



# SUFFOLK CONSTABULARY

**ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**PAPER NO: AP24/32**

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

**SUBJECT: USE OF POLICE POWERS IN SUFFOLK –  
1 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024**

## **SUMMARY:**

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search, use of force and taser usage for the 12-month period 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. During the reporting period there were 2,590 stop searches, 5,702 reported instances of use of force and within this 262 Conducted Energy Device (Taser) usages.
2. There was a decrease of 20.7% in overall volume of stop searches when compared with the previous reporting period (1 October 2022 to 30 September 2023). The average rate of searches resulting in No Further Action (NFA) was 54.6% (reduced from 58.7% previously), the positive outcome rate was 45.4% (up from 41.2%) and the arrest rate was 25.1% (up from 22.5%).
3. The highest rate of positive outcomes was within the Asian ethnicity group (58.1%), and the lowest was within the Mixed ethnicity group (37.7%). In the White ethnicity group the rate was 46.7%, in the Black ethnicity group it was 44.7%, in the Other ethnicity group it was 43.8% and where ethnicity was not provided it was 42.1%. Positive outcome rates increased for all ethnicity groups except Mixed ethnicity when compared with the previous reporting period. Arrest rates were highest amongst the Asian ethnicity group (32.3%) and lowest in the Other ethnicity group (20.8%). Arrest rates also increased for all ethnicity groups except Mixed ethnicity when compared with the previous reporting period.
4. 523 subjects of stop and search were under 18, accounting for 20.2% of stop searches in the current reporting period. 74.4% (389) of under 18s were within the 15-17 age group.
5. 82.6% (2,139) of subjects of stop and search in the current reporting period were male. 14.7% (381) were female and 0.2% (6) either stated Self Defined gender or Preferred not to say. Gender was not recorded in the remaining 2.5%.

6. An assessment of the reason for search shows that the majority of stop and searches were associated with drugs. 1,706 stop searches (65.9%) had controlled drugs as the reason for the search. Offensive weapons were the next most common reason for searches at 15.1% (390). This is an increase in percentage for both types of searches since the last reporting period (an increase of 3.6p.p for drugs and 0.9p.p for offensive weapons).
7. 115 stop searches (4.4%) were strip searches – a reduction from 190 conducted in the previous reporting period. Of these 115 strip searches, 113 (98.3%) were in relation to controlled drugs.
8. 13 strip searches (11.3%) were undertaken on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) individuals, 84 (73.0%) were undertaken on persons of white ethnicity, with the remainder (15.7%) undertaken on people who have declined to define or have misunderstood the reason for providing their ethnicity.
9. 94 strip searches (81.7%) were conducted on males, and 21 (18.3%) on females. Seven strip searches (6.1%) were carried out on subjects aged under 18.
10. The item(s) being searched for were found in 36 strip searches (31.3%), whilst additional items not being searched for were found in nine strip searches (7.8%). Overall, 36.5% of strip searches resulted in an item being found (whether searched for or not).
11. There were 5,702 reported instances of Use of Force recorded in the current reporting period. This is a reduction of 7.9% compared with 6,191 in the previous reporting period.
12. Over the 12-month reporting period Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage (“usage” meaning – Drawn, Aim, Red-dot, Arc or Fire) totalled 262, with an average of 22 usages a month. 89.3% of the subjects where a C.E.D was used were of white ethnicity, 10.7% were individuals from ethnic minorities.
13. 5.3% of all usages resulted in the C.E.D being fired and therefore 94.7% of usages resulted in the device not being fired. 40.1% of usages resulted in the red dot being used on the target and 43.9% involved the device being drawn by the officer.
14. Since November 2022 the force has recorded 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 April 2023 to March 2024, 1,672 vehicle stops have been recorded under Section 163. This data 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 APRIL 2023 TO 31 MARCH 2024

- 1.1. 'Police Powers' is the nationally recognised terminology. This report deals with specific Police Powers that include Stop & Search, Taser and Use of Force.
- 1.2. Police powers are governed through the quarterly Joint Norfolk and Suffolk Police use of Powers Board which focusses on areas of disproportionality and where necessary Police complaints. This provides additional scrutiny and the early identification of issues and/or trends. It is the overarching board that tracks recommendations from the College of Policing, His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) and the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).
- 1.3. This is the last report that will refer to the Stop Search reference group as the new wider Police Powers scrutiny process is developed.
- 1.4. This report supports commitments within the Police and Crime Plan 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 predominantly focusses on the use of stop and search and provides some detail around Use of Force and Taser. More detail will continue to be incorporated into future reporting as the overarching scrutiny of wider Police powers develops.
- 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, however the constabulary is still working towards the issue of Use of Force recording. There is a requirement to understand the impact of data covering injuries to officers and others during the course of using force.
- 1.7. Suffolk Constabulary continue to work 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. Work with ISCRE has provided a new terms of reference that manages this proposal and recommendation from HMICFRS.
- 1.8. STOP & SEARCH
  - The HMICFRS PEEL report has recognised the long-standing partnership with 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.
  - Assistant Chief Constable Andy Mariner (Essex Police) has been appointed as the new national Chief Officer Lead for Stop and Search with Suffolk Constabulary's new tactical lead for Police powers, Superintendent Jonathan Chapman being appointed in January 2024.
  - Assistant Chief Constable Eamonn Bridger continues to chair the Regional Strategic Stop & Search Meeting and provides updates to and from national leads.

- Suffolk Constabulary has been selected to pilot a College of Policing funded, research opportunity examining disproportionality and this work is well on the way and the results of which will hopefully soon be available to scrutinise and inform next steps.
- Suffolk Constabulary remains committed to providing support to ISCRE with engagement events, for example at educational establishments.
- In December 2023 the recommendations were published following the Section 60 super complaint after the IOPC found that police forces should improve how they explain and evaluate their use of section 60 of the 1994 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act, which relate to stop search powers. Suffolk Constabulary responded to these recommendations in February 2024 in consultation with the Police and Crime Commissioners office. As one of the selected forces, subject to inspection as part of the Section 60 super complaint the force found itself in a good position by already meeting many of the recommendations set by HMICFRS.
- The introduction of the Digital Asset Management System (DAMS) means that all Body Worn Video (BVW), 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. During this period there have been challenges in ensuring officers retain their BWV in the appropriate manner. The BWV lead is currently working to address this issue.

1.9. As of Autumn 2023, OPTIK was the only method of recording Stop & Search. This has provided a consistent approach and makes best use of the technology. This is being improved further to deliver selected drop downs for officers so that the Constabulary is able to identify differences in certain uses of force, for example handcuffing. It is designed to provide more accurate data where the use of handcuffs is used specifically for searching as opposed to a resulting arrest and handcuffing for transport purposes only. Previous data has lent itself to suggesting disproportionate use of force, in particular handcuffing when in fact this may not be the case.

1.10. The changes mentioned at 1.9 to the Stop & Search module were originally due in the Summer 2023, they are now expected imminently. The delay has been 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. 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 in 2024. This currently sits with the Constabulary's lead for Health and Safety.
- Data obtained through this form is already contributing to operational learning and feeding into current and future training requirements.
- The data that is obtained through the new form supports officers in relation to being injured at work, including assaults and this is known nationally as Operation Hampshire. Currently Suffolk is only 1 of 3 forces that capture data in this way.
- In March 2025 Suffolk Police will be moving to an improved Public and Police Safety Training (PPST) module aligned to the College of Policing. Whilst this does attract additional

training for officers from 1 to 2 days, early indications from other forces that have adopted the product have identified a reduction in injuries to officers during training. The enhanced training has also fostered greater confidence from officers with a decrease in use of force and assaults against officers.

#### 1.12. Taser

- All incidents (100%) where Taser has been utilised are reviewed and scrutinised by a nominated 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. The aim of the review was to achieve compliance with licensing requirements as directed by College of Policing (COP), overseen by the 7 Force Firearms Governance structure. This is to ensure that our future Taser capability provides sufficient capacity to meet operational needs whilst maintaining officer safety in a sustainable manner.
- This review was subject of a full Business Case and has now moved through the implementation phase and was delivered in April 2024. The new structure is governed through the 7 Force Eastern Region with the local Joint Specialist Operations department overseeing compliance, training, monitoring and scrutiny requirements.
- Taser officers are referred to as Specially Trained Officers (STOs) and it is vital to note that as part of the review the force is not reducing STO numbers on the front line. STO distribution across the County will be based on an operational assessment of threat and risk to ensure we maintain the most effective coverage possible.
- Joint Specialist Operations are engaged in the new wider Police Powers scrutiny process via the Taser Training Inspector who provides relevant detail and documentation to ISCRE.

#### 1.13. 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 further guidance is expected in the coming months.
- Section 163 already exists within OPTIK, and from November 2023 the Constabulary will have a years' worth of performance data. It is important to recognise that there are local practical exemptions relating to recording data, for example, larger scale multi agency operations.
- To reduce duplication across multiple documents a test phase is currently underway that supports auto population when officers are required to fill out a number of forms for a single interaction with a member of the public.
- 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

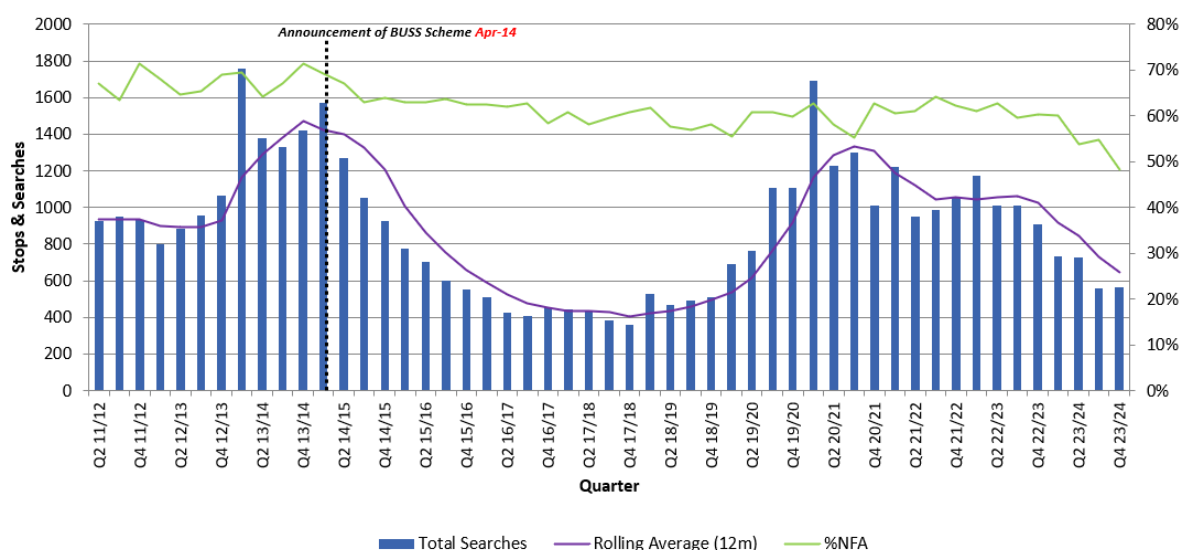


Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

Figure 1 displays long-term trends in stop and search over time, from Q2 2011/12 to Q4 2023/24. There has been a general downward trend in volume since the peak from the time of pandemic restrictions in 2020, although current levels are still higher than the lowest levels recorded in 2017/18. The quarterly NFA rate has been slowly reducing, and as of Q4 2023/24 is the lowest rate so far.

