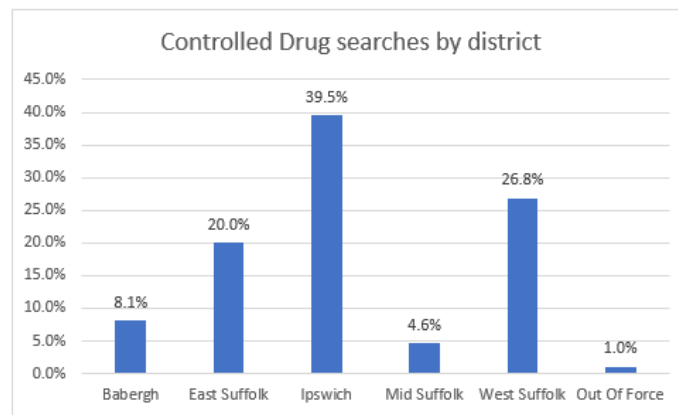


Figure 10: Percentage of controlled drug related searches by district

2.4.3 Analysis of the controlled drugs searches shows that 39.5% occurred in the Ipswich district.

District	Male	Female	Other / not stated
Babergh	86.0%	11.0%	3.0%
East Suffolk	80.6%	14.0%	5.4%
Ipswich	82.7%	16.2%	1.1%
Mid Suffolk	84.0%	13.8%	2.1%
West Suffolk	83.2%	14.3%	2.6%
Out of Force	70.0%	20.0%	10.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>2.7%</b>

Table 9: Controlled drug related searches by location and gender

2.4.4 82.6% of Controlled drug searches involved a male subject. This is a reduction from what was seen in the previous reporting period (84.1%).

District	10 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	25 and over	Not stated
Babergh	2.1%	16.3%	31.9%	48.9%	0.7%
East Suffolk	3.4%	13.4%	29.9%	51.2%	2.1%
Ipswich	0.6%	17.6%	29.2%	48.4%	4.2%
Mid Suffolk	11.4%	20.3%	25.3%	39.2%	3.8%
West Suffolk	2.0%	8.6%	33.5%	53.1%	2.9%
OOF	0.0%	7.1%	21.4%	71.4%	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>14.3%</b>	<b>30.5%</b>	<b>50.0%</b>	<b>3.1%</b>

Table 10: Controlled drug related searches by location and age grouping – Males only

2.4.5 The 25 and over age grouping had the highest percentage share in all districts (males only).

District	White	BME	Not stated/ declined
Babergh	44.4%	2.8%	52.8%
East Suffolk	67.8%	7.8%	24.3%
Ipswich	56.0%	16.4%	27.5%
Mid Suffolk	67.9%	3.6%	28.6%
West Suffolk	69.9%	8.2%	21.9%
Out Of Force	80.0%	0.0%	20.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>61.2%</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>27.8%</b>

Table 11: Offensive weapon searches by district and ethnicity

2.4.6 In terms of ethnicity, 51 (11.0%) searches for Offensive weapons were on those of Black and Minority ethnicities, compared with 284 (61.2%) on those of white ethnicity and 129 (27.8%) on people for whom the ethnicity was not known or not stated.

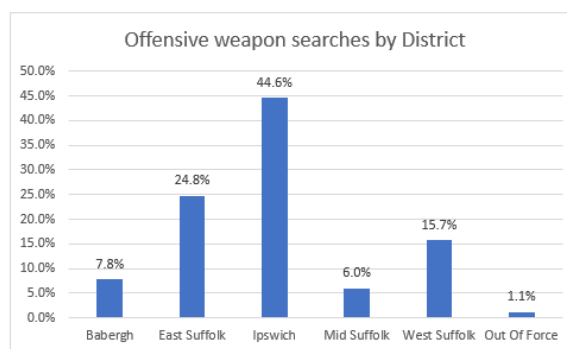


Figure 11: Percentage of offensive weapon related searches by district

2.4.7 During the reporting period, 464 stop searches (14.2%) were conducted where the object searched for was an offensive weapon. This has increased by 2.3p.p since the last reporting period. Figure 11 shows that 44.6% occurred in the Ipswich district.

District	Male	Female	Other / not stated
Babergh	88.9%	11.1%	0.0%
East Suffolk	90.4%	8.7%	0.9%
Ipswich	87.4%	11.1%	1.4%
Mid Suffolk	89.3%	10.7%	0.0%
West Suffolk	82.2%	15.1%	2.7%
Out Of Force	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>87.7%</b>	<b>11.0%</b>	<b>1.3%</b>

Table 12: Offensive weapon related searches by district and gender

2.4.8 Overall, 87.7% of the Offensive weapon searches involved a male subject.

District	10 to 14	15 to 17	18 to 24	25 and over	Not stated
Babergh	3.1%	21.9%	18.8%	31.3%	25.0%
East Suffolk	30.8%	19.2%	12.5%	31.7%	5.8%
Ipswich	4.4%	28.2%	23.2%	34.8%	9.4%
Mid Suffolk	44.0%	12.0%	4.0%	36.0%	4.0%
West Suffolk	13.3%	16.7%	21.7%	43.3%	5.0%
OOF	0.0%	20.0%	20.0%	60.0%	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>14.7%</b>	<b>22.6%</b>	<b>18.7%</b>	<b>35.4%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>

Table 13: Offensive Weapon related searches by location and age grouping – Males only

2.4.9 The 25 and over age group had the highest percentage share in each district except Mid Suffolk where the 10 to 14 age group was the most common (males only).

