

<b>Committee(s):</b> Professional Standards and Integrity Committee	<b>Dated:</b> 8 <sup>th</sup> September 2021
<b>Subject:</b> Stop and Search Update-Q1 2021-22	<b>Public</b>
<b>Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?</b>	1- People are safe and feel safe
<b>Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>If so, how much?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>What is the source of Funding?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?</b>	<b>N/A</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Commissioner of Police Pol 61-21	<b>For Information</b>
<b>Report author:</b> James Morgan, Superintendent, Head of City Police Task Force & Head of Contact	

### **Summary**

This is the Committee's quarterly update on the use of Stop/Search powers by the Force: the data referred to in this report covers Quarter 1 of FY 2021/22.

Due to the timing of the quarterly data extract for the Home Office return, recess and the date of this committee meeting we have been able to provide the full Stop/Search analytical report as an appendix to this report: in your previous meetings this has been made available to Members subsequently via its publication on the Force website with summaries having been presented to your previous meetings. If future meetings return to being closer to the date of the quarterly return to the Home Office, we will have to revert to providing a summary report to the Committee, with the full analytical product being provided subsequently once published on the Force website. The Force has been working with the Members Services Officer to try to get dates aligned as best as possible.

The positive outcome rate this quarter is slightly increased on Q4 FY 2020/21, at 37%. Overall, the number of stop/searches is up slightly in this quarter compared to the previous quarter with 715 stop/searches, an increase of 19%. April featured noticeably more stop/searches than May or June, but the monthly average is similar to previous months (c240/month). The majority of searches have taken place between 1400 and 1500 on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and 1500-1800 on Saturdays.

Disproportionality remains largely stable at 1.9 for black individuals, significantly lower than 4.6 in the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) area and slightly lower than the average over the last year (2.2). For Asian individuals the index has risen slightly to 1.6 (up from 1.4), which is in line with the MPS area, and the average for the last year.

Drugs continue to be the main focus of searches over this quarter.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the report

## **Main Report**

### **Background**

1. The quarterly analytical report (Appendix 1) was reviewed and discussed by the Force Stop/Search and Use of Force Working Group in August prior to this Committee meeting. The Working Group paid particular attention to the year-on-year trend in overall numbers of stop/searches; the methodology for calculating the disproportionality index for stops in certain highly diverse MPS boroughs; the impact of Servator trained officers on the overall positive outcome rate; and the proposal for the Force to participate in a randomised controlled trial of delivering some discrete elements of Servator methodology to all frontline officers to improve stop/search outcome rates. All of these issues are expanded on below.

### **Current Position – Stop Search**

2. The full quarterly analytical report is attached at Appendix 1.
3. There are no substantive variations in the data from the preceding quarter or the year-end position for FY 2020/21. The two key measures – disproportionality and positive outcome rate – remain largely unchanged with only statistically insignificant variations. The Positive Outcome rate rose slightly to 37% (from 35% in the preceding quarter), whilst Disproportionality for black individuals remained stable at 1.9 (down slightly on the 12 month average of 2.2) and significantly lower than the MPS force area (4.6); and it also remained stable for other ethnic groups at 0.6. It rose slightly from 1.4 to 1.6 for Asian subjects, in line with the MPS force area (1.6).
4. The largest self-defined ethnic group remained white (30%), with 46% not wishing to state their ethnicity. The HMICFRS in their inspection into the disproportionate use of police powers recommended that Forces record both self-defined and officer-perceived ethnicity in relation to stop/searches. The Force is already compliant with this recommendation, capturing both data sets at the point of search. The greatest discrepancies between self-defined and officer perceived ethnicity related to white subjects: 30% self-defined as white, whilst 49% were perceived as white (either northern or southern European). There is a similar discrepancy for other ethnic groups: 21% of search subjects were perceived as black by officers, but only 10% self-defined as such; for Asian subjects the split was 22% perceived and 10% self-defined.
5. The variation between these two data sets is in part due to subject refusing to self-identify when asked to and being recorded as “Not Selected” on the stop/search forms (46%). It is also important to note that a direct comparison between the data sets is not possible, as the options for self-defined and officer-perceived ethnicity are drawn from different (Home Office mandated) lists. For example, in self-defined ethnicity ‘Mixed’ is an option, which does not feature on the list for officer perceived.
6. Following discussion at the Working Group, the Performance Information Unit has been commissioned to review the disproportionality of stop/searches in the MPS

force area. Over this quarter, 26% of stops took place in the MPS force area. We use the population of London as a whole, when determining disproportionality (as the residential population of the City is not large enough to accurately reflect the demographics of the transient population and very few of those stopped are City residents). However, the London-level population data may not be representative of the diversity in some of our neighbouring boroughs. Where the sample size is large enough, disproportionality will be re-calculated based on the borough-level population data. This will be reported with the Q2 data.

