
Performance Information Unit



Use of Force

Quarter 1 2021/22

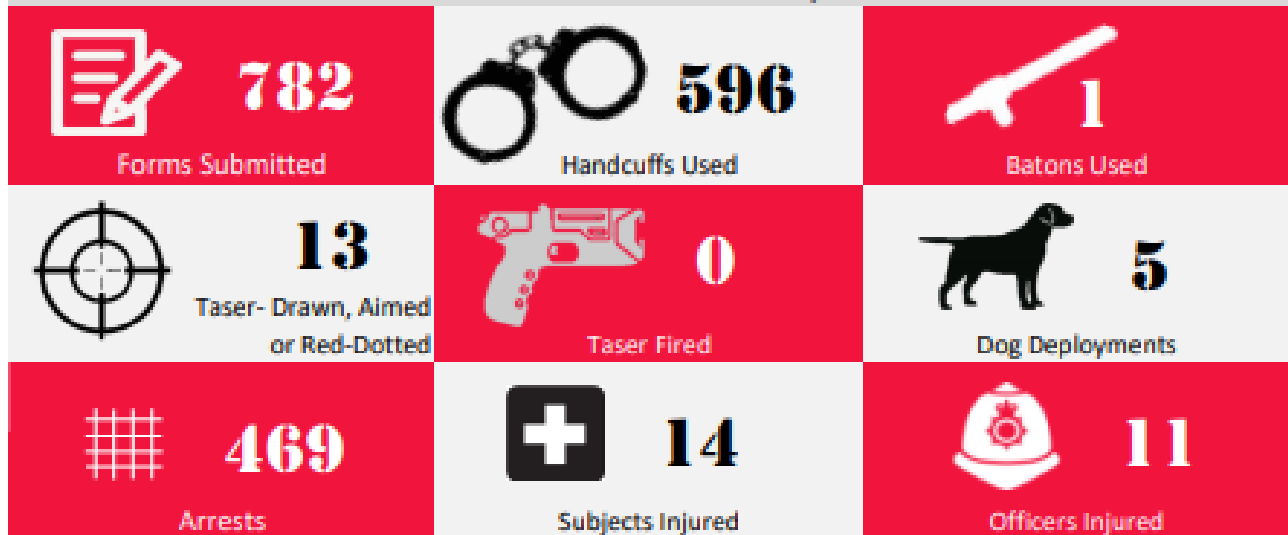
1st April – 30th June 2021

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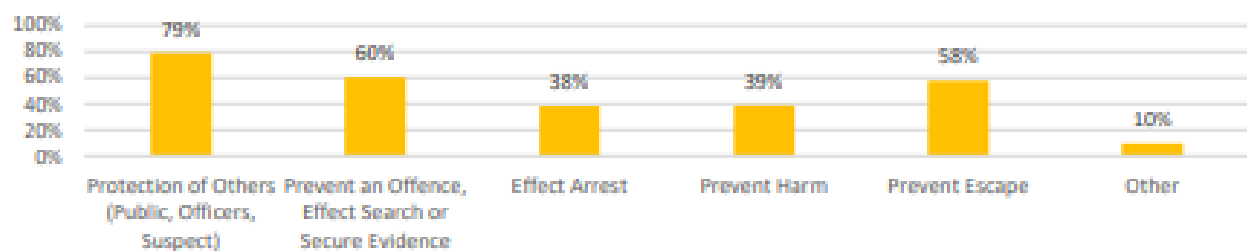
Use of Force Summary

Q1 2021/22 (1st April - 30th June 2021)

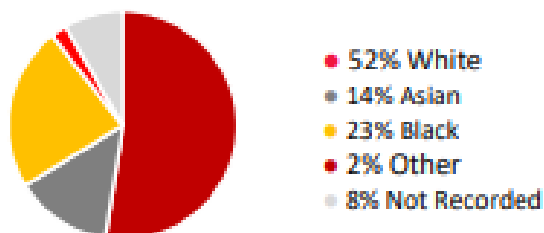
This summary provides an insight into the number of submitted use of force forms. More than one form can be submitted for an incident if multiple officers are involved. Each form can also include multiple reasons for the use of force and/or multiple tactics. Details of the subject on the forms submitted will be duplicated due to these repetitions. Therefore the below are an indication of the content of the forms themselves and are not a reflection of the exact number of incidents or subjects.