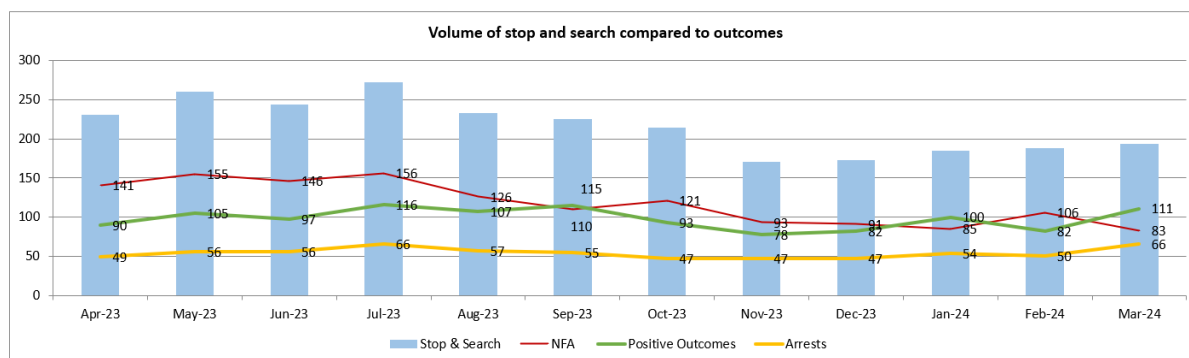


Figure 2: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024

2.1.1. 2,590 stop searches took place in the current reporting period (01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024). Figure 2 above displays the trend in usage of stop and search in Suffolk for each month, alongside the No Further Action (NFA), positive outcome and arrest rates. This shows a fluctuating trend in volume, with a peak in July 2023. There was a decrease of 20.7% in overall volume over the last twelve months compared with the previous reporting period (01/10/2022 – 30/09/2023).

2.1.2. In the current reporting period, the average rate of searches resulting in NFA was 54.6%, the positive outcome rate was 45.4% and the arrest rate was 25.1%. ‘Positive outcomes’ refers to all outcomes that are not NFA or No Category. The NFA rate in Suffolk has decreased by 4.1p.p since the last reporting period. The positive outcome rate has increased by 4.2p.p since the last reporting period, and there has been an increase in arrest rate by 2.6p.p since the last reporting period. “No Category” (blank) outcomes decreased to 0% in this current reporting period (just one record).

2.1.3. The positive outcome rate for white subjects was 46.7% compared with 44.7% for Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic groups (BAME). For subjects where ethnicity was not stated/declined, the positive outcome rate was 42.1%. Within the positive outcomes, the arrest rate for white subjects was 24.7% compared with 25.5% for BAME groups. The NFA rate for white subjects was 53.3% and for BAME groups it was 55.3%.

2.1.4. The Constabulary now looks at handcuffing data alongside stop and search. This data is available for all OPTIK records, and for this reporting period makes up over 99% of stop and search records. This data shows that handcuffs were used in 53% of all stop searches, reducing to 50% 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

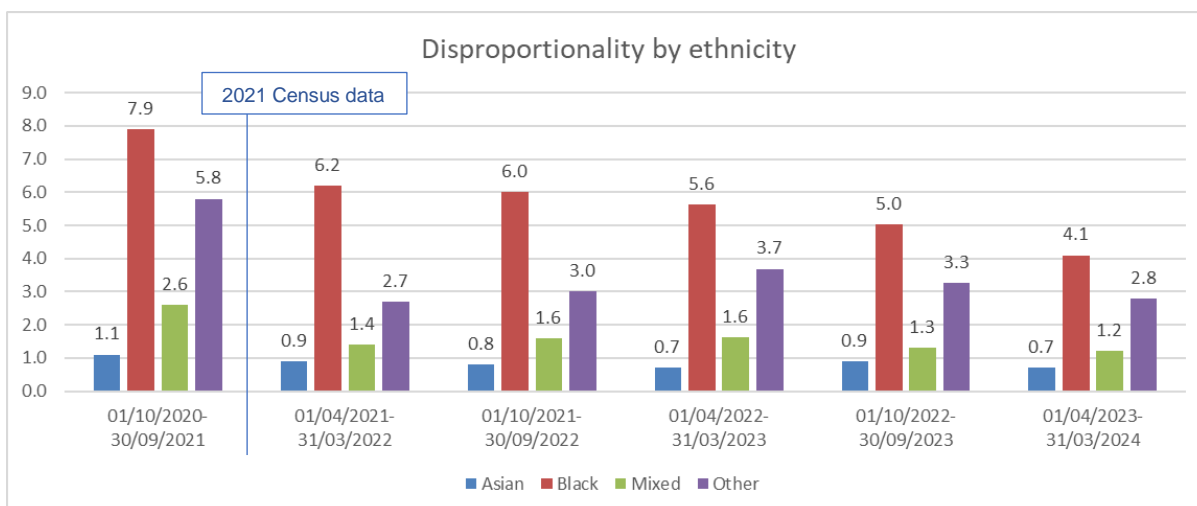


Figure 3: BAME disproportionality by reporting period, 01/10/2020 – 31/03/2024

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 1.8 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than their white counterparts. This is a reduction from a value of 2.2 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 all ethnicity groups<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, and levels for the Mixed ethnicity group appear to be gradually approaching parity, whereas the Black and Other groups still indicate disproportionate levels.

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, 11.2% (290) of persons subject to stop and search were not Suffolk residents and 24.2% (626) did not have an address recorded. The rate of subjects residing outside of Suffolk was most prominent within the Other ethnicity group; 18.8% of subjects from the Other ethnicity group who were stopped and searched recorded a home address outside of Suffolk compared with 16.5% of subjects from Black ethnicity groups, 15.1% of subjects from Mixed ethnicity groups, 12.9% of subjects from Asian ethnicity groups, and 11.4% of subjects from White ethnicity groups. When subjects with addresses outside of the county are excluded, disproportionality decreases for Black and Other ethnicity groups, and maintains a stable value for Asian and Mixed ethnicity groups.

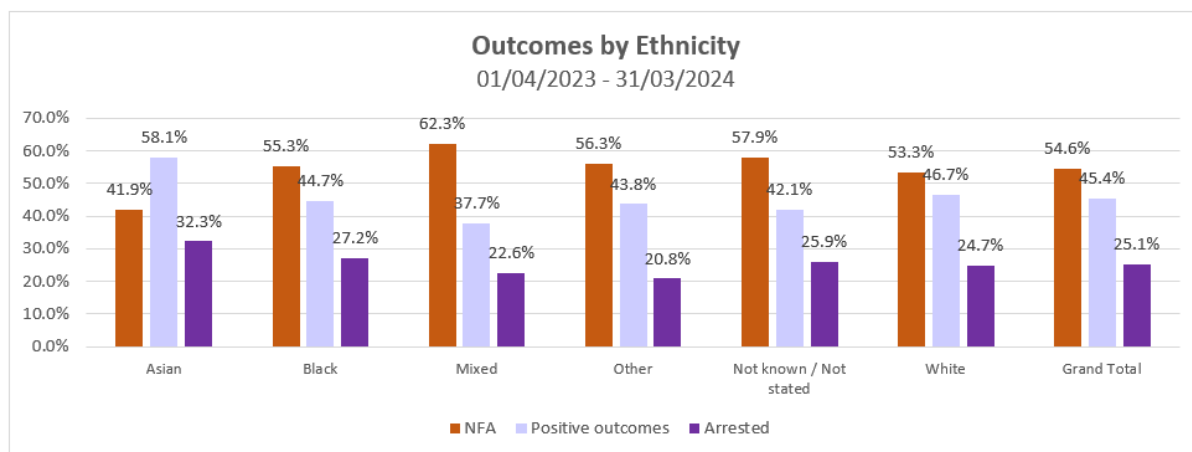


Figure 4: NFA, positive outcomes and arrests by ethnicity 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024

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 (58.1%). Arrest rates are also highest within the Asian ethnicity group (32.3%). The highest rate of NFA outcomes is within the Mixed ethnicity group (62.3%).

District	BAME Population*	Stop search count	BAME stop search count
Babergh	3,073	179	8
West Suffolk	14,792	645	43
Ipswich	21,886	942	143
Mid Suffolk	3,238	153	7
East Suffolk	9,433	649	32
Suffolk total	52,422	2,568	233

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

\* As per 2021 Census, ONS

<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



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 (36.4%). Some recorded searches were conducted outside of the five local authority areas, hence the total is not equal to 2,590 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
Q1 2023/24	5.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.1	0.9	0.3	1.3	3.0	0.3	0.9	2.7	6.2	0.0	0.0	8.6	2.1	1.5	0.0	1.6
Q2 2023/24	4.0	0.0	4.6	0.0	1.0	1.5	1.0	0.7	5.3	1.2	0.5	1.4	8.6	6.5	0.0	0.0	1.1	1.2	0.0	6.5
Q3 2023/24	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.5	0.6	0.6	1.2	3.4	1.0	0.2	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	2.4	0.9	1.9	3.5
Q4 2023/24	6.1	2.3	0.0	17.9	1.5	1.5	0.3	3.8	2.5	0.9	0.1	0.7	0.0	1.6	0.0	5.9	7.4	1.4	2.9	5.5

Table 3: Disproportionality by ethnicity and District, 01/04/2023-31/03/2024

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 datasets. 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 Mid Suffolk in Q2 2023/24, though this represents just one stop search of a Black person during this quarter. The highest rate of disproportionality amongst “Other” ethnicity is seen in Babergh in Q4 2023/24 and also relates to very small numbers (two stop searches on subjects identifying as Other ethnicity).

2.2.9. West Suffolk, when looked at for the year period overall, is found to have near parity between stops on BAME subjects compared with white subjects.

District	Stop searches of subjects with non-Suffolk address
Babergh	24
West Suffolk	105
Ipswich	78
Mid Suffolk	16
East Suffolk	53
<b>Suffolk Total</b>	<b>276</b>

Table 4: Stop searches of non-Suffolk residents by District, 01/04/2023-31/03/2024

2.2.10. 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.

2.2.11. 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 1.8 times more likely to be subject to stop and search than their white counterparts, they were 2.0 times more likely to subject to a stop and search where handcuffs were used. Babergh was the only district where this was not the case – in Babergh the handcuffing rate was lower within ethnic minority groups.

### 2.3. Proportionality - Age

Age group	Count of stop search	Percentage of all stop search
10-14 years	134	5.2%
15-17 years	389	15.0%
18-24 years	672	25.9%
25 and over	1247	48.1%
Unknown	148	5.7%

Table 5: Stop searches by age, 01/04/2023-31/03/2024

2.3.1. Table 5 displays all stop searches by subject age group. 523 subjects of stop search were under 18, accounting for 20.2% of stop search in the current reporting period. 74.4% (389/523) of under 18s were within the 15-17 age group. An outlier record occurred within this reporting period where a nine-year-old was subject of a stop search. As this is an unusual event, for the purposes of the analysis this record has been included within the 10-14 age group.