Item searched for found:	Count	%
Controlled drugs	604	64%
Stolen goods	70	7%
Article for use in theft	53	6%
Offensive weapons	49	5%
Articles for use in criminal damage	7	1%
Anticipation of Violence (s.60)	4	0%
Others	11	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>798</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 14: Positive outcome searches only – items searched for and found

2.4.10 For those records with positive outcomes and where the item searched for was found, Table 14 indicates that Controlled drugs were the items most often being sought.

Stop search outcome	Total Count	Total %	Asian Count	Asian % total	Black Count	Black % total	Mixed Count	Mixed % total	Not stated Count	Not stated % total	Other Count	Other % total	White Count	White % total
Arrest	735	22.5%	14	29.2%	39	24.8%	20	28.6%	152	20.8%	14	20.3%	496	22.6%
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	6	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	5	0.2%
Caution	8	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	7	0.3%
Community resolution	169	5.2%	3	6.3%	11	7.0%	1	1.4%	25	3.4%	3	4.3%	126	5.7%
Guardian intervention	6	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	6	0.3%
Khat or Cannabis warning	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.0%
Local resolution	4	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	4	0.2%
No Category	5	0.2%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.4%	4	0.2%
No Further Action	1,917	58.7%	22	45.8%	97	61.8%	42	60.0%	465	63.7%	42	60.9%	1,249	56.9%
Other action	177	5.4%	7	14.6%	3	1.9%	3	4.3%	41	5.6%	3	4.3%	120	5.5%
Seizure of property	50	1.5%	0	0.0%	1	0.6%	1	1.4%	11	1.5%	2	2.9%	35	1.6%
Summons	18	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.4%	3	0.4%	0	0.0%	14	0.6%
Verbal warning / words of advice	51	1.6%	1	2.1%	2	1.3%	0	0.0%	9	1.2%	2	2.9%	37	1.7%
Voluntary attendance	120	3.7%	1	2.1%	3	1.9%	2	2.9%	22	3.0%	2	2.9%	90	4.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>3268</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>157</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>730</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2194</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 15: Outcome breakdown and ethnicity of people who were stop searched

2.4.11 “No Further Action” was the most common outcome for all ethnicities, although the percentage resulting in “No Further Action” decreased by 2.5p.p. to account for 58.7% of all outcomes. Looking at specific ethnicities, the NFA rate has increased for subjects from a Mixed ethnicity group (increasing by 5.6p.p. to 60.0%). There were decreases in the NFA rate for all other ethnicities: Asian ethnicity decreasing 0.2p.p. to 45.8%, Black ethnicity decreasing 8.6p.p to 61.8%, Other ethnicity decreasing by 4.8p.p. to 60.9%, Not stated / declined ethnicity decreasing 1.9p.p. to 63.7%, and White ethnicity decreasing 2.8p.p. to 56.9%.

2.4.12 0.2% of searches did not have an outcome recorded, as displayed in Table 15 (shown as No Category). This has decreased by 0.7p.p. when compared with the last reporting period (1 April 2022 to 31 March 2023).

Stop search outcome	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		MidSuffolk		West Suffolk		OOF	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Arrested	92	36.9%	139	20.0%	263	18.7%	41	27.3%	188	25.9%	12	32.4%
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	4	2.7%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Caution	3	1.2%	4	0.6%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community resolution	4	1.6%	37	5.3%	94	6.7%	8	5.3%	24	3.3%	2	5.4%
Guardian intervention	1	0.4%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.4%	0	0.0%
Khat or Cannabis warning	0	0.0%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Local resolution	2	0.8%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%
No Category	1	0.4%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
No Further Action	110	44.2%	414	59.5%	920	65.3%	61	40.7%	392	53.9%	20	54.1%
Offender given drugs possession warning	20	8.0%	53	7.6%	60	4.3%	9	6.0%	33	4.5%	2	5.4%
Offender given penalty notice	1	0.4%	4	0.6%	19	1.3%	11	7.3%	14	1.9%	1	2.7%
Other action	1	0.4%	6	0.9%	4	0.3%	0	0.0%	7	1.0%	0	0.0%
Seizure of property	4	1.6%	10	1.4%	19	1.3%	3	2.0%	15	2.1%	0	0.0%
Summons	10	4.0%	24	3.4%	26	1.8%	13	8.7%	47	6.5%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>696</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1409</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>727</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 16: Stop Search outcome breakdown by district

2.4.13 Table 16 shows the breakdown of outcomes across the districts. The proportion of stop and search where NFA is the recorded outcome varies from district to district, ranging from 40.7% in Mid Suffolk, to 65.3% in Ipswich.