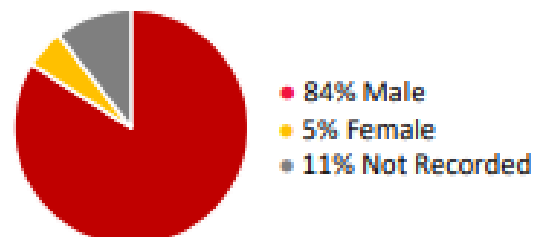
Reason for Use of Force (% of all forms)



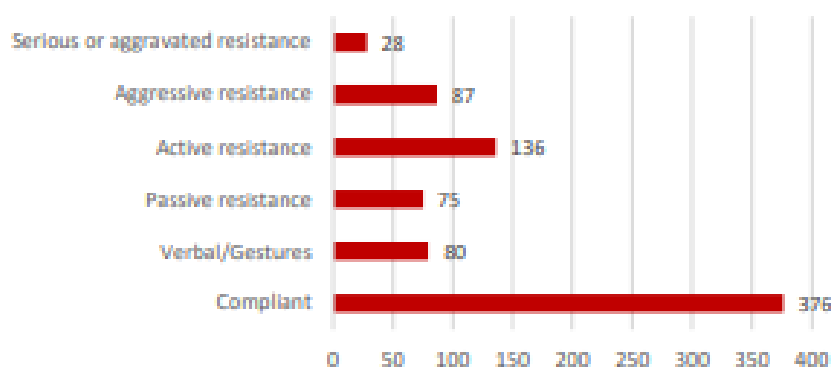
Subject Ethnicity



Subject Gender



Conduct of Subject



20%

of forms involved subjects believed to have mental health issues

4%

of forms involved juveniles

Use of Force – Quarter 1 2021/22

1.1 Introduction

This report provides an insight into the number of submitted use of force (UoF) forms. Each officer involved in a UoF incident is required to submit a form detailing their involvement. Each form can also include multiple reasons for the use force and/or multiple tactics. Details of the subject on the forms submitted will be duplicated due to these repetitions. The following figures are therefore an indication of the content of the forms themselves and are not a reflection of the exact number of incidents or subjects

UoF reporting within the City of London follows national guidelines requiring the reporting of the use of any of the following tactics; handcuffing, unarmed skills, use of police dogs, drawing or use of a baton, drawing or use of irritant spray, limb / body restraints, spit guards, shields, conductive energy device (C.E.D currently TASER), AEP (attenuating energy projectile), firearms and other improvised techniques. An additional tactic available in the City is the use of horses.

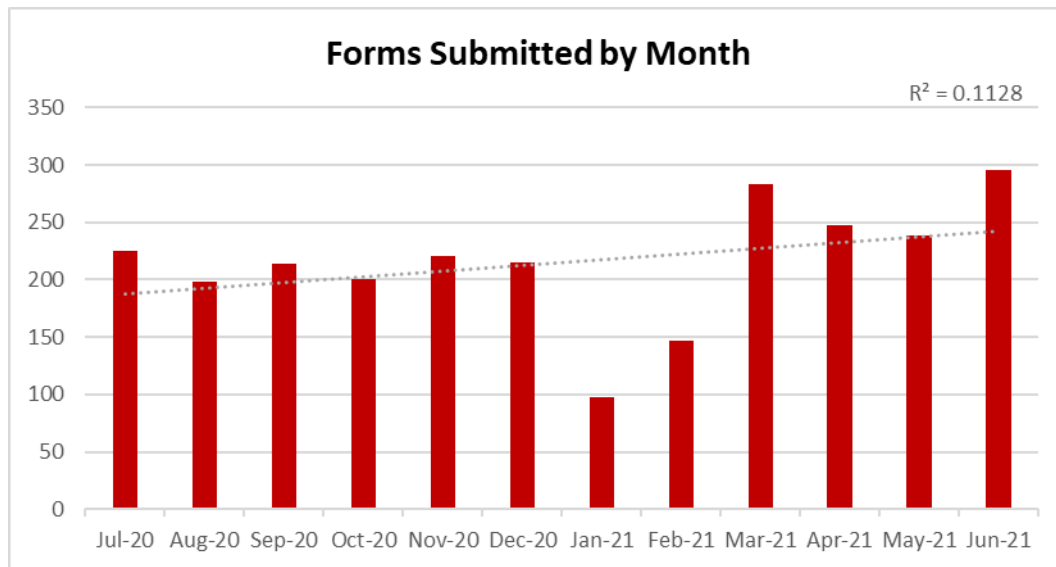
When choosing the appropriate tactical option officers are required to use the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve their legitimate aim.