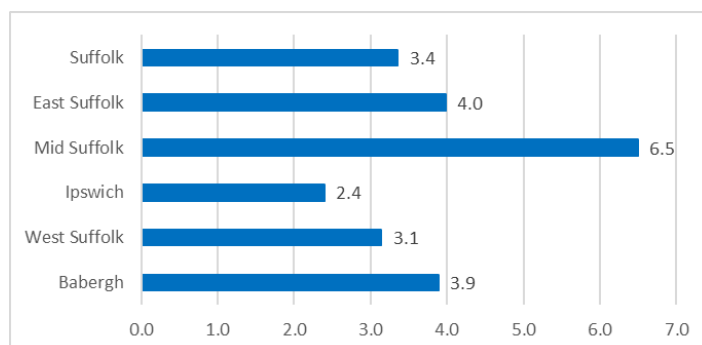


Figure 5: Under 18 Disproportionality by district, 01/04/2023-31/03/2024

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, where population data for Under 18s refers specifically to 10-17 year olds. Overall in Suffolk, local under 18s were 3.4 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 West Suffolk and Babergh but reduced in the other districts and for Suffolk overall. The values range between 6.5 times more likely in Mid Suffolk and 2.4 times more likely in Ipswich. If subjects with addresses outside Suffolk are included, the rate of under 18s being stopped reduces in every district, and for Suffolk overall is 2.5 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

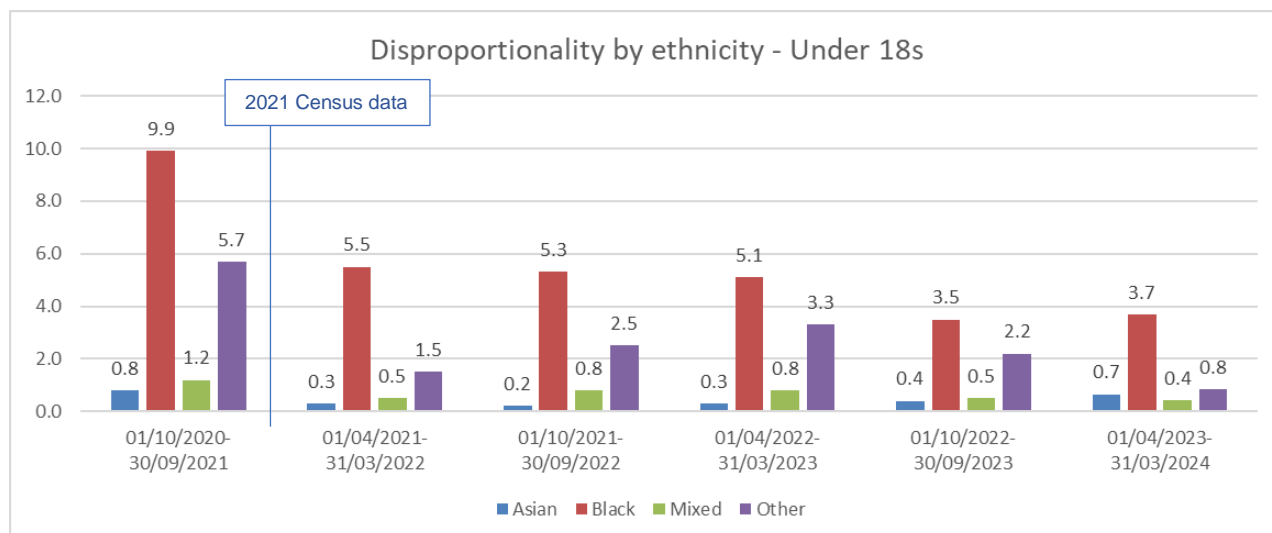


Figure 6: Disproportionality amongst under 18s by ethnicity, 01/10/2020 – 31/03/2024

- 2.3.3 In the current reporting period, amongst just under 18s, BAME individuals are equally likely to be subject to stop and search as their white counterparts, showing that disproportionality between BAME and White is mainly limited to the adult age range.
- 2.3.4 However, figure 6 displays the disproportionality by each ethnicity group amongst just the under 18s for the current reporting period and the previous five reporting periods, and shows that the Black ethnicity group still experiences disproportionality in this age group. Figure 6 looks at all Under 18s, regardless of whether they reside in Suffolk or elsewhere.
- 2.3.5 As previously referenced, changes in demographics from the 2021 census had 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 population data used is for ages 10-17 only and these are relatively small numbers, as shown in Table 6. The rate of disproportionality seen within the Black ethnicity group (3.7) has increased since the previous reporting period (3.5). Each of the other ethnicity groups sees a rate below parity.
- 2.3.6 When under 18 subjects with addresses outside of the county are excluded, disproportionality decreases to 0.8 for all BAME groups. For the Black ethnicity group the value reduces to 2.7, the Other ethnicity group value reduces to 0.7, and the Asian ethnicity group value reduces to 0.6. The disproportionality rate for the Mixed ethnicity group remains 0.4.

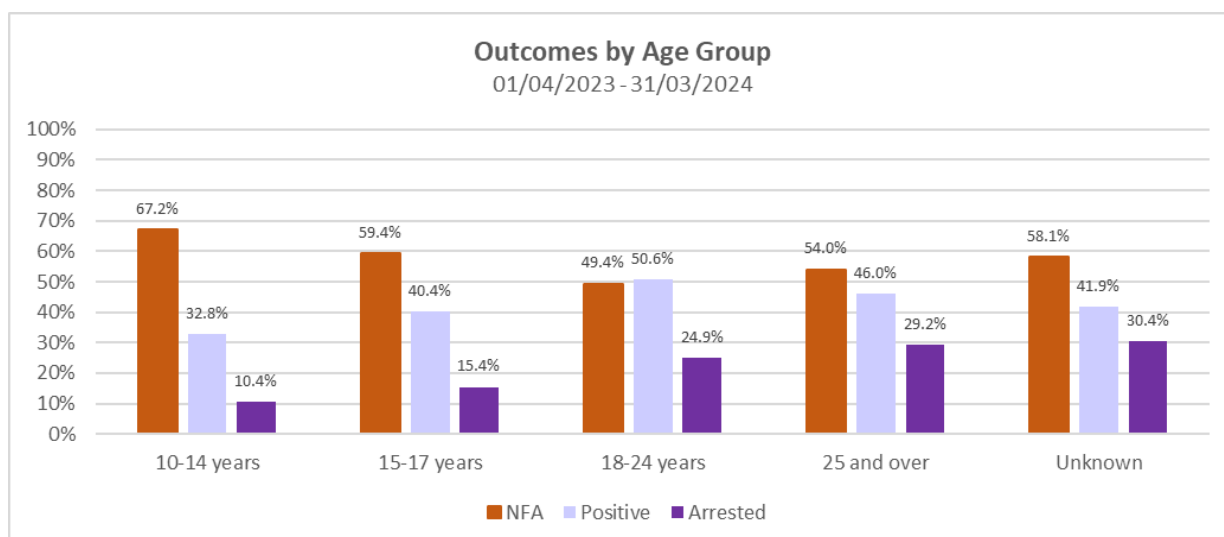


Figure 7: NFA, positive outcomes and arrests by age group 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024

- 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 rates of positive outcomes and arrests. The highest rate of positive outcomes is within the group aged 18 to 24. Arrest rates are highest in the unknown age group.

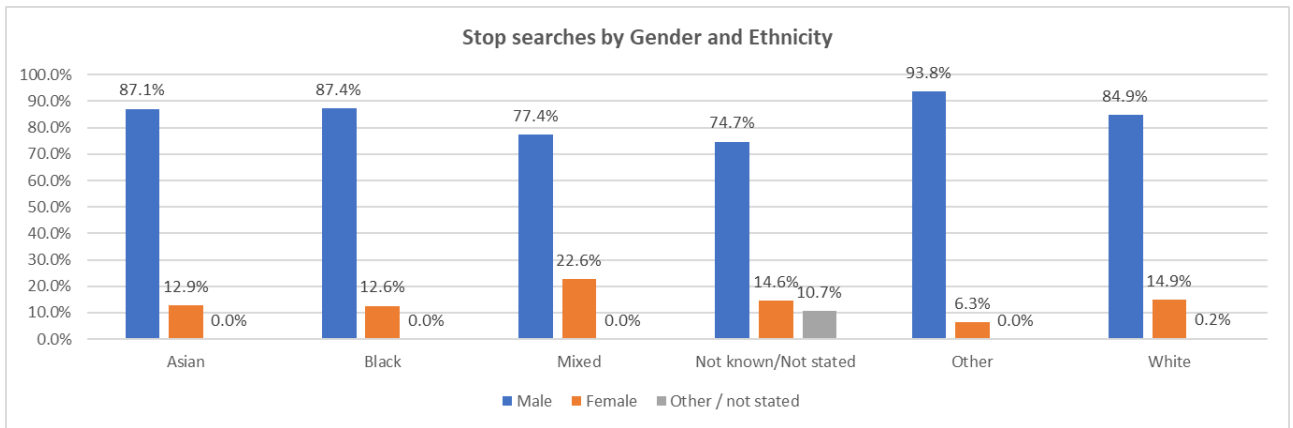


Figure 8: Stop searches by gender and ethnicity, 01/04/2023-31/03/2024.

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	116	5.4%	17	4.5%	1	1.4%
15 to 17	348	16.3%	41	10.8%	0	0.0%
18 to 24	586	27.4%	84	22.0%	2	2.9%
25 and over	1013	47.4%	231	60.6%	3	4.3%
Not known	76	3.6%	8	2.1%	64	91.4%

Table 7: Gender by age group, 01/04/2023-31/03/2024

2.3.8 82.6% of subjects of stop search in the current reporting period were male which is similar to the last reporting period (83.1%). 14.7% were female and 0.2% either stated Self Defined gender or Preferred not to say. 2.5% 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.

## 2.4 Object of search

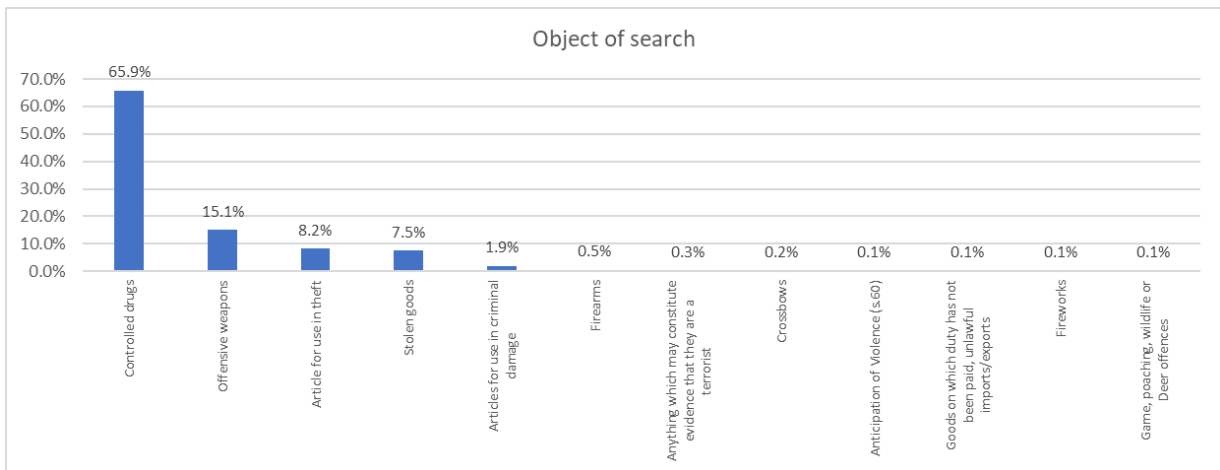


Figure 9: Percentage breakdown of Object of Search, 01/04/2023-31/03/2023

2.4.1 Figure 9 displays the object of searches undertaken in Suffolk during this reporting period. In the majority of stop searches (1,706, 65.9%) controlled drugs has been recorded as the object of search. The highest volume of these searches took place in Ipswich (590) followed by West Suffolk (485). Controlled drug related stop and searches accounted for 62.6% of the total number of stop searches in Ipswich, and 75.2% of the total number of stop searches in West Suffolk.

District	White	BME	Not stated / declined
Babergh	75.4%	5.1%	19.6%
East Suffolk	78.2%	3.9%	17.9%
Ipswich	56.4%	17.3%	26.3%
Mid Suffolk	79.6%	5.1%	15.3%
West Suffolk	70.7%	7.6%	21.6%
OOF	50.0%	20.0%	30.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>68.2%</b>	<b>9.8%</b>	<b>21.9%</b>

Table 8: Controlled drug searches by district and ethnicity

2.4.2 168 (9.8%) of these searches (Controlled drugs) were on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity subjects, 1,164 (68.2%) were on subjects of white ethnicity and 374 (21.9%) were on people for whom ethnicity is not known or not stated.