## 2.5 Use of strip search

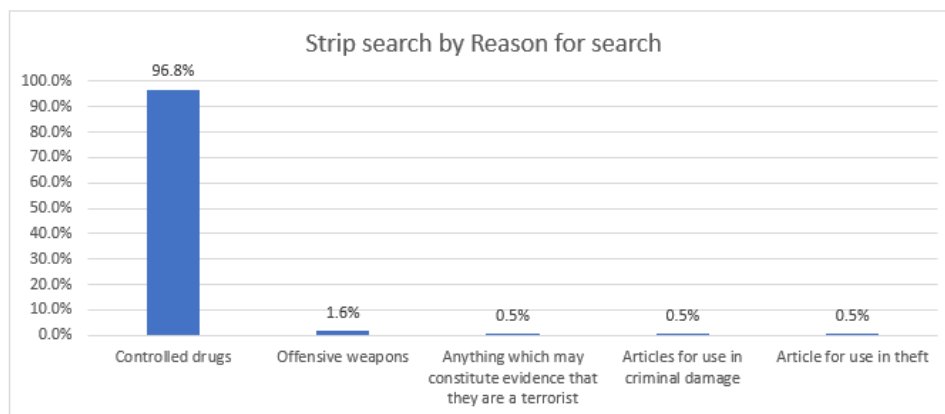


Figure 12: Suffolk strip search by reason for search

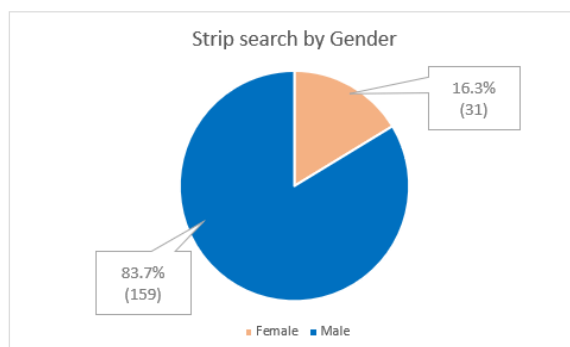




Figure 13: Suffolk strip search by gender

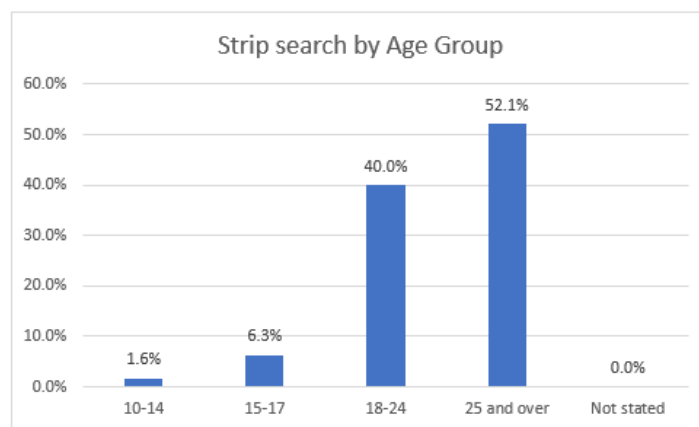


Figure 14: Suffolk strip search by age grouping

2.5.1 Strip search volumes reflect both Optik and non-Optik records. Between October 2022 and September 2023, there were 190 strip searches conducted, a reduction from 259 in the previous reporting period (April 2022 to March 2023). This accounts for 5.8% of all stop searches, which is 0.6p.p lower than in the previous report. Figure 12 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 184 (96.8%) being drug related. Drug dealers are known to use various tactics to conceal drugs about their person, including concealing them in body cavities, hence the high prevalence of the use of strip searches in relation to drugs. 83.7% of strip searches were conducted on males and the 25 and over age group was the most frequently strip searched.

Ethnicity	Number of strip searches	%	Items searched for found	Find Rate	Items NOT searched for found	Find rate
BME	23	12.1%	7	30.4%	3	13.0%
White	146	76.8%	56	38.4%	13	8.9%
Not known/Not stated	21	11.1%	6	28.6%	3	14.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>69</b>	<b>36.3%</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>10.0%</b>

Table 17: Suffolk strip search by ethnicity

2.5.2 Table 17 highlights some of the key strip search figures, focusing on the subjects' ethnicity. During the reporting period, 12.1% of the strip searches (23) were undertaken on Black and Minority Ethnicity individuals, which compares to 10.5% of all stop searches undertaken on individuals of the same background. This is an increase of 0.5p.p from the previous reporting period where 11.6% of people subject to strip search were from ethnic minorities. 146 strip searches (76.8%) were undertaken on persons of white ethnicity, with that group making up 67.1% of all stop searches. The remaining 11.1% of strip searches were undertaken on people who have declined to define their ethnicity, or do not understand what is required. The item(s) being searched for was/were found in 69 strip searches (36.3%), whilst additional items not being searched for were found in 19 strip searches (10.0%). Overall, 84 out of 190 strip searches found something, whether it was the item being searched for or not, giving an overall find rate of 44.2%. The rate of items searched for that were subsequently found has remained consistent with that reported in the last reporting period, whereas the rate of items that were not searched for but were found decreased by 2.7p.p.

Strip search reason for search	Total Count	Total %	Asian Count	Asian % total	Black Count	Black % total	Mixed Count	Mixed % total	Not stated Count	Not stated % total	Other Count	Other % total	White Count	White % total
Controlled drugs	184	96.8%	2	100%	12	100.0%	4	100%	19	90%	5	100%	142	97.3%
Offensive weapons	3	1.6%	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	5%	0	0%	2	1.4%
Anything which may constitute evidence that they are a terrorist	1	0.5%	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.7%
Articles for use in criminal damage	1	0.5%	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	1	5%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Article for use in theft	1	0.5%	0	0%	0	0.0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 18: Strip search by reason and ethnicity

2.5.3 Table 18 shows strip searches by reason and ethnicity. The first two columns show the total count and percentage of strip searches according to the reason for search. The subsequent columns give the count/percentage according to ethnicity for each of the reasons for strip search. Most strip searches were conducted for drugs-related reasons, for every ethnicity group.