1.2 Key Findings

- Submission of Use of Force forms has increased this quarter and been consistently higher than previous months with the average number of forms submitted each month being 261
- Looking at patterns of form submission over time levels are significantly higher than those from 20/21 and just below those for 19/20.
- The most common impact factor reported on forms was drugs (46%, n=356) which remains at a similar level to last quarter. The only reported impact factor to change significantly this quarter was alcohol which has increased from 19% to 32% and is the first time we have seen an increase for alcohol since lockdown in March 2020.
- Taser was drawn 13 times this quarter with no firings.
- Fifteen officers were spat at during the quarter, a slight decrease from last quarter
- Disproportionality levels have decreased slightly from last quarter and are just below average levels across the last two years.
- There were 31 forms involving children all aged between 14 and 17, most of whom were handcuffed.
- The new option to select No Further Action as an outcome has been used in a quarter of forms and has caused a significant reduction in the number of 'other' outcomes.

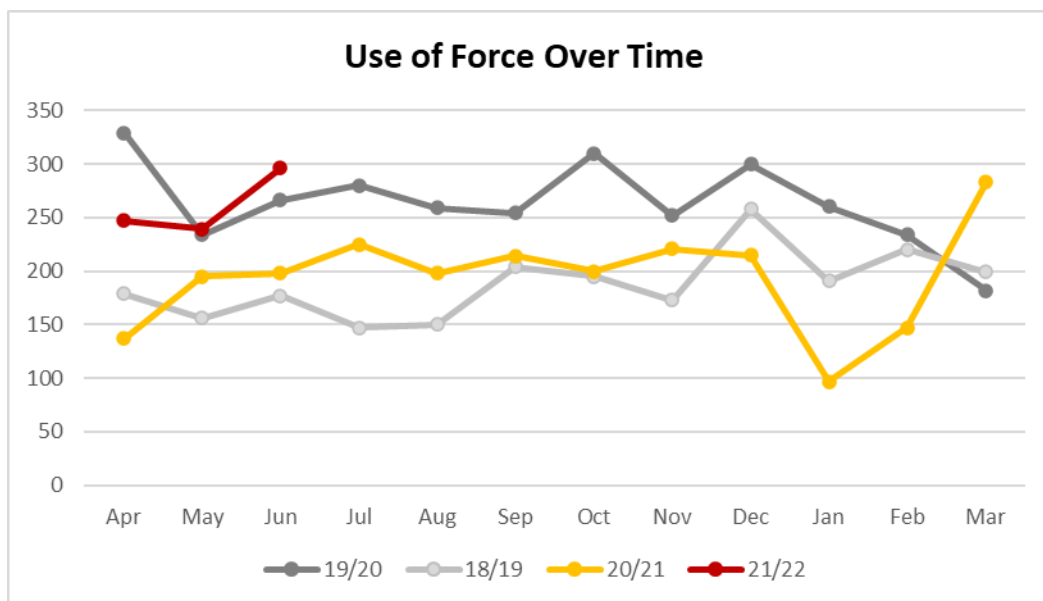
1.3 Q1 Overview

The average number of Use of Force (UoF) forms per month this quarter is 261, a 49% increase from last quarter. Levels have been higher than previous months across the quarter and June has seen the most form submissions since December 2019.