7. The Working Group also considered whether or not the increasing deployment of Servator-trained officers was artificially inflating the positive outcome rate. Analysis of stop/searches conducted by Servator trained officers suggests this is not the case.
8. When a stop/search is conducted following a Servator 'engagement' the positive outcome rate improves significantly (67% in the 12 months to June 2020). However, the vast majority of stop/search conducted by Servator trained officers are 'business as usual' stops, and do not stem from a Servator deployment and engagement (2998 stop/searches, compared to 54). The outcome rate for this BAU stop/searches is 38% (12 months to end of June 2020). Whilst this is slightly higher than the Force average (which averages 35-37%) it is not a statistically significant variation and does not artificially inflate the overall positive outcome rate for the Force.
9. It does, however, indicate the effectiveness of elements of the Servator methodology in generating positive outcomes. To explore this further, we plan to participate in a randomised controlled trial being run by the MPS and involving Essex Police in addition to City of London Police. The test group officers participating in the trial will receive a 2 day training package on the 'resolution conversation' element of Servator training and will then have the outcomes of their stop/searches monitored. It is anticipated that the test group officers will achieve a higher positive outcome rate than the control group officers. The Working Group recommended participating in the trial, which will now go to the Training Improvement Board for ratification (due to the training abstractions required).
10. The number of stop/searches in Q1 of this FY was higher than the same quarter in both the preceding years. A direct comparison to FY 2020/21 is not possible due to the distorting effect of the COVID lockdown; however, whilst the overall volume is higher than FY 2020/19, the trend is similar, with a peak in April and a gentle downwards trend thereafter. If the trend continues to follow the pre-COVID pattern, we would expect to see a spike in August. Traditionally, this is associated with the Notting Hill Carnival weekend, however as the carnival is not going ahead this year we may not see the usual spike.
11. Briefing sessions for Committee members have been arranged and diary invites sent out. Three sessions in September have been arranged (Members need only attend one). Further sessions can be arranged if required.

## **Current Position – Use of Force**

12. The full analytical report is at Appendix 2.
13. Instances of force being used rose this quarter compared to the previous quarter. Compared year-on-year, this quarter has seen a significantly higher instances of force being used than the same period in 2020/21 and is broadly in line with the trend observed in 2019/20. The lifting of COVID restrictions (in particular around the Night Time Economy) and the increased footfall in the City are most likely the cause of this increase.
14. Disproportionality rates have decreased slightly over this quarter and are now just below the average for the last 2 years.
15. Taser was drawn or red-dotted<sup>1</sup> on 13 occasions , but there were no instances of it being discharged.
16. Drugs remain the most commonly reported impact factor (46%), whereas alcohol has increased significantly from 19% to 32%. This is the first time alcohol as an impact factor, has increased since the start of lockdown 1 in March 2020, and highlights the impact that the resumption of the night time economy is having on use of force as identified above.
17. Following a review of all instances where Taser was used in Q3 FY 20/21, all reports of Taser use will in future automatically be sent to the lead Taser Instructors in the Firearms Training Wing, who will conduct a review of all instances where Taser has been used. Any learning from this will automatically be factored into training (both initial courses and annual refreshers) and reported to the Working Group on a quarterly basis.

## **Matters arising from previous PSI Meeting**

18. At your last meeting, Committee Members asked if it was possible to determine how often individuals are stop/searched with a negative outcome (ie nothing found). As noted in the last meeting, City of London Police has no way of checking Stop/Search records of another Force, and as the majority of people stop/searched in the City are not resident here any examination of the City of London Police's records would not paint a complete picture. Stop/Search records do not leave a trace on the Police National Computer (regardless of outcome).
19. The Force has considered how this question could be addressed with our own data (noting the limitation of this approach as set out above). There is no straight forward way of querying the Force's data to answer this question. To establish if a person had been stop/searched on multiple occasions would require a manual trawl and examination of both stop/search and person records in the main Records Management System (Niche). To generate a meaningful dataset would require a

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<sup>1</sup> Red dotted means the Taser is activated, and aimed at an individual with the targeting laser (the 'red dot') visible to both the officer and the individual the device is aimed at. Officers are taught – unless the situation makes this impossible – to draw the subjects attention to the red dot to ensure they understand the consequences of not following the officer's instructions.

significant commitment of finite analytical resources and is not an approach the Force is able to support.

## **Conclusion**

20. The data in both the Stop/Search and Use of Force quarterly reports is largely consistent with the established trend across the Force, with no statistically significant variations in any of the key measures.

## **Appendices**

1. Stop/Search Q1 FY21/22 analytical report
2. Use of Force Q1 FY21/22 analytical report

**James Morgan**

**Superintendent**

**Head of City Police Task Force & Head of Contact**

T: 020 7601 2102

E: [james.morgan@cityoflondon.police.uk](mailto:james.morgan@cityoflondon.police.uk)