Age category	Total Count	Total %	Asian Count	Asian % total	Black Count	Black % total	Mixed Count	Mixed % total	Not stated Count	Not stated % total	Other Count	Other % total	White Count	White % total
10 to 14	3	1.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	4.8%	0	0.0%	2	1.4%
15 to 17	12	6.3%	0	0.0%	3	25.0%	1	25.0%	2	9.5%	0	0.0%	6	4.1%
18 to 24	76	40.0%	1	50.0%	6	50.0%	1	25.0%	7	33.3%	0	0.0%	61	41.8%
25 and over	99	52.1%	1	50.0%	3	25.0%	2	50.0%	11	52.4%	5	100.0%	77	52.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>146</b>	<b>100%</b>

Table 19: Age breakdown and ethnicity of people who were the subject of a strip search

2.5.4 During this reporting period, the age category for which there were the most strip searches was 25 years and over, accounting for 52.1% of all strip searches, irrespective of ethnicity. This was consistent within the Mixed, Other, White and Not stated ethnicities. However, within the Black ethnicity group, the 18-24 age group saw the most strip searches. In the Asian ethnicity group, strip searches were equally split between the 18-24 age group and the 25 and over group. All individuals subject of a strip search in this reporting period provided their age.

2.5.5 15 strip searches were conducted on Under 18's. The youngest of these was a 13 year old who was found to be in possession of drugs.

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

2.6.1 Over the last year, data has been made available relating to vehicle stops under section 163 of the Road Traffic Act.

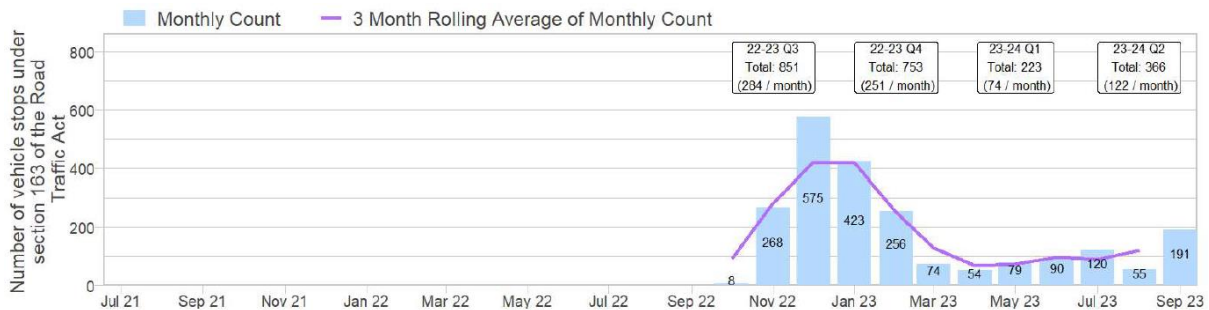


Figure 15 – Number of vehicle stops under section 163 of RTA

2.6.2 As more data is added to the above chart over time, trends in the use of s.163 can be identified. So far, it can be seen that there was a peak in vehicle stops in December 2022. Levels have been low over March to August, increasing during September 2023. Over the 12-month period, there have been 2,193 vehicle stops recorded under s.163.

2.6.3 The reduction since December 2022 is as a result of some exemptions provided to Roads Policing operations where the volume of recording would reduce the amount of time available to target the requirements of that particular operation.

2.6.4 Section 163 will continue to be developed to reduce duplication where an outcome from the vehicle stop is recorded.

## 2.7 Operational Activity

2.7.1 The following section outlines some of the operational context within which the stop and search tactic has been used in Suffolk this year.

## 2.7.2 East Suffolk

2.7.3 Proactivity within the CPC (County Policing Command), the Eastern Area continues to be driven by the Scorpion (East) and the Sentinel (East) teams, working in partnership to support the local SNTs within the Lowestoft and Halesworth localities, addressing local crime and antisocial behaviour (ASB) priorities.

2.7.4 The “Kestrel - East” Team continues to deploy across the East Area, predominantly in an engagement role, particularly within the rural and market towns and villages, but also in support of local policing priorities and problem-solving initiatives. Stop and search remains a significant tactic across all the proactive teams, which is regularly demonstrated to be used to good effect.

2.7.5 The local intelligence picture in relation to County Lines remains very positive across the east area, with County Lines activity remaining significantly absent in terms of an established presence within the towns across both Lowestoft and Halesworth Localities. However, we continue to liaise closely and work in partnership with the Metropolitan Police and colleagues from Norfolk Constabulary regarding particular operations and maximising all opportunities to deter and disrupt County Lines from gaining a foothold in the area.

2.7.6 As an area, we also continue to target “local” Class A drug suppliers, again with significant success in addressing the crime and ASB issues associated with their operation within the local communities, through proactive disruption and enforcement. Effective use of Intelligence-led Stop and Search powers remains an integral part of the successful deployments across the Eastern Area.

### 2.7.7 Operational Examples:

- On 27<sup>th</sup> October 2022, Officers from Scorpion (East Area) team were engaged in patrols in the Lowestoft area, when they noticed a vehicle, driven by an individual known to them. A brief check on police intelligence systems indicated there was a very recent intelligence report, from a reliable source, which indicated this individual to be actively engaged in the sale and supply of Class A drugs within the local area.

Officers stopped the vehicle and spoke with the driver. During the course of the conversation, it became apparent the male driver was driving under the influence of intoxicants (drink or drugs) and during the interaction, the officers additionally formed reasonable grounds to suspect there may be drugs within the vehicle. Subsequently, both vehicle and driver were searched.

The search resulted in the discovery, and seizure, of Cocaine with a street value of approximately £4500, Ecstasy tablets, cash and an offensive weapon (knife).

The male was arrested, subsequently charged and remanded into custody.

- On 11<sup>th</sup> November 2022, Officers from the Kestrel (East) team were conducting patrols, in support of local policing priorities, in the Beccles area. Whilst doing so they became aware of a radio circulation relating to a Land Rover Freelander vehicle, being driven erratically on the A145, towards Beccles. A few minutes later, the officers came across this vehicle in Lowestoft Road Beccles and caused it to stop. The vehicle contained 4 occupants, none of which were able to provide a satisfactory account for their presence in the area. At least one of the occupants (female passenger) was obviously acting under the influence of intoxicants (drugs). Through their conversation with the vehicle’s occupants, and the occupants’ behaviour, the officers

formed the suspicion there may be drugs in the vehicle. A search was duly conducted of the vehicle and 4 occupants.