Looking at patterns of form submission over time we can see that for most of 20/21 reports remained at around 200 per month until quarter 4 where they began to fluctuate likely impacted by differing lockdown restrictions. This quarter levels dipped to around the 250 mark in April and May and have then increased to nearly 300 in June. The average number of forms submitted each month across the last year is 215.

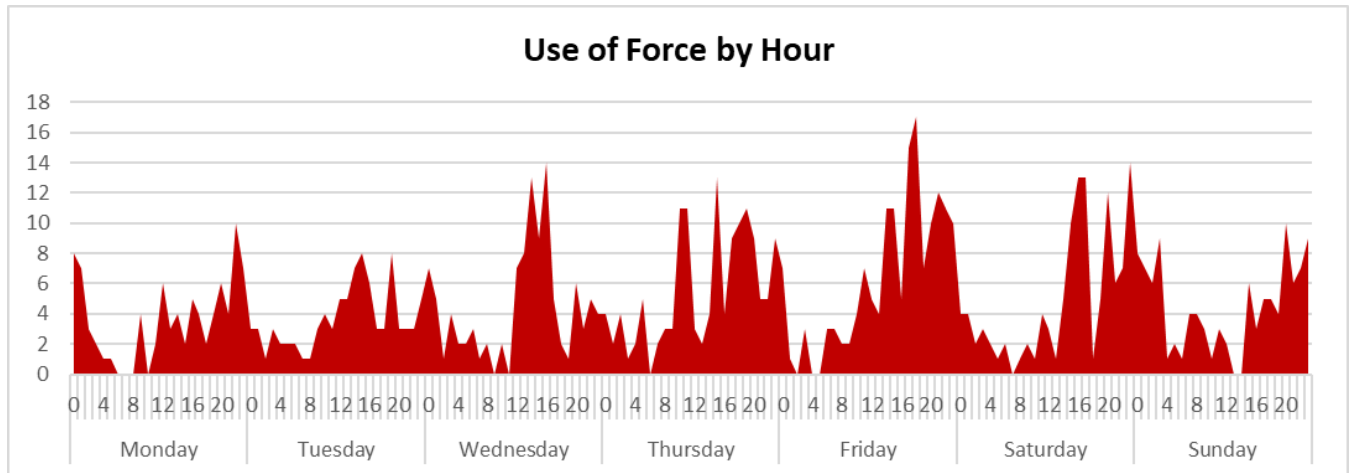
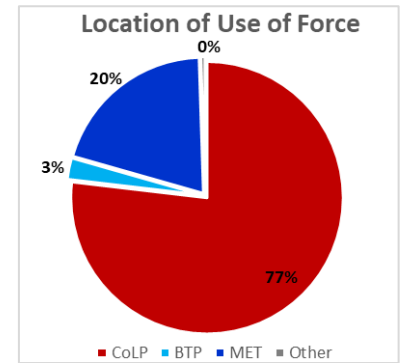
As restrictions have eased we have seen in an increase in violent crime and also public order offences in the last couple of months, this may be contributing to increased use of force reporting.



Of the 782 forms submitted this quarter 601 (77%) occurred on City of London ground with a further 177 (23%) taking place in the wider metropolitan London area or BTP London transport hubs.

In the last three months 21 forms submitted related to public order events, mostly relating to 'Kill the Bill' protests held in Parliament Square in early April.