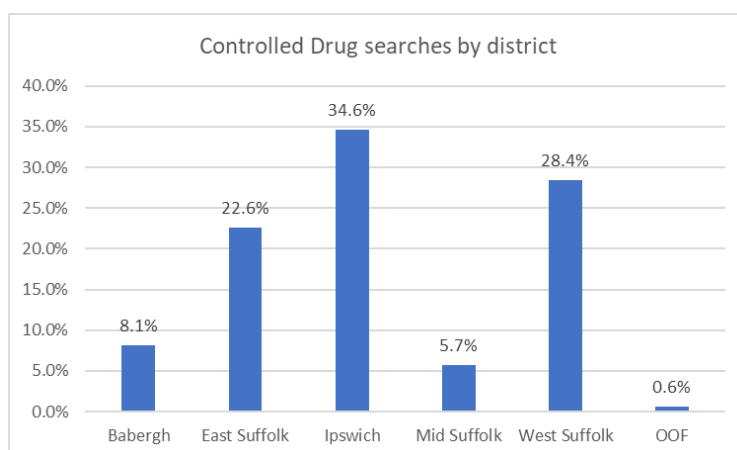


Figure 10: Percentage of controlled drug related searches by district

2.4.3 Figure 10 shows that 34.6% of the controlled drugs searches occurred in the Ipswich district.

District	Male	Female	Other / Not stated
Babergh	85.5%	12.3%	2.2%
East Suffolk	82.9%	12.2%	4.9%
Ipswich	80.5%	17.6%	1.9%
Mid Suffolk	77.6%	19.4%	3.1%
West Suffolk	84.9%	12.4%	2.7%
OOF	90.0%	10.0%	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>82.6%</b>	<b>14.5%</b>	<b>2.9%</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 the same as was seen in the previous reporting period.

District	10-14 years	15-17 years	18-24 years	25 and over	Not stated
Babergh	4.2%	15.3%	24.6%	55.1%	0.8%
East Suffolk	2.2%	12.2%	30.1%	53.0%	2.5%
Ipswich	1.1%	16.0%	31.8%	47.4%	3.8%
Mid Suffolk	9.2%	15.8%	21.1%	48.7%	5.3%
West Suffolk	1.2%	11.4%	35.2%	47.3%	4.9%
OOF	0.0%	0.0%	22.2%	66.7%	11.1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2.1%</b>	<b>13.6%</b>	<b>31.2%</b>	<b>49.5%</b>	<b>3.7%</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	33.3%	0.0%	66.7%
East Suffolk	68.2%	6.4%	25.5%
Ipswich	53.6%	13.2%	33.1%
Mid Suffolk	85.0%	0.0%	15.0%
West Suffolk	68.3%	3.7%	28.0%
OOF	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>61.5%</b>	<b>7.7%</b>	<b>30.8%</b>

Table 11: Offensive weapon searches by district and ethnicity

2.4.6 30 (7.7%) searches for Offensive weapons were on subjects of Black, Asian and Minority ethnicities, compared with 240 (61.5%) on subjects of white ethnicity and 120 (30.8%) on people for whom the ethnicity was not known or not stated.

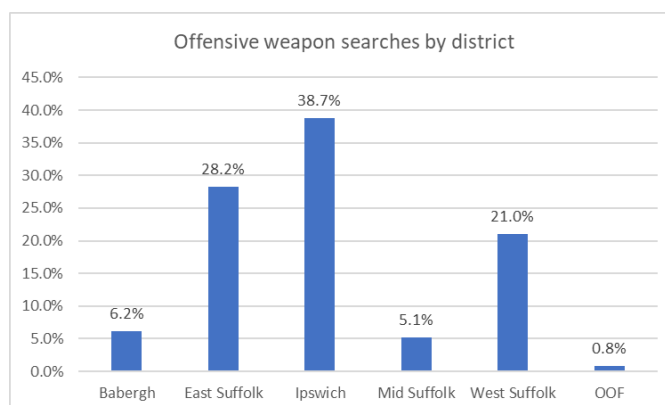


Figure 11: Percentage of offensive weapon related searches by district

2.4.7 During the reporting period, 390 stop searches (15.1%) were conducted where the object searched for was an offensive weapon. This has increased by 0.9p.p since the last reporting period. Figure 11 shows that 38.7% occurred in the Ipswich district.

District	Male	Female	Other / Not stated
Babergh	91.7%	8.3%	0.0%
East Suffolk	82.7%	14.5%	2.7%
Ipswich	87.4%	9.3%	3.3%
Mid Suffolk	90.0%	10.0%	0.0%
West Suffolk	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%
OOF	85.4%	13.4%	1.2%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>86.2%</b>	<b>11.5%</b>	<b>2.3%</b>

Table 12: Offensive weapon related searches by district and gender

2.4.8 Overall, 86.2% of the Offensive weapon searches involved a male subject.

District	10-14 years	15-17 years	18-24 years	25 and over	Not stated
Babergh	9.1%	27.3%	13.6%	13.6%	36.4%
East Suffolk	19.8%	25.3%	17.6%	31.9%	5.5%
Ipswich	3.0%	25.8%	26.5%	41.7%	3.0%
Mid Suffolk	33.3%	11.1%	11.1%	38.9%	5.6%
West Suffolk	11.4%	24.3%	15.7%	45.7%	2.9%
OOF	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>11.3%</b>	<b>24.4%</b>	<b>19.9%</b>	<b>38.4%</b>	<b>6.0%</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 Babergh where the not known / not stated age group was the most common (males only).

Item searched for was found	Count	%
Controlled drugs	547	78%
Stolen goods	69	10%
Offensive weapons	42	6%
Article for use in theft	27	4%
Others	13	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>698</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	650	25.1%	10	32.3%	28	27.2%	12	22.6%	160	25.9%	10	20.8%	430	24.7%
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	2	0.1%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	0.1%
Caution	9	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%	8	0.5%
Community resolution	147	5.7%	3	9.7%	6	5.8%	3	5.7%	15	2.4%	5	10.4%	115	6.6%
Guardian intervention	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Khat or Cannabis warning	4	0.2%	0	0.0%	1	1.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3	0.2%
NFA	1413	54.6%	13	41.9%	57	55.3%	33	62.3%	357	57.9%	27	56.3%	926	53.3%
No Category	1	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.1%
Other action	137	5.3%	3	9.7%	5	4.9%	3	5.7%	30	4.9%	2	4.2%	94	5.4%
Seizure of property	64	2.5%	1	3.2%	2	1.9%	1	1.9%	22	3.6%	1	2.1%	37	2.1%
Summons	11	0.4%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	1.9%	2	0.3%	1	2.1%	7	0.4%
Verbal warning / words of advice	43	1.7%	0	0.0%	2	1.9%	0	0.0%	9	1.5%	0	0.0%	32	1.8%
Voluntary attendance	108	4.2%	1	3.2%	2	1.9%	0	0.0%	21	3.4%	2	4.2%	82	4.7%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>2590</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>617</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1738</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

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

2.4.11 “No Further Action” (NFA) was the most common outcome for all ethnicities, although the overall percentage resulting in NFA decreased by 4.1p.p. to account for 54.6% of all outcomes. Looking at specific ethnicities, the NFA rate has increased for subjects from a Mixed ethnicity group since the previous reporting period (increasing by 2.3p.p. to 62.3%). There were decreases in the NFA rate for all other ethnicities.

2.4.12 Searches with no outcome recorded (shown as No Category) has decreased to just one record for this reporting period. As OPTIK becomes the only recording method, these are expected to cease.

Stop search outcome	Babergh		East Suffolk		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		West Suffolk		OOF	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Arrest	70	39.1%	151	23.3%	220	23.4%	40	26.1%	158	24.5%	11	50.0%
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	2	1.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Caution	2	1.1%	4	0.6%	3	0.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Community resolution	2	1.1%	49	7.6%	57	6.1%	8	5.2%	31	4.8%	0	0.0%
Guardian intervention	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	0	0.0%
Khat or Cannabis warning	0	0.0%	1	0.2%	1	0.1%	0	0.0%	2	0.3%	0	0.0%
NFA	81	45.3%	364	56.1%	560	59.4%	71	46.4%	328	50.9%	9	40.9%
No Category	1	0.6%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other action	10	5.6%	33	5.1%	41	4.4%	9	5.9%	43	6.7%	1	4.5%
Seizure of property	3	1.7%	9	1.4%	20	2.1%	9	5.9%	22	3.4%	1	4.5%
Summons	1	0.6%	4	0.6%	3	0.3%	0	0.0%	3	0.5%	0	0.0%
Verbal warning / words of advice	0	0.0%	13	2.0%	16	1.7%	3	2.0%	11	1.7%	0	0.0%
Voluntary attendance	9	5.0%	21	3.2%	21	2.2%	11	7.2%	46	7.1%	0	0.0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>179</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>649</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>942</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>645</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.0%</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 59.4% in Ipswich, to 40.9% for Out Of Force (OOF) incidents.

2.5 Use of strip search

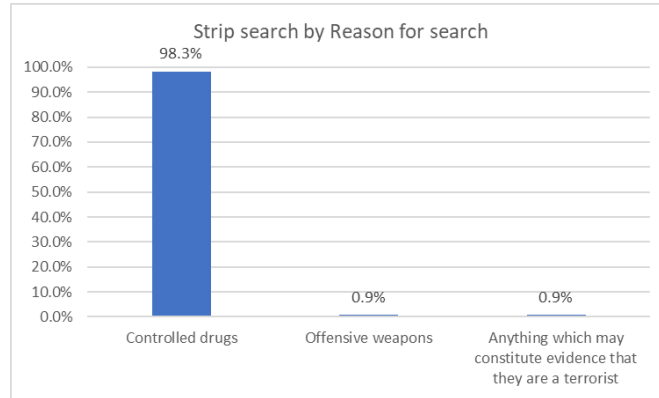


Figure 12: Suffolk strip search by reason for search

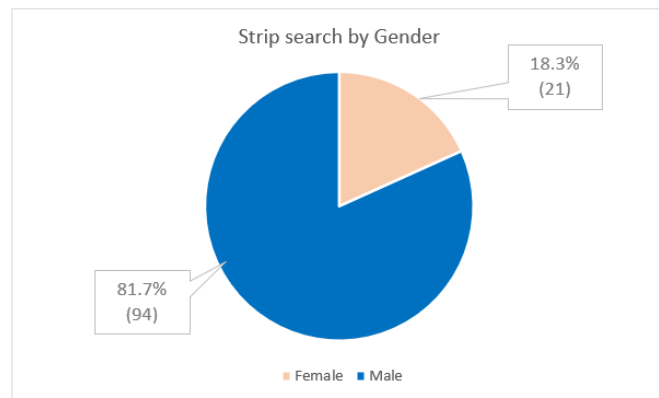


Figure 13: Suffolk strip search by gender

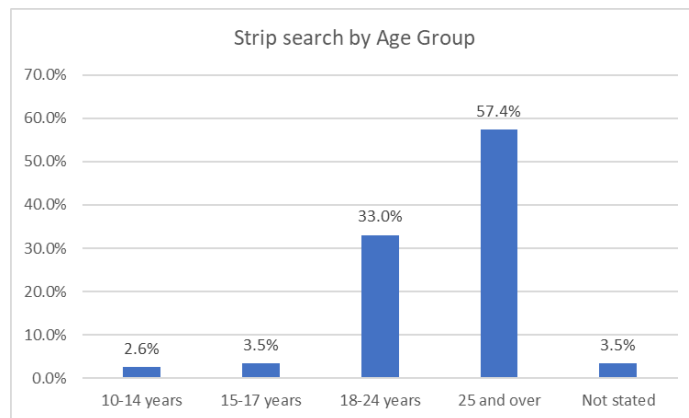


Figure 14: Suffolk strip search by age grouping

2.5.1 Strip search volumes reflect both Optik and non-Optik records. Between April 2023 and March 2024, there were 115 strip searches conducted, a reduction from 190 in the previous reporting period (October 2022 to September 2023). This accounts for 4.4% of all stop searches, which is 1.4p.p lower than in the previous report. Figure 12 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 113 (98.3%) 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. 81.7% 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	13	11.3%	3	23.1%	0	0.0%
Not known/Not stated	18	15.7%	7	38.9%	3	16.7%
White	84	73.0%	26	31.0%	6	7.1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>31.3%</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>7.8%</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, 11.3% of the strip searches (13) were undertaken on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnicity individuals, which compares to 9.1% of all stop searches undertaken on individuals of the same background. This is a decrease of 0.8p.p from the previous reporting period where 12.1% of people subject to strip search were from ethnic minorities. 84 strip searches (73.0%) were undertaken on persons of white ethnicity, with that group making up 67.1% of all stop searches. The remaining 15.7% 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 36 strip searches (31.3%), whilst additional items not being searched for were found in nine strip searches (7.8%). Overall, 42 out of 115 strip searches found something, whether it was the item being searched for or not, giving an overall find rate of 36.5% for strip searches. This is a reduction from the last reporting period, where the overall find rate had been 44.2%.