As a result, 1 x wrap of white powder (believed ketamine) was found in a jacket pocket of the driver, 2 x wraps of white powder (believed ketamine) were found in a plastic tub in the rear passenger footwell and a 4<sup>th</sup> wrap (believed ketamine) in a “man-bag” on the rear passenger seat. This bag also contained a knuckle-duster.

None of the occupants made admissions for the 3 wraps and the knuckle-duster found in the rear of the vehicle. Officers seized the items but due to the female, who was under the influence of drugs, having a medical episode, the officers prioritised obtaining medical assistance for her, over the arrest of the persons present. All details were obtained and verified, with the vehicle occupants interviewed at a later date.

#### 2.7.8 West Suffolk

2.7.9 Stop and Search continues to be an essential tactic in supporting local commanders to achieve the force plan. The use of this tactic can be seen across local policing areas and is deployed within numerous commissioned operations and in response to trending threats and dynamic intelligence. Over the last 12 months it has been effectively used to combat drug dealing and possession, county lines, offensive weapons possession, knife crime, burglaries, and theft.

2.7.10 Use of stop and search continues to be monitored at the monthly performance meetings and through commissioned operations, allowing commanders to monitor monthly outcome rates and identify the impact of local operations.

2.7.11 There is continued strong oversight at a local level, enabling commanders to respond quickly to use of the tactic, to embed learning across teams and to ensure its legitimacy as a policing tool and police accountability to our communities to minimise any negative impact on trust and confidence. The positive outcome rate in the West is an indication of the continued use of intelligence when using the tactic.

2.7.12 The West reviews recent intelligence at daily management meetings, to be tasked out to local policing, providing a focus for local staff and continuing the good links between the western area intelligence unit and frontline staff.

2.7.13 The new policing model which was introduced on 4 December 2023 will refocus resources to enable a greater emphasis on community policing while encouraging proactive patrols.

#### 2.7.14 Operational Examples:

- Stowmarket – In September 2023, a male was noted as meeting persons on Stowmarket Recreation Ground on an electric bike and making hand to hand exchanges. Officers tried to detain the male but before they got within reaching distance the male answered a phone call and biked away. About an hour later this male was observed again on his e-bike cycling into the car park in Stowmarket. He was observed to get off his bike and buzz the intercom for a flat within. As he was awaiting the door to be opened, he was detained by Plain Clothes officers under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act powers, and they found in his possession six 0.4g deals of Cocaine and cash amounts commensurate with class A supply. A flat within the location was identified as where the male was staying and a S18 search was authorised. No further exhibits located but safeguarding conducted on a vulnerable male within whom detainee was cuckooing. The male was charged and remanded and pled guilty. Awaiting sentencing.

- Community Intelligence relating to antisocial behaviour and drug dealing on the Railway Line footpath closest to Wratting Road foot overbridge, Haverhill and surrounding area. This became a local priority which has resulted in 12 stop searches with Community Resolutions being issued for cannabis offences, two people are pending a summons to Court, and one was arrested for Possession with Intent to Supply (PWITS), linked to a County Line in the area.
- Stowmarket – In June 2023, a silver Peugeot 207 was identified as being involved in the supply of class A drugs within the town. Vehicle located parked up off Gipping Way and driver was detained for a Section 23 of Misuse of Drugs Act search. 10 x 0.4g deals of Cocaine were located and a mobile device that had evidence of postcode supply model in most recent chat on WhatsApp. Subject was arrested for PWITs Class A, charged and remanded. A two-year sentence was given with an immediate deportation order following release. Content noted on mobile device led to further work on upstream in BSE area.
- In Mildenhall - Female had been sighted by CCTV rolling and smoking a cannabis joint in a car park. Vehicle then left and Police caught up with her stopping the vehicle, with her and the vehicle smelling strongly of cannabis and the driver/ female looking under the influence of cannabis. A Section 23 search was carried out on her and the vehicle, finding an amount of cannabis in a jar in the rear of the vehicle. The female was arrested for possession and drug drive offences.
- In October 2023 in Stowmarket a male was observed on the same e-bike that officers had apprehended a male on the previous month. He was noted as hanging around in the alleyway beside the library and detained under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act. He was found in possession of £450 cash, two mobile phones and a vape which had been pulled apart to secrete 5 0.4g deals of powder cocaine within. Arrested for PWITS class A, charged and remanded. Awaiting first hearing at court for plea.

#### 2.7.15 South Suffolk

- 2.7.16 Stop and Search is monitored locally through the Southern Area performance meeting and tasking meetings, with attention placed on the use of the tactic at team level and positive outcome rates per locality. Inspectors undertake their own reviews of the tactic by individual officers as part of their monthly performance returns and complete regular reviews of Body Worn Video. The use of Stop Search continues to be intelligence driven, focussing on area priorities, emerging threats and high harm individuals.
- 2.7.17 Daily management processes are in place to ensure timely dissemination and allocation of intelligence, in which a stop and search may result. This ensures officers are tasked with the most recent intelligence. Officers are required to submit intelligence relating to both positive and negative outcomes for stop searches, to help better inform officer's reasonable grounds in future interactions.
- 2.7.18 The availability of Stop Search as a tactic continues to be a valuable tool in response to retail theft, allowing officers to confirm or mitigate the need for arrest where reasonable grounds exist.
- 2.7.19 There has been a strong focus in the Southern Area on youth related violence, following the horrific murder of a young male within broad daylight in January 2023. This has been encapsulated under Operation Hull. This operation seeks to target those in possession of Offensive weapons, particularly those involved in "gang" related violence. This seeks to

address the offending which creates the highest harm and risk to the community. There are strong links between those targeted under Op Hull and the supply of drugs within the South.