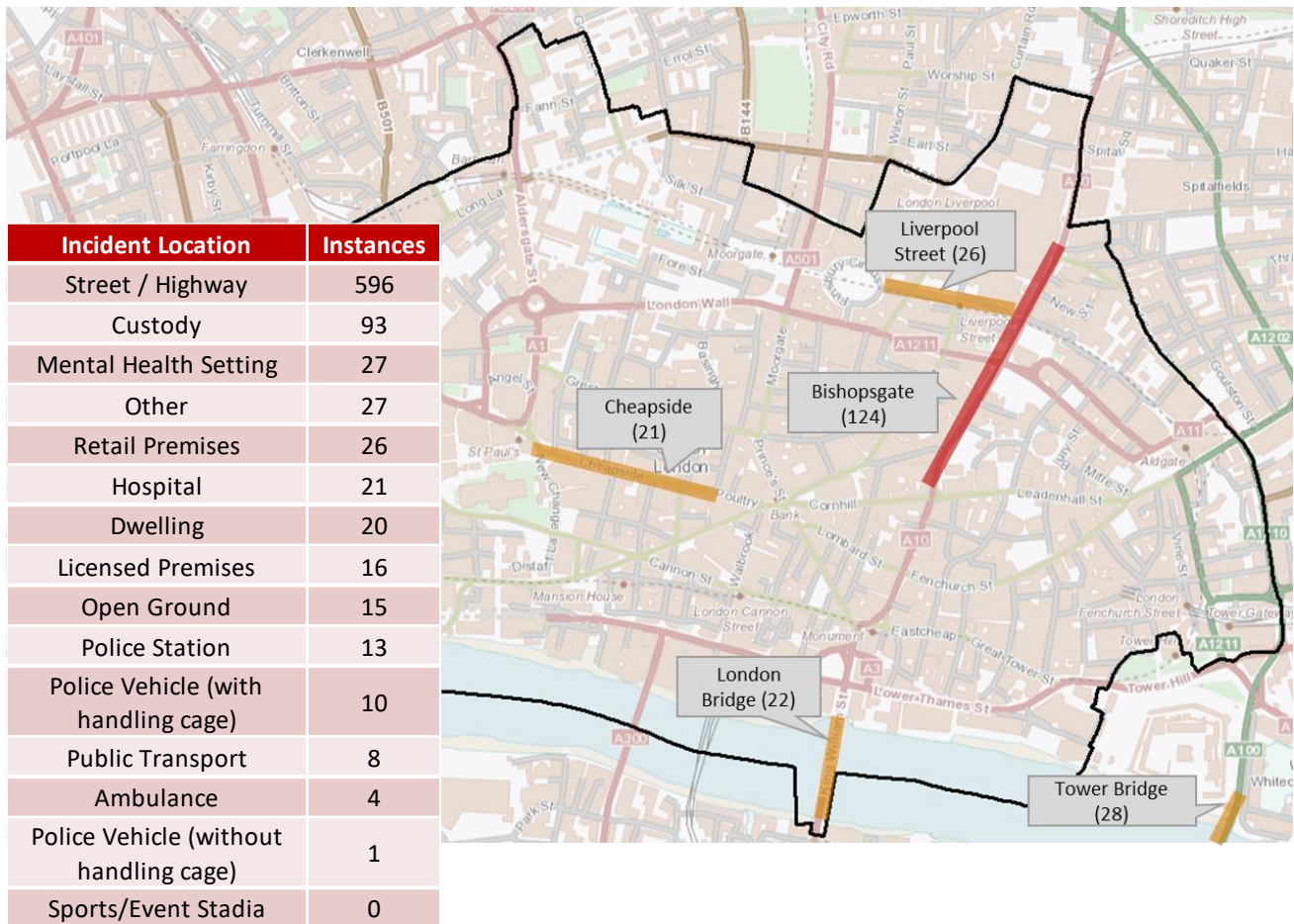
The most common time for UoF incidents this quarter was between 15:00-17:59 followed by 20:00-21:59. In terms of days Friday was most common followed by Thursday. Friday late afternoon into evening (17:00-21:59) is the peak period when looking at both day and time.



During this quarter there were 14 forms that reported that the subject received a minor injury because of the Use of Force, medical assistance was offered on 12 occasions and accepted on eight. Eleven officers received injuries; all injuries were minor. Nine officers believed their injuries were the result of the subject intentionally trying to assault them.

Just over a third of forms had an incident number completed (34%, n= 268), when custody numbers are included this increases to 69% (n=539) maintaining the improvements seen in previous quarters.