Strip search reason for search	Total		Asian		Black		Mixed		Not stated		Other		White	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
Controlled drugs	113	98.3%	0	0%	8	100%	3	100%	17	94.4%	2	100%	83	98.8%
Offensive weapons	1	0.9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	5.6%	0	0%	0	0.0%
Anything which may constitute evidence that they are a terrorist	1	0.9%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	1.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>84</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		Asian		Black		Mixed		Not stated		Other		White	
	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%	Count	%
10-14 years	3	2.6%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	5.6%	0	0%	2	2.4%
15-17 years	4	3.5%	0	0%	1	12.5%	1	33.3%	1	5.6%	0	0%	1	1.2%
18-24 years	38	33.0%	0	0%	3	37.5%	2	66.7%	6	33.3%	0	0%	27	32.1%
25 and over	66	57.4%	0	0%	4	50.0%	0	0%	9	50.0%	2	100%	51	60.7%
Unknown	4	3.5%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	1	5.6%	0	0%	3	3.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>84</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 57.4% of all strip searches, irrespective of ethnicity. This was consistent within all ethnicity groups except for Mixed, where the 18-24 age group saw the most strip searches. No strip searches were conducted on subjects from the Asian ethnicity group. Four individuals subject of a strip search in this reporting period did not provide their age.

2.5.5 Seven 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 Since autumn 2022, data has been made available relating to vehicle stops under section 163 of the Road Traffic Act.

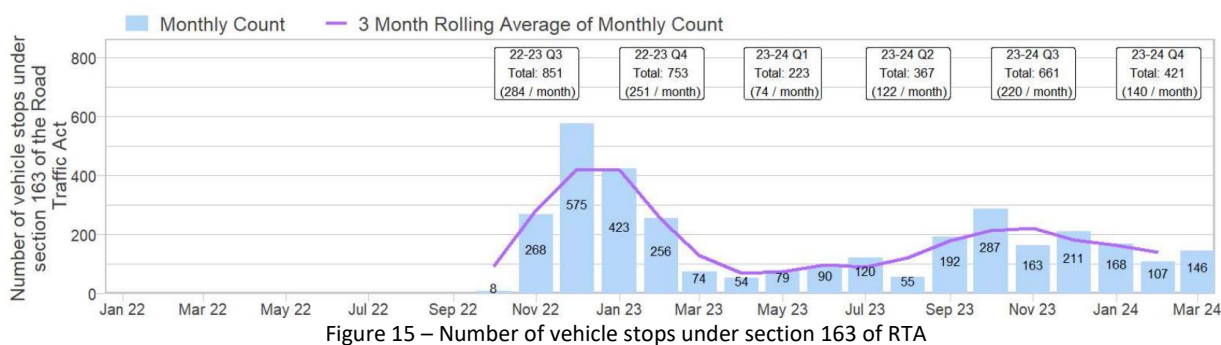


Figure 15 – Number of vehicle stops under section 163 of RTA

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, with levels fluctuating since. Over the last 12-months, there have been 1,672 vehicle stops recorded under s.163 compared with 2,194 in the previous reporting period.

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), Kestrel Team, and the Sentinel (East) Teams, working in partnership to support the local CPT’s (Community Policing Team) within the Lowestoft and Halesworth localities, addressing local crime and Antisocial Behaviour (ASB) priorities. The work of the Kestrel Team should be highlighted in balancing working within communities, providing reassurance where problems have been identified and carrying out pro-active policing.

2.7.4 County Lines activity in the East remains 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. Our proactive approach in the East remains with Safe and Well visits to addresses where there is suspected exploitation taking place.

2.7.5 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.

## 2.7.6 Operational Examples:

- Air Weapon Seized - Plain clothes foot patrol in North Lowestoft and male seen smoking cannabis in underpass of block of flats. Detained for a search and he resisted. Subject was eventually restrained and searched where an air hand pistol and cannabis was located.
- Drugs Search - Kestrel Officer following up intel reports for drug dealing in residential area in Southwold discovered male outside address. Male was detained for search and Cocaine and cannabis was located. Further intelligence development resulted in a warrant being obtained for male's address and large quantity of cannabis located.
- Drugs Search/Weapon seized - an exchange has been seen to take place between suspect and drug user where cannabis has been located on the drug user. The suspect has then been searched using S23 Misuse of Drugs Act and found in possession of five (5) bags of Cannabis and another bag of Cannabis located in his right jacket pocket. He also had a smart phone on him and a burner phone, eighty (80) pounds in cash and a knuckle duster.
- Stop Search using S1 PACE, Stolen Property - Op Contour was an adopted local problem involving a high level of theft of motorbikes. At 3am patrol officers see a moped with two people on it, no helmets and wearing face coverings. They have not pursued but have called up, provided a good description of the pillion passenger and several units deploy to search the area. The bike is found abandoned, it has had its numberplate ripped off and it has clearly been stolen. A few more minutes later officers have stopped two males just a short distance away on foot, one of them matches the description of the pillion very well - they had a distinctive white face covering, described as looking like an item of clothing wrapped around his face, the male stopped had a white t-shirt tied around his neck which would pull up over his face, as well as other matching clothing found on them.

## 2.7.7 West Suffolk

- 2.7.8 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.
- 2.7.9 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.
- 2.7.10 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.
- 2.7.11 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.

## 2.7.12 Operational Examples:

- In December 2023 a vehicle was stopped near Newmarket with a single male occupant inside, which had information linking it to the supply of controlled drugs. The driver was detained for a S23 stop search. During the search of the vehicle a quantity of cannabis which was suspected to be a personal use amount was located including a rolled "spliff". A brown envelope which had an elastic band wrapped around it was then located underneath the driver's seat in the vehicle, inside was a large quantity of cash which was in three separated bundles along with a package wrapped in white plastic wrapping. The wrap was opened and the package contained a singular large rock of a brown crystallised substance. The drug was tested in a lab and was confirmed to be 58.6g of MDMA (Ecstasy). Male charged and remanded for Possess with intent to supply a controlled drug of Class A – MDMA, Possess a controlled drug of Class B - Cannabis / Cannabis Resin, Acquire / use / possess criminal property and Possess an offensive weapon in private place. Guilty plea entered and awaiting sentencing.
- In December 2023 a vehicle was stopped in Sudbury with links to drug supply. Male driver was detained for a S23 Misuse of Drugs Act search. During the search of the male driver and the vehicle, a quantity of cash (£360), 2 wraps of Cocaine and some cannabis was located. Search conducted of the home address following arrest and 37 plastics bags of Cocaine located along with some more cash (£60). Approx £1,500 - £2,000 value of drugs located. The male was charged and remanded for Possession With Intent To Supply Class A – Cocaine, Possession of cannabis and Acquire criminal property.
- In March 2024 a vehicle was stopped in Sudbury with links to drug supply. Male driver was detained for a S23 Misuse of Drugs Act search. During the search the male was found to be in possession of two wraps of Cocaine, cash (£40) and a mobile phone with messages relating to the postcode supply model. The vehicle was searched and a further £110 located. A house nearby was linked to him which identified a large quantity of Cocaine and cash. The total amount of cash seized from the address was £8,786.80. A block of 64g of cocaine was found along with 151 grip seal bags of Cocaine ready for supply. The total value of the drugs was £7,840 to £12,440. Male charged and remanded.
- In November 2023 during proactive patrols in the Sudbury area a male was located stationary in a vehicle. Male was detained S23 Misuse of Drugs Act and on his person 2x lottery tickets containing class A and during the search of the vehicle, a black sock was located within the casing of the handbrake. This contained 9 lottery tickets of 0.5grams of cocaine (Approx £450 worth). Money amounting to £390 and phones which contained evidence of post code supply model in which he was being directed to deal at post codes from a handler. Male was charged and remanded and spent six months on remand. He was then sentenced to twenty months suspended sentence with full forfeiture of cash, drugs and mobile phones. Intelligence gained from this stop led to the stop of three further vehicles due to V5's located within it.
- In November 2023 a vehicle was identified off the back of a positive stop and search which was suspected to be supplying cocaine. Vehicle was located and the male detained for S23 Misuse of Drugs Act. On his person were twelve lottery tickets containing class A (approx £600 worth), press seal bags were located and £405. Phones were seized from the male and there was evidence of post code supply model in which he was directed to the location in which he was stopped. Male was charged and remanded.

### 2.7.13 South Suffolk

2.7.14 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.

2.7.15 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.

2.7.16 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.

2.7.17 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.

2.7.18 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).

2.7.19 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.

### 2.7.20 Operational Examples:

- Officers received information that people were trying to break into vehicles in an area where vehicle crime had been taking place. Officers attended the area and located a male suspect. Officers followed the see, know and suspect model and carried out a stop search. The suspect was located with suspected stolen property on them and was arrested. The male was identified as a prolific offender who is now being linked to several other offences in the area.
- Officers received information that there was drug dealing taking place in a playpark close to the town centre. Officers attended the location and the suspect attempted to avoid police, raising their suspicion. Officers followed the see, know and suspect model formulating the grounds for a stop search. The search was conducted and the suspect was found to be in possession of a Stanley knife and a large quantity of cash.

- Officers were on foot patrol in Butter market / Arras Square due to the ongoing ASB issues. A 15-year-old victim reported to a police patrol he had just been threatened with a knife by a male, the suspect has allegedly lifted up his jacket to show a black handle which was sticking out from the waistband of suspect's jogging bottoms. Suspect has then said words to the effect "YOU DONT WANT TO START THIS". Officers have carried out fast time enquiries and located the offender. They conducted a stop search locating 2 kitchen knives on the male, who 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, 19 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to this operation with Ipswich reporting 16 (84.2%), West Suffolk reporting 2 (10.5%), and East Suffolk reporting 1 (5.3%). None were recorded in Babergh or Mid Suffolk. In the Ipswich district there were 8 stops of subjects identifying as from a white ethnicity, 5 on those from a Black or Minority ethnicity and 3 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	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other	Not stated	White	Strip searches	NFA Outcome	Suffolk resident	Non-Suffolk resident
Babergh	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
East Suffolk	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0
Ipswich	16	1	3	0	1	3	8	3	13	8	1
Mid Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
West Suffolk	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>1</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, 47.4% were Suffolk addresses, 5.3% were addresses outside Suffolk and in 47.4% of cases the address had not been stated. The overall NFA rate for Operation Velocity was 84.2%.

2.8.4 According to the Organised Crime Disruptions Log, the following statistics have been recorded between April 2023 and March 2024.