2.7.20 The Southern area Kestrel Team have been key in providing both targeted patrols in areas of high harm and providing a reassuring presence for the public. The Kestrel Team have been supported by the wider CPC and specialised units from CSIM (Crime, Safeguarding and Incident Management).

2.7.21 Searches under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act continue to account for the majority of Stop Searches undertaken in the command. This is reflective of the area priorities and continued focus on County Lines. Under the banner of Op Velocity, (the southern areas operations to target the supply of Class A drugs) dedicated resources in the form of uniform and plain clothes officers respond to current and actionable intelligence regarding county lines and local drug suppliers. A number of searches have been led by community-based officers that are a result of developing intelligence particularly following “county lines” targeting vulnerable members of the community – the result of these searches not only addressed the criminality but also safeguards those have been exploited.

2.7.22 Section 60 stop search authority has been used twice in the last year in response to significant incidents of violence. In these instances, the authority has been overseen by a NPCC officer, with proportionality / use reviewed afterwards and scrutinised. As part of this oversight local community groups are informed and consulted.

2.7.23 Operational Examples:

- Whilst on routine patrol, officer received a report to state that a male had been seen to deal drugs. This matched recent intelligence surrounding a location suggesting that drug dealing was taking place. A search was undertaken Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act and numerous seal bags of crack cocaine were found on the male, along with cash and a phone. He was subsequently sentenced to 2 years imprisonment.
- Whilst completing high visibility patrols within Ipswich town centre, officers have witnessed a suspicious looking male paying a lot of attention to the area of a recent murder. The male used frequent and repetitive behaviours which further raised the officers’ concerns. The male was engaged with but started to back off and disengage which raised the officer’s suspicions. Due to the recent murder, a section 60 was in place and the male was detained under that power for a search. Officers located a large knife within the male’s waistband area.
- Due to recent awareness of a specific individual with current drug supply intelligence spending time within a certain area, officers from the Child Exploitation and Gangs Team conducted foot patrols in the area. The individual, who is known within Op Hull, was seen standing within a group of males. As police approached and spoke to him, the male walked away for a few steps before running. Officers gave chase and caught up with the male and due to his behaviour and the recent intelligence and arrest linking him to drug supply, he was detained for a misuse of drugs act search. The male’s eyes were bloodshot and he smelt heavily of cannabis. Within his backpack was a large vacuum bag full of smaller packages of cannabis and in his pocket was a quantity of cash. In total 355.90g of cannabis was located on the male, with a potential value of £1,779.50. The male was arrested.

2.8 Operation Velocity

2.8.1 Operation Velocity is an initiative focussing on all drugs use/supply in Suffolk. During the reporting period, 29 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to this operation

with Ipswich reporting 22 (75.9%), West Suffolk reporting 6 (20.7%), and East Suffolk reporting 1 (3.4%). None were recorded in Babergh or Mid Suffolk. In the Ipswich district there were 13 stops of subjects identifying as from a white ethnicity, 4 on those from a Black or Minority ethnicity and 5 where the subject did not wish to define their ethnicity. All subjects stopped in West Suffolk and East Suffolk were of white ethnicity.

2.8.2 The countywide statistics are shown in the table below:

District	Total stops	White	Black	Mixed	Asian	Other	Not stated	Strip searches	NFA outcome	Suffolk resident	Non-Suffolk resident
Babergh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Suffolk	1 (3.4%)	1 (5%)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1 (4.2%)	0	0
Ipswich	22 (75.9%)	13 (65%)	2 (100%)	0	1 (100%)	1 (100%)	5 (100%)	6 (85.7%)	18 (75%)	16 (80%)	2 (66.7%)
Mid Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Suffolk	6 (20.7%)	6 (30%)	0	0	0	0	0	1 (14.3%)	5 (20.8%)	4 (20%)	1 (33.3%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>29 (100%)</b>	<b>20 (100%)</b>	<b>2 (100%)</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	<b>1 (100%)</b>	<b>5 (100%)</b>	<b>7 (100%)</b>	<b>24 (100%)</b>	<b>20 (100%)</b>	<b>3 (100%)</b>

Table 20: Countywide comparisons for Operation Velocity

2.8.3 In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Velocity, 69.0% were Suffolk addresses, 10.3% were addresses outside Suffolk and in 20.7% of cases the address had not been stated. The overall NFA rate for Operation Velocity was 82.8%.

2.8.4 According to the County Lines Disruptions Log, the following statistics have been recorded between October 2022 and September 2023.

No. disruptions	Quantity of drugs seized	Cash seized	Weapons seized
158	Cocaine: Approx 2.1kg Cannabis: Approx 2.3kg & 826 plants	Approx £507,840	2 x Realistic Imitation Firearms 1 x Air Weapon 5 x Other Firearms

Table 21: Countywide Disruptions.

2.8.5 Please note that in the majority of disruptions, amount of cash seized was not provided (marked as blank or no confirmation of amount of cash seized), so the cash seized only relates to disruptions where detail was provided.

### 3. NATIONAL COMPARISON

3.1 The latest national stop and search data published was to 31st March 2023. In the year ending March 2023 there were 542,723 stop and searches conducted by police in England and Wales (including the British Transport Police) under section 1 of PACE, an increase of 3% compared with the previous year. For the same period of time in Suffolk (April 2022 to March 2023) the number of stop and searches under section 1 of PACE decreased from 4,163 to 4,041 (-2.9%).