2.1 Location



The map above highlights the top five areas associated with Use of Force forms around the City this quarter and the table details the most common types of location. Each form can list multiple location types.

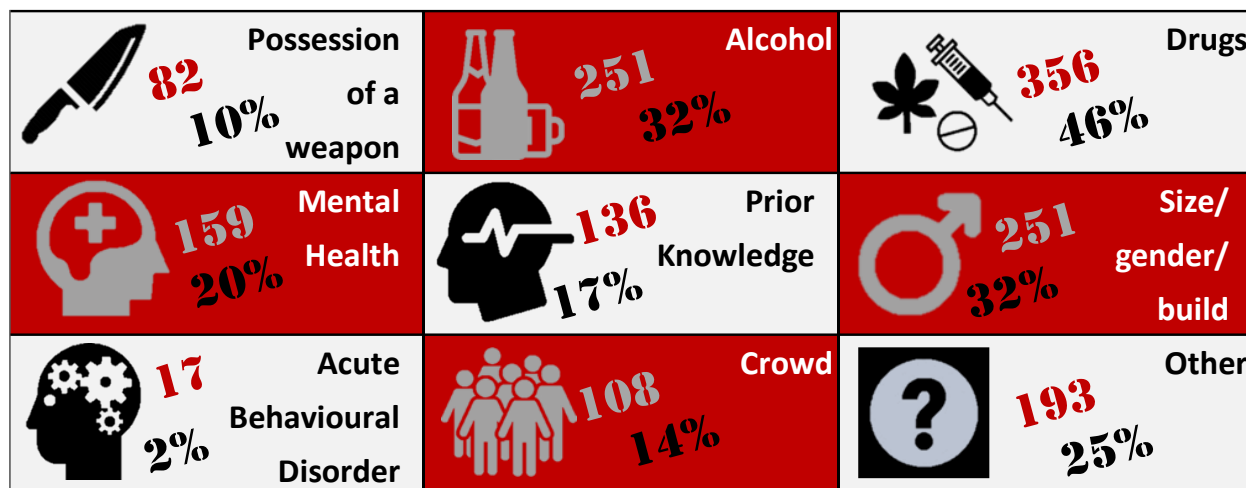
In terms of location type this quarter we have seen increases in most areas but most noticeably for Licensed Premises (increase from 3 to 16), Mental Health Setting (increase from 8 to 27) and also Hospital (increase from 7 to 21).

As usual the locality where most use of force takes place is the street/highway and Bishopsgate is the key street location within the City. We have seen an increased number of reports on bridges this quarter perhaps linked to increased patrols in these areas.

All but one form had a recorded street location.

When looking at the incidents that related to licensed premises there were no repeat locations.

2.2 Impact Factors



Like location types, multiple impact factors can be recorded on each form – a subject could for example be under the influence of alcohol, of a large size/build and amongst a crowd of others.

The most common impact factor for use of force this quarter remains drugs which was recorded on 46% of all forms, this has decreased by 1 percentage point from last quarter. The only category that has seen significant change this quarter is alcohol which has increased from 19% to 32%; this is an area that has steadily declined since the first lockdown and this is the first increase we are seeing in over a year.

Looking at how impact factors correlate with subject behaviour the main factors leading to increased resistive behaviour are alcohol, mental health and crowds (49%, 62% and 51%, compared to 32% for all forms). Crowds and mental health are generally the impact factors that link to more aggressive resistance (33% and 32% compared to 15% for all forms).

25% of mental health impacted forms resulted in the subject being detained under the mental health act or hospitalised (n=39).

Taser was used most often on those forms where alcohol, drugs or size and build were an impact factor (n=5).