No. disruptions	Quantity of drugs seized	Cash seized	Weapons seized
171	Cocaine: approx 1.1kg Cannabis: 326 plants and approx 2.1kg	Approx £415,995	1 x realistic imitation firearm 1 x air weapon 4 x other firearms Incapacitor spray

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 up to 31st March 2023. In the year ending March 2023 there were 542,722 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 the previous year 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 1.8 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 gave Suffolk the highest relative rate for the Other group but it 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

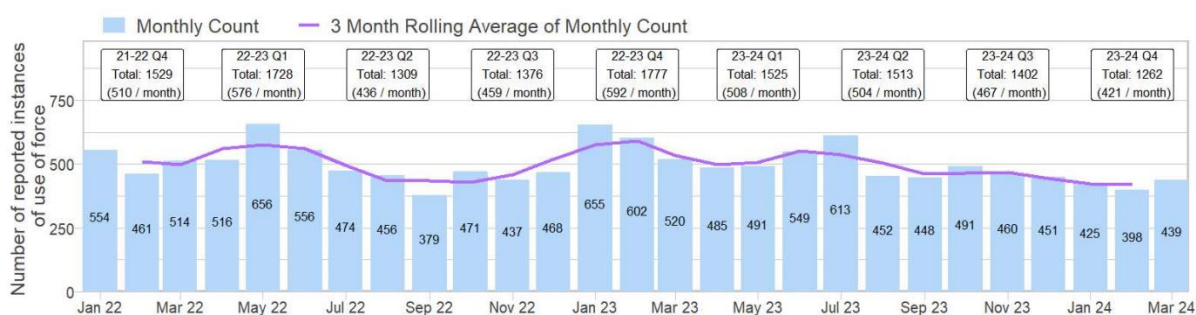


Figure 16: Volume of Use of force instances, 01/01/2022-31/03/2024

- 4.1 5,702 reported instances of use of force were recorded in the current reporting period. This is a reduction of 7.9% since the previous reporting period which had 6,191 (12 months ending September 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/dashboards/stop-and-search-ethnic-disparity-time-series)





Figure 17: Volume of Use of force instances by ethnicity, 01/01/2022-31/03/2024

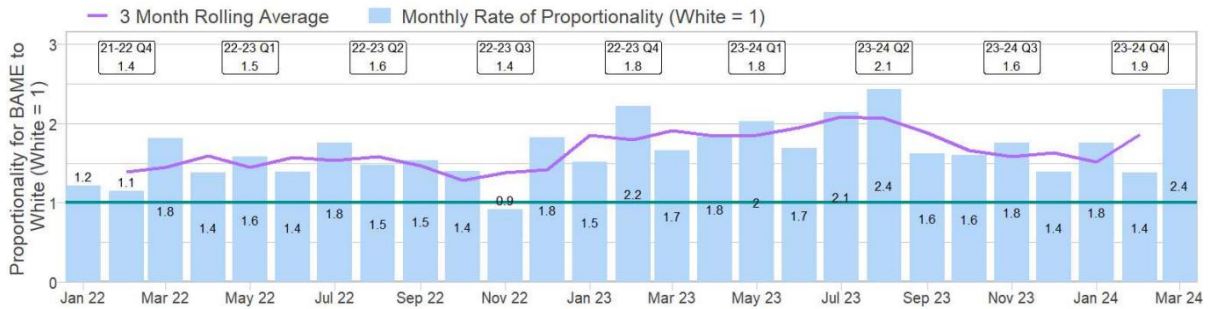


Figure 18: Disproportionality in Use of force instances, 01/01/2022-31/03/2024

4.1 Between December 2022 and August 2023, an upward trend of disproportionality can be seen in Figure 18. There was a peak in disproportionality rate for BME 2.4 in August 2023, followed by an overall decline. However, March 2024 has indicated another increase. Operations were commissioned around gang rivalries and youth violence in Q4 2021/22 which remain ongoing, and violent offences 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

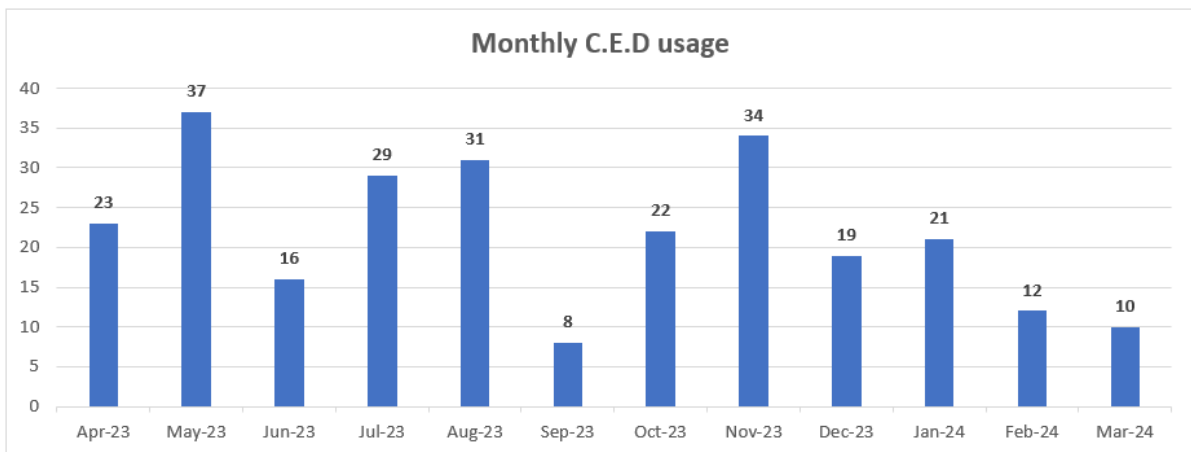


Figure 19: Monthly Conducted Energy Device (C.E.D) usage 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

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 262, a reduction of 12.4% since the last reporting period. This represents an average of 22 usages a month compared with 25 in the previous reporting period. Monthly volumes peaked in May 2023 and were lowest in September 2023.



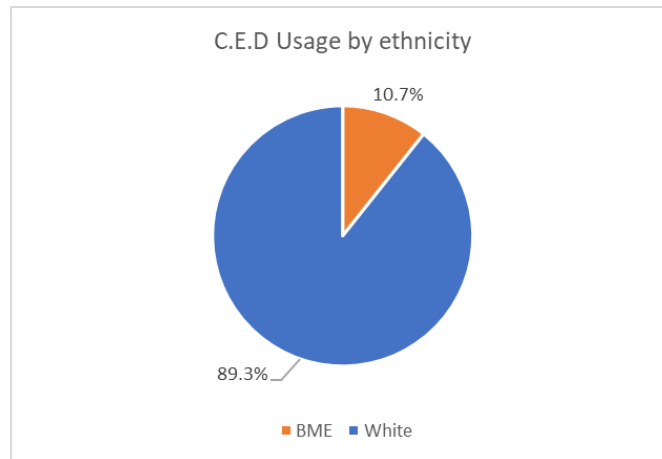


Figure 20: Ethnicity breakdown of C.E.D usage 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

5.2 Figure 20 highlights that 89.3% of the subjects where a C.E.D was used were of white ethnicity, and 10.7% were from Black and Minority Ethnic groups (this includes all forms of C.E.D usage, not just when fired).

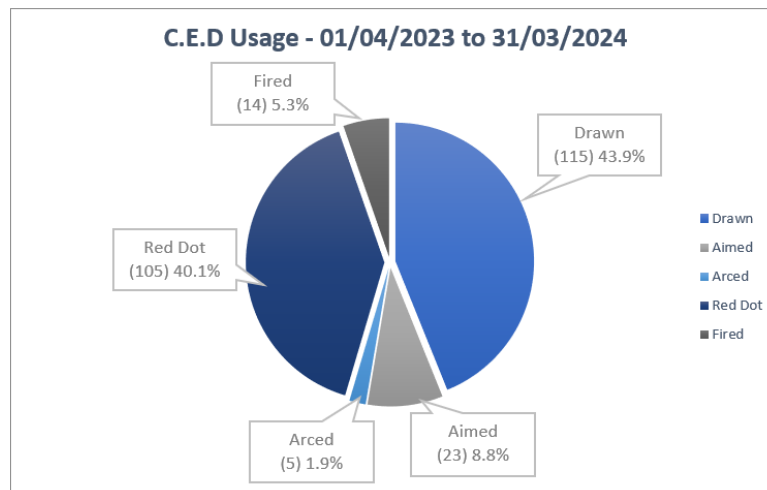


Figure 21: C.E.D usage breakdown 01/04/2023 – 31/03/2024

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 April 2023 to 31 March 2024. Please note this was produced for internal scrutiny purposes in April 2024 but has been included as it offers further information on proportionality with regard young people and ethnicity, in an accessible format.

**7. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY ISCRE ON THEIR WORK TO ADMINISTER THE 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 remains in a strong position where the use of policing powers is concerned. Improvements have been made in the reporting period in positive outcome rates and reducing racial disproportionality. There are strong external scrutiny arrangements which provide the opportunity for learning and maintenance of good practice.
- 10.2 There has been further development of understanding and scrutiny for other policing powers use. Use of force at all levels is relatively low, but the Constabulary will avoid complacency through effective training and ongoing analysis of trends whilst identifying learning that can influence operational training.
- 10.3 It is important to remember that independent inspection has assessed the Constabulary as 'Good' where police powers are concerned. Compliance rates with authorised practice is amongst some of the highest in the country, and the organisation will work to maintain those levels despite the challenge of inexperience that has resulted from officer number growth.

# PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK - BME

Date Range 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

*Unless stated all numbers exclude subjects with addresses outside Suffolk*

*Under 18 refers to those aged 10 to 17. A total of 1,666 stop searches were recorded during the reporting period.*

Suffolk BME population just under **7%** (2021 census)

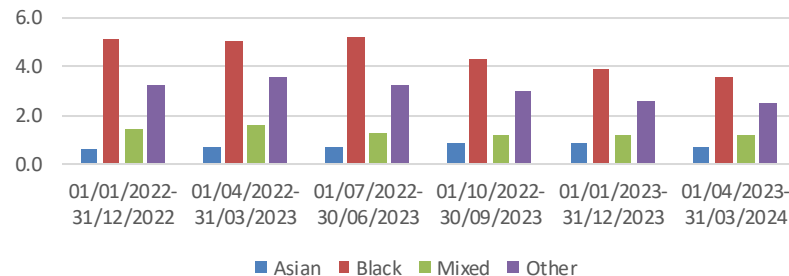
Of all those subject to stop & search, BME accounted for **151 (9.1%)**

## Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk

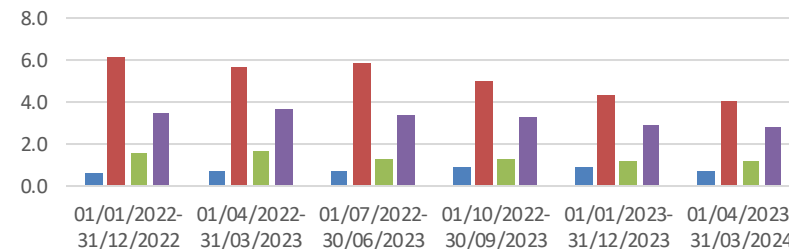
Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.7	3.6	1.2	2.5
All addresses	0.7	4.0	1.2	2.8

Since the last reporting period, there has been a decrease in disproportionality for the Black ethnicity group (from 3.9 to 3.6) but it remains the group with the highest value. The Other group has also seen a small reduction in disproportionality (from 2.6 to 2.5), and the Asian group (from 0.8 to 0.7). There has been no change to the rate for the Mixed groups. See comparisons in the two charts below:

Disproportionality by ethnicity Suffolk only

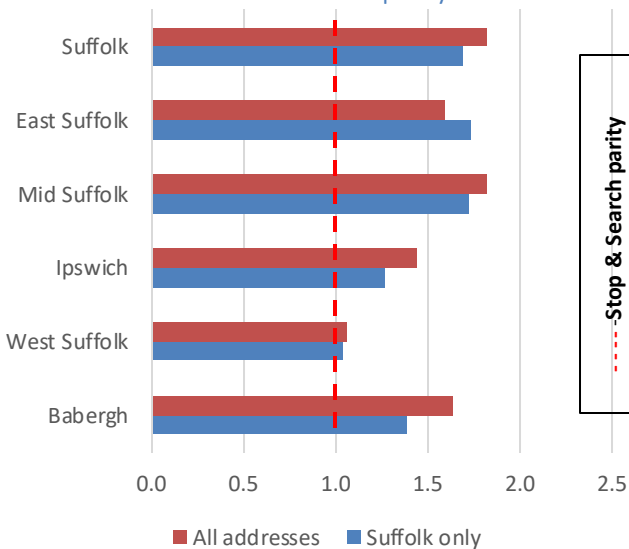


Disproportionality by ethnicity All addresses



## Disproportionality by District

- Excluding subjects with addresses outside Suffolk, the local BME community is **1.7** times more likely to be subject of stop & search than white counterparts, increasing to **1.8** times when including all subjects. Both values have reduced since last quarter's report. For Suffolk only, the disproportionality affects males more than females – BME males are 1.7 times more likely to be subject of a stop search than white males, whereas for BME females, the disproportionality rate is 1.3.
- There is much closer spread of disproportionality rates per district this quarter. Babergh no longer has the highest disproportionality.
- West Suffolk continues to show parity in searches.