3.2 The latest national data for the year April 2022 to March 2023 shows that Suffolk conducted five stops per 1,000 population compared with six stops per 1,000 population in the previous financial year. In England and Wales there were nine searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2023.

3.3 In the year ending March 2023, in England and Wales, those who considered themselves to be from ethnic minority groups (Black, Mixed Ethnicity, Asian and Other Minority Ethnic) were approximately 2.0 times more likely to be stopped as those who identified as White, a reduction from 2.3 the previous year. In Suffolk, for the year ending 31st March 2023, those who identified as from ethnic minority groups were 2.4 times more likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. These statistics show a very slight increase in disproportionality in Suffolk as at the end of the year ending March 2022 those who considered themselves to be from ethnic minority groups were 2.3 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be from a White background. The value has

since reduced to 2.2 for the current reporting period, but as yet no national data is available for this period to compare.

3.4 Disparity rates<sup>2</sup> for England & Wales have reduced from the year ending March 2022 to the year ending March 2023 for Asian and Black ethnicity groups. For stop searches in the year ending March 2023, the disparity rate for people from an Asian ethnicity group reduced to 1.4 from 1.6 the previous year. For people from Black ethnicity groups, the disparity rate reduced to 4.1 from 4.8 the previous year. England and Wales showed no change in the disparity value for people with a Mixed ethnicity background, with a rate of 1.7 for both years. There was a small increase in the disparity rate for the Other ethnicity group to a rate of 1.3 from 1.2 the previous year.

3.5 Data for Suffolk for the same time period showed a similar pattern: the disparity rate for people from an Asian ethnicity group reduced to 0.7 from 0.9 the previous year, and the disparity rate for people from a Black ethnicity group reduced to 5.6 from 6.1. In contrast to the national rates, Suffolk showed an increase in disparity for people from Mixed ethnicity groups, with a new rate of 1.6 from 1.4 the previous year. The disparity rate for people from the Other ethnicity group increased to 3.7 from 2.8 the previous year. This gives Suffolk the highest relative rate for the Other group but is useful to note that this amounts to an increase of just 21 stop and search records between the two years.

#### 4. OVERALL TRENDS – USE OF FORCE



Figure 16: Volume of Use of force instances, 01/07/2021-30/09/2023

4.1 6,191 reported instances of use of force were reported in the current reporting period. This is an increase of just one instance compared to 6,190 in the previous reporting period (12 months ending March 2023). The highest volume was seen in Q4 2022-23.



Figure 17: Volume of Use of force instances by ethnicity, 01/07/2021-30/09/2023

<sup>2</sup> Disparity rates taken from 'Stop and search – ethnic disparity time series dashboard', [Stop and search and arrests, year ending March 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/stop-and-search-ethnic-disparity-time-series-dashboards)



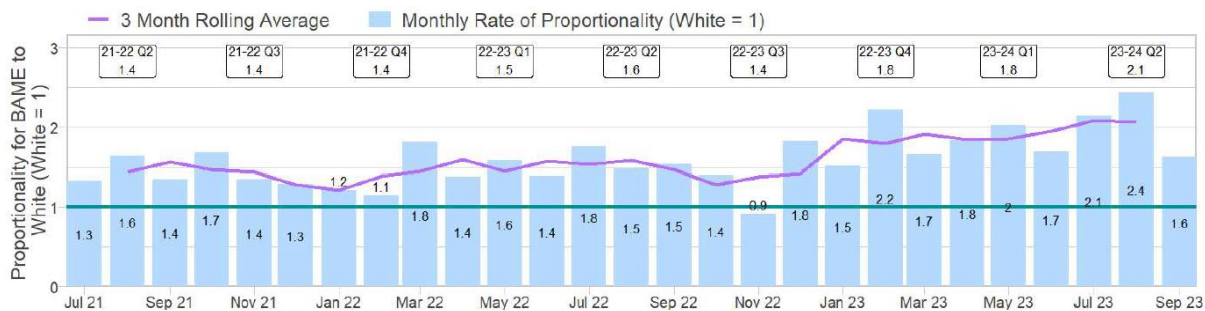


Figure 18: Disproportionality in Use of force instances, 01/07/2021-30/09/2023

4.2 Since July 2021, an upward trend of disproportionality can be seen in Figure 18, with Q2 2023-24 showing the highest amount. The rate of disproportionality for BME was 2.1 in Q2 2023-24. There were operations commissioned around gang rivalries and youth violence in Q4 2021/22 which remain ongoing, and violent offences which resulted in the use of section 60s in Q4 2022-23, Q1 2023-24 and Q2 2023-24. These factors have likely impacted these levels of disproportionality.