The majority of persons subject to stop & search are male (83.1%). Males are **5.2** times more likely to be subject of stop search than female counterparts.

Of all U18s subject to stop & search, BME=6.9%

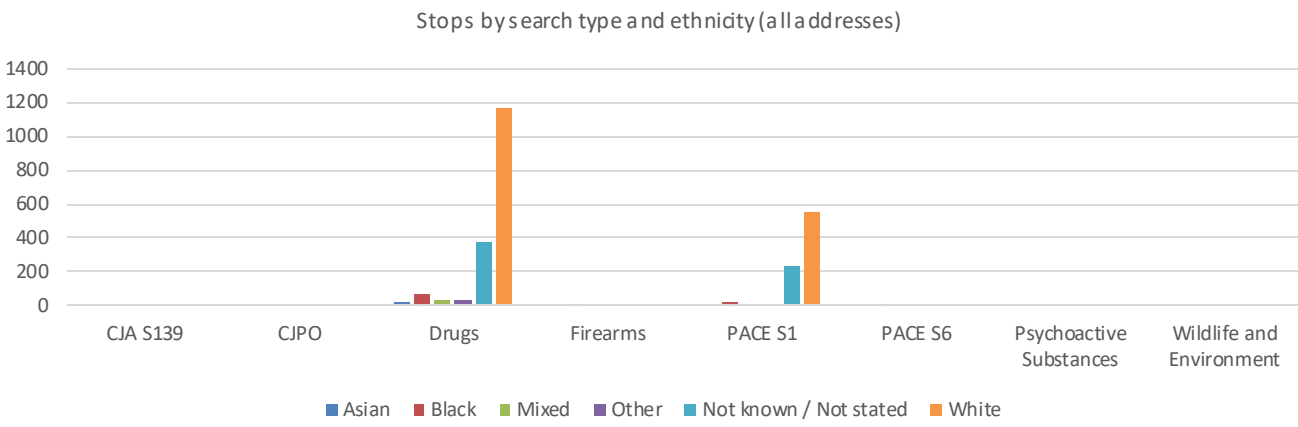
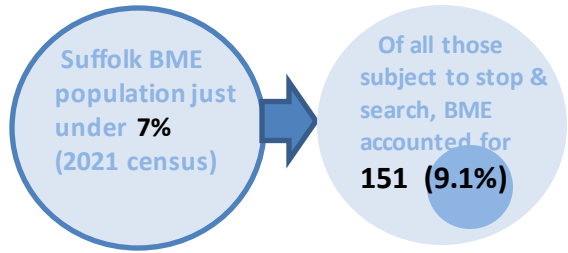
Reviewing just the U18 population, BME subjects were not more likely to be stop searched than white peers (Suffolk only) – disproportionality rate of 0.9.

District	Suffolk addresses		All addresses	
	BME	White	BME	White
<b>All</b>	<b>151</b>	<b>1208</b>	<b>231</b>	<b>1716</b>
East Suffolk	26	375	31	489
Mid Suffolk	5	89	7	118
Ipswich	90	380	143	534
West Suffolk	26	280	43	451
Babergh	4	84	7	124

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

# PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK – BME

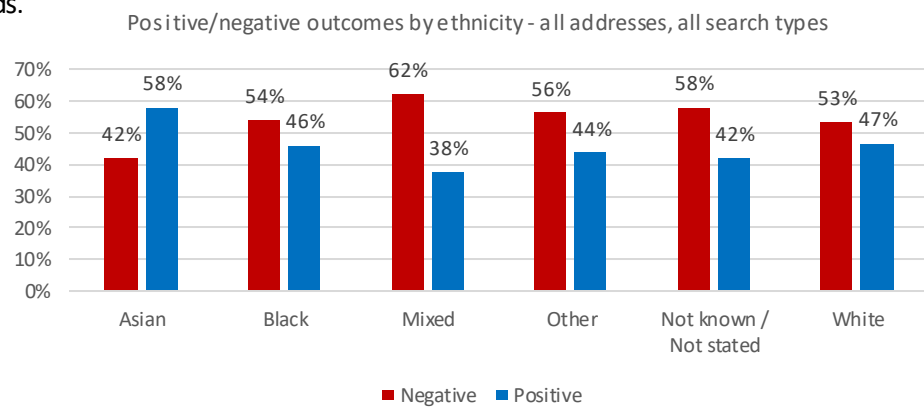
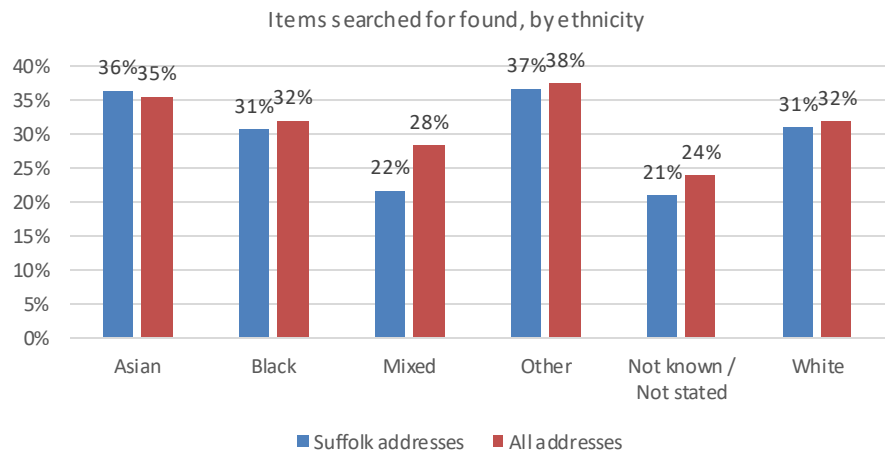
Date Range 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024



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

For Suffolk residents, Find rates for items that have been searched for irrespective of ethnicity have increased since the previous quarter, up 3.5p.p (from 25.6% last quarter to 29.1%). The Find rate for items searched for, for all addresses is 30.0%. Find rates have increased for all ethnicity groups since the previous quarter.

The (Suffolk residents) Find rate is higher for females (35.0%) than males (28.0%).



The percentages in the graph above are the percentages of each ethnicity total rather than a percentage of all stops in Suffolk. Negative relates to NFA and positive is all other outcomes excluding No Category.

For all addresses, Positive outcome rates increased for the Black (+8%), White (+3%) and Not known (+4%) ethnicity groups. The rate remained the same for the Mixed group. The Asian group saw a decrease (-4%) but still recorded more positive than negative outcomes. The Other group also decreased (-1%).

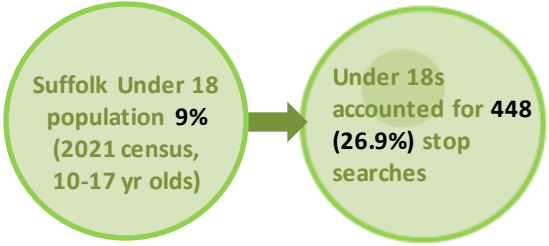
The overall positive outcome rate has increased since the last reporting period to 45.5% (up 3.1p.p). There was very little difference between Positive outcomes rates for females (44.9%) and males (45.0%).

# PROPORTIONALITY OF STOP & SEARCH USE IN SUFFOLK - AGE

Date Range 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

*Unless stated all numbers exclude subjects with addresses outside Suffolk*

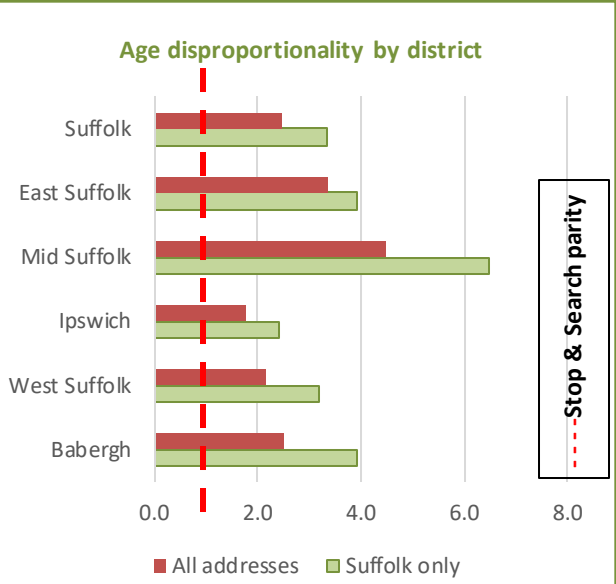
*Under 18 refers to those aged 10 to 17. A total of 1,666 stop searches were recorded during the reporting period.*



## Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk for Under 18s

Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.6	2.5	0.4	0.7
All addresses	0.7	3.5	0.4	0.8

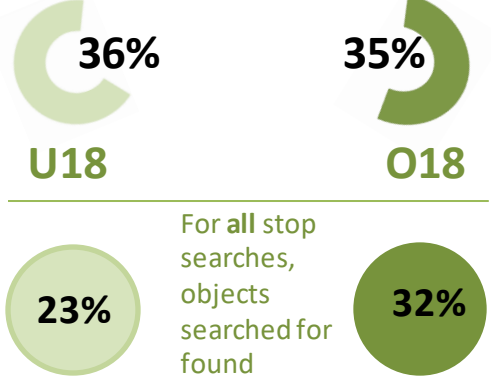
Amongst under 18s, all ethnicities experience lower disproportionality than when all ages are reviewed together. Disproportionality still affects the Black ethnicity group the most. Since last quarter, the rate has increased slightly for Suffolk addresses but reduced for all addresses. The rate for the Other group has now fallen below parity.



- The Suffolk U18 community is **3.4** times more likely to be subject of stop/search than over 18 counterparts, decreasing to **2.5** times when including all subjects indicating that the majority of external subjects are aged over 18.
- This age disproportionality reduced for females (2.2) but was consistent for males (3.5).
- This is a slight reduction in disproportionality since the levels seen last reporting period.
- The rate was highest in Mid Suffolk but this has also reduced since last quarter.

## Items Searched for by reason for search

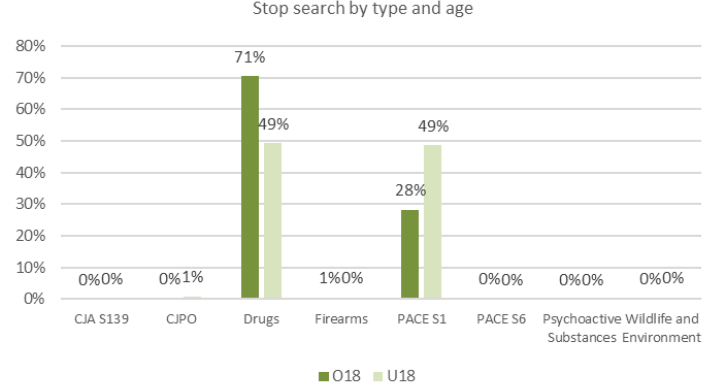
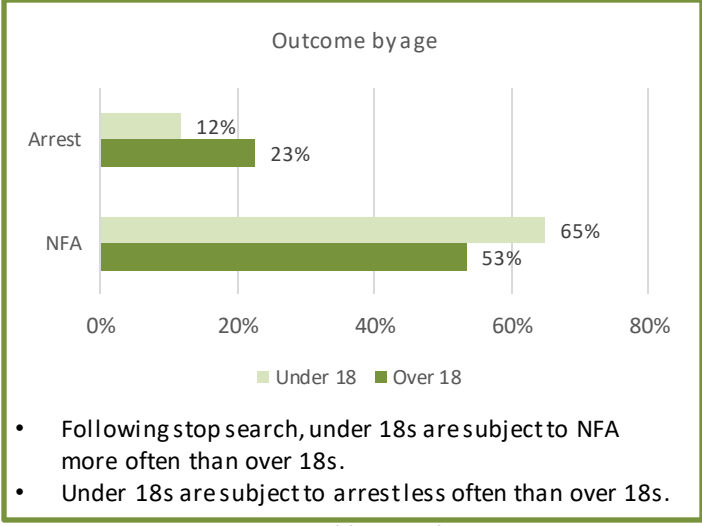
Drugs were the most common items searched for overall; 65% of stops gave Drugs as the reason for search. Find rates for drugs have increased for both age groups since the last reporting period.