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

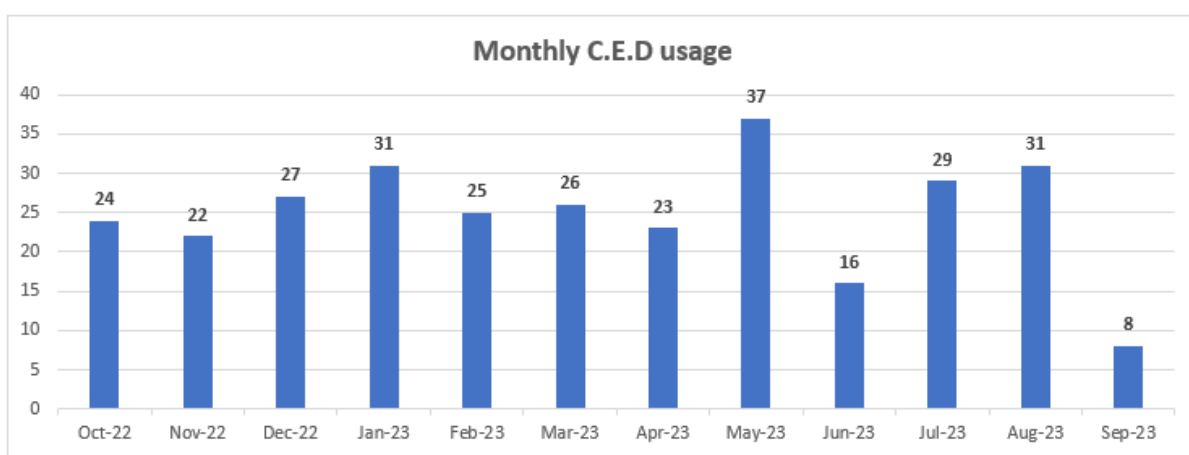


Figure 19: Monthly Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage 01/10/2022 to 30/09/2023

5.1 The use of tasers makes up one element of the police’s use of force tactical options. Over the 12-month reporting period Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage totalled 299, a reduction of 11% since the last reporting period. This represents an average of 25 usages a month compared with 28 in the previous reporting period. Monthly volumes peaked in May 2023 and were lowest in September 2023.

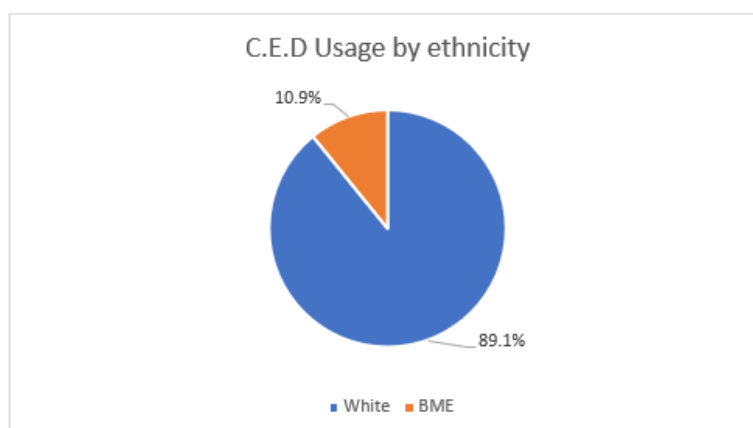


Figure 20: Ethnicity breakdown of C.E.D usage 01/10/2022 to 30/09/2023

- 5.2 Figure 20 highlights that 89.1% of the subjects where a C.E.D was used were of white ethnicity, and 10.9% were from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (this includes all forms of C.E.D usage, not just when fired).

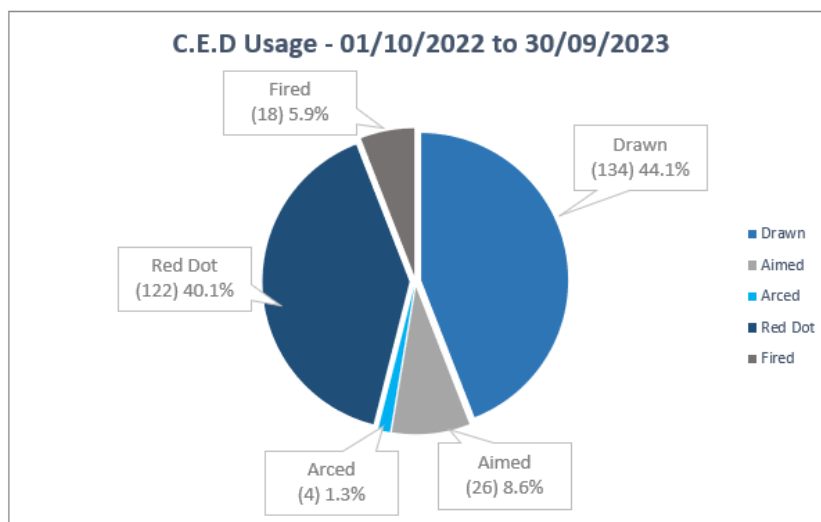


Figure 21: C.E.D usage breakdown 01/10/2022 – 30/09/2023

- 5.3 As part of the Taser Capability Review better governance of data relating to incidents will be available and included for external scrutiny.

## 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 2022 to 30 September 2023. Please note this was produced for internal scrutiny purposes in October 2023 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 STOP AND SEARCH REFERENCE GROUP (SSRG)

- 7.1. A report compiled by ISCRE detailing their work to administer the Stop and Search Reference Group (SSRG) 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 The Constabulary is in a strong position where use of police powers is concerned. There have been improvements in the rates of items being found where search has been used and most data trends are consistent with those seen nationally. Internal and external scrutiny arrangements for search powers are strong and provide the opportunity for learning and maintenance of the good practices that are evidenced.
- 10.2 The use of force will be subjected to the same levels of scrutiny and development in future months/ years. The use of these powers is low in Suffolk but we recognise that the impact can be significant. The Constabulary is developing plans to expand external scrutiny in this area and there will be investment in training in the year ahead to ensure compliance with national guidelines.
- 10.3 Importantly, the recent inspection outcome in this area should be recognised. The Constabulary was assessed as 'Good' by the HMICFRS where use of powers is concerned following detailed inspection. Compliance rates identified were some of the highest achieved nationally in this very difficult area and we will strive to maintain those levels despite the relative immaturity of the operational workforce.