The percentage of objects searched for found has increased for under 18s and remained stable for over 18s since the last reporting period.

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

Looking only at Suffolk's BME communities, under 18s are **1.3 times** more likely to be subject of stop and search than over 18s. This is lower than the overall Age Disproportionality value.



Drugs and PACE S1 are the most common reason for stop searches. Both age groups saw an increase in the proportion of Drug searches compared with the last reporting period. The proportion of PACE S1 searches remained consistent.

# PROPORTIONALITY OF HANDCUFF USE IN SUFFOLK STOP SEARCHES

Date Range 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

The below figures refer to a subset of Stop & Search data, as only Optik records have been linked with handcuffing data. A stop search record with no linked handcuff record is assumed to have not used handcuffs.

2,564 Optik records showing whether or not handcuffs were used during the Stop Search (all addresses):

Handcuffs used	All addresses	%	Suffolk only	%
Yes	1,357	53%	832	50%
No	1,207	47%	825	50%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,564</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>1,657</b>	<b>100%</b>

## Overall Disproportionality by ethnicity for Suffolk (Optik records only)

Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.7	3.5	1.2	2.5
All addresses	0.7	4.0	1.2	2.8

## Disproportionality where handcuffs were used:

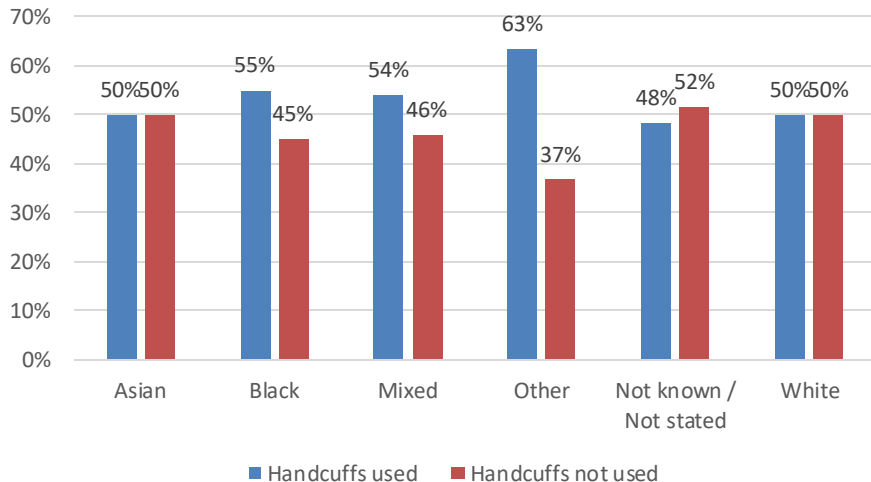
Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.7	3.8	1.3	3.2
All addresses	0.7	4.6	1.4	3.4

## Disproportionality where handcuffs were not used:

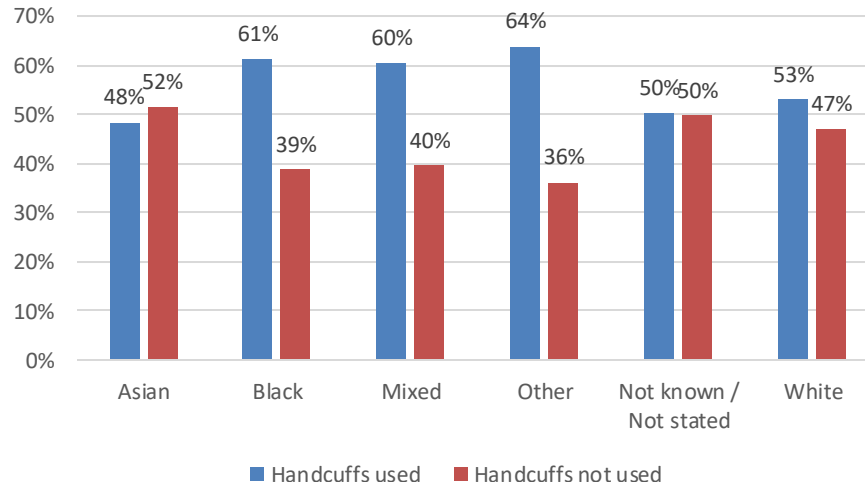
Addresses	Asian	Black	Mixed	Other
Suffolk addresses	0.7	3.1	1.1	1.9
All addresses	0.8	3.3	1.0	2.1

Comparing the disproportionality values shows higher disproportionality for persons from the Black, Mixed and Other ethnicity groups when handcuffs were used than when handcuffs were not used. This value increases for persons not local to Suffolk. As with overall disproportionality rates, the handcuffing rates for Black subjects have reduced this quarter compared with those from the previous reporting period. However, Other and Mixed have risen slightly.

Proportion of handcuffs used by ethnicity - Suffolk addresses only



Proportion of handcuffs used by ethnicity - All addresses



# PROPORTIONALITY OF HANDCUFF USE IN SUFFOLK STOP SEARCHES

Date Range 01/04/2023 to 31/03/2024

The below figures refer to a subset of Stop & Search data, as only Optik records have been linked with handcuffing data.

District	Suffolk addresses						All addresses					
	Total stop-searches	Using handcuffs	(%)	Total BME stop-searches	BME stop-searches using handcuffs	(%)	Total stop-searches	Using handcuffs	(%)	Total BME stop-searches	BME stop-searches using handcuffs	(%)
Babergh	103	52	50%	4	1	25%	175	98	56%	7	3	43%
West Suffolk	380	228	60%	26	18	69%	639	393	62%	43	30	70%
Ipswich	606	288	48%	89	47	53%	936	472	50%	142	80	56%
Mid Suffolk	105	48	46%	4	2	50%	149	74	50%	5	3	60%
East Suffolk	462	215	47%	26	15	58%	644	302	47%	31	20	65%
<b>All*</b>	<b>1,656</b>	<b>831</b>	<b>50%</b>	<b>149</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>2,543</b>	<b>1,339</b>	<b>53%</b>	<b>228</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>60%</b>

## Handcuffing Disproportionality by District

- Excluding subjects with addresses outside Suffolk, the **local BME** community was **1.9** times more likely to be subject of a stop search where handcuffs are used. This is a small increase from the previous reporting period (1.8).
- When including **all subjects** regardless of their address, BME subjects were **2.0** times more likely to be subject of a stop search with use of handcuffs, a reduction (from 2.1 previously).
- Having previously had the highest disproportionality rate for handcuffing, **Babergh** now has the lowest rate and is below parity for local subjects.

## Handcuffs used



\* Where District is shown as Out Of Force, these records have been excluded



## ISCRE's report on the Stop and Search Reference Group (January & March) and Police Powers Scrutiny Group (June) 2024

### SSRG Reporting

The aim of the Stop and Search Reference Group (SSRG) is to build trust and equity in the way Suffolk Police use Stop and Search powers. The group provides people from minoritised communities and others with a safe space and a neutral platform to share their experiences whilst challenging unfairness to reduce disproportionality in the use of the policing tool.

Attendees include members of the community and police representatives. Meetings were held on:

31<sup>st</sup> January and 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024. Future scrutiny will be provided through the Suffolk Police Powers Public Scrutiny (SPPPS) meetings. These will be held face-to-face and online.

- January meeting attendance: 9

The attendance for January's meeting was unusually low. We believe this was due to clashing commitments for attendees in the first month of the year. The meeting was also held immediately after the ISCRE annual general meeting, and this could have also impacted.

January 2024	<p>There was a total of 388 stop and search forms, and out of that we selected the following, to audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W1 – 21 out of 206 forms</li> <li>• BAME – 11 out of 34 forms</li> <li>• White Other – 17 out of 51 forms</li> <li>• Ethnicity Not Stated – 32 out of 97</li> </ul> <p>Venue: Via Teams 4:00 – 6:00 pm</p>
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- March Meeting attendance: – 16

March’s meeting was held in person at the Hive Ipswich.

March 2024	<p>There was a total of 437 stop and search forms, and out of that we selected the following, to audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• W1 – 23 out of 225 forms</li> <li>• BAME – 10 out of 30 forms</li> <li>• White Other – 28 out of 85 forms</li> <li>• Ethnicity Not Stated – 32 out of 97</li> </ul> <p>27<sup>th</sup> March at The Hive, Ipswich</p>
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**Main Issues**

- We still have the challenges where in some forms the grounds are not clearly recorded or there is a clear lack of grounds even in the new format.
- Some forms are still not being recorded in the format agreed: See - Know -Suspect. Forms not recorded in the correct format tend to lack clarity particularly around the grounds.
- BWV’s relating to selected cases were not readily available for to view.

**Body Worn Video (BWV) has been reviewed by ISCRE on the following dates:**

10<sup>th</sup> January 2024

21<sup>st</sup> March 2024

ISCRE viewed 4 BWV’s during this reporting period, not all were related to the forms that were scrutinised in meetings. Reviewing the BWVs allows for context to the narrative on the forms presented. It also allows us to understand differences between what has been put on the form and what has happened and provides an extra layer of scrutiny. The BWV also helps the police in instances where accusations have been made, we can see from visible evidence what occurred.

## **Suffolk Police Powers Public Scrutiny (SPPPS) Reporting**

In March 2024, a decision was made to provide further scrutiny by way of police powers. ISCRE now facilitates the Suffolk Police Powers Public Scrutiny (SPPPS). This includes the public scrutiny of police Use of Force, Taser Incidents and Stop/Searches.

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

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

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

### **Why Scrutinise?**

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

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

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

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

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

### **SPPPS Meeting June 05<sup>th</sup>**

Attendance: - 24

This was the first SPPPS meeting where the Use of Force and Taser incidents were scrutinised alongside some Stop & Search incidents. Scrutiny of these areas was seen

as a positive addition to the process and generated many questions and discussions at panel.

<b>Stop &amp; Search</b>	<p>There was a total of 432 stop and search forms, and out of that we selected the following, to audit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• W1 – 17 out of 219 forms</li><li>• BAME – 7 out of 40 forms</li><li>• White Other – 4 out of 62 forms</li><li>• Ethnicity Not Stated – 5 out of 111</li></ul> <p>Venue: Via Teams 4 - 6pm</p>
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<b>Use of Force</b>	<p>54 Samples – Reviewed down to 10 samples with more detailed analysis, 2 taken to panel for further scrutiny.</p>
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<b>Taser</b>	<p>55 Samples – Reviewed down to 3 samples with more detailed analysis, 1 taken to panel for further scrutiny.</p>
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## Main Issues

- As this was the first time scrutinising the Use of Force and Taser, what we believed would be enough raw data to select cases from has required some adjustments. Data provided to us did not include ethnicity, this presents as an issue to us as we need to be able to scrutinise a variety of cases from all different ethnic backgrounds to assist us in recognising any disproportionality that might be visible. This was amended for us to include a breakdown of ethnicity. We also found that the initial details on the raw data, does not provide enough information for selection of incidents that we require further information on for analysis and selection for scrutiny. This is something we are all currently working on.
- During this period there was a distinct lack of availability of BWV footage to review in relation to the incidents we have chosen to review at panel. An example of this is in June, out of 7 cases overall chosen by us to review, BWV was only available for 1 of those cases. It is important to have BWV available to review for greater scrutiny. The police have been challenged about this and they have committed to improve. The SPPPS will be monitoring this closely in future.
- As this a new area for the public and ISCRE to provide scrutiny on, many issues were asked at panel which we believe over time, we will have greater understanding on why the police do certain things they way they have, in the same way we have learned over time about the grounds for stop an search and their application of GOWISELY.

**Body Worn Video (BWV) has been reviewed by ISCRE on the following date:**

21<sup>st</sup> May 2024

**Suffolk Police Powers Public Scrutiny dates in 2024:**

July 31<sup>st</sup>

September 25<sup>th</sup>

November 27<sup>th</sup>

Sharon Lee ISCRE