2.3 Reason for Use of Force

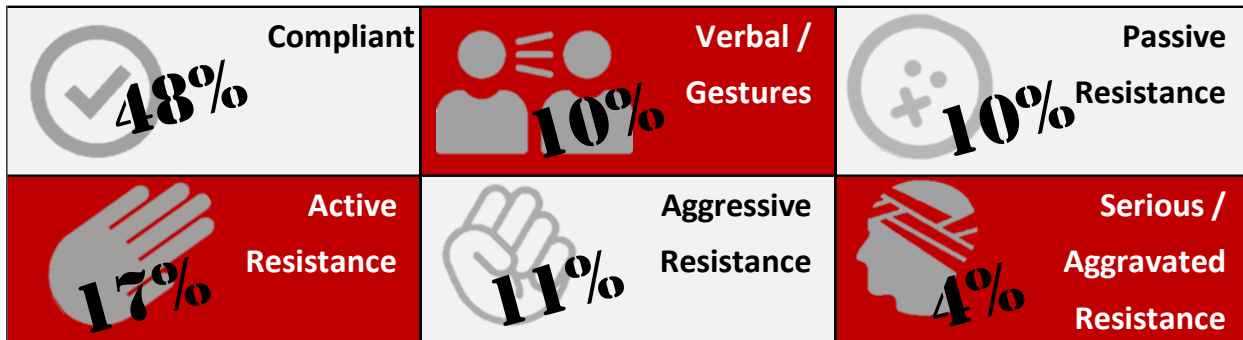


As with other factors there can be multiple reasons given for use of force so figures will not add up to 100%.

The primary reason given for UoF is the protection of others, 79% of forms (n=618), this may be the public, other officers, or the subject themselves. This has remained consistent with previous quarters.

All reasons remain broadly consistent in percentage terms with previous periods.

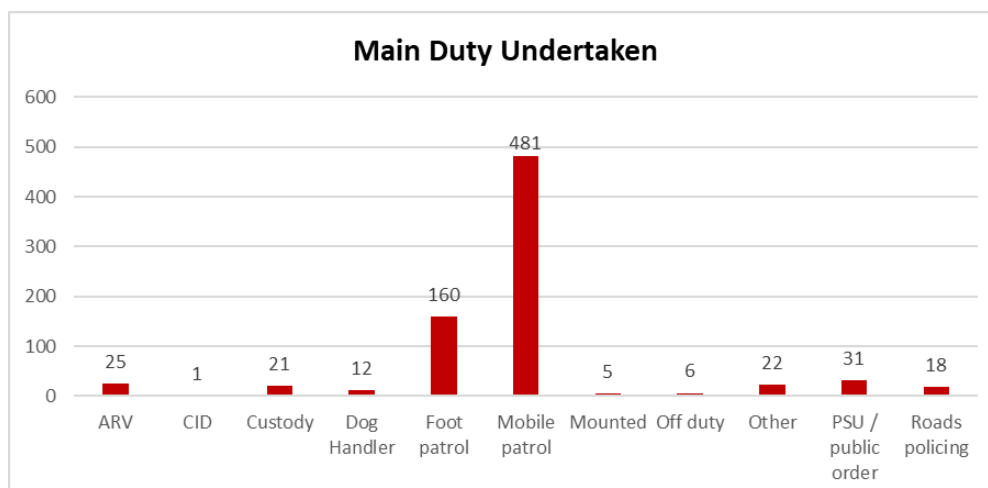
2.4 Conduct of Subject



Subjects were mostly compliant with the use of force- levels of the various types of compliance remain like those reported in previous quarters apart from aggressive resistance increasing from 5% to 11% but 5% was an unusually low number last quarter and it is usually around 10%. We have also seen a slight increase in serious resistance up from 1% to 4%.

2.5 Officer Details

- **Violence:** Eleven officers received minor injuries with nine believing the injury to have been inflicted intentionally. There has been an increase of officers who were assaulted but sustained no injuries this quarter, rising from 11 to 38. Fifteen officers were spat at, a slight decrease from last quarter.
- **Weapons:** Fifteen officers were threatened with a weapon; three with a bladed or pointed article, eight had objects thrown at them and four with other objects. One officer was injured as a result of these incidents. There were a further 81 forms submitted where intelligence suggested a weapon may be present.
- **Main duty:** 62% of officers utilising UoF were on mobile patrol and 20% were on foot patrol, all other areas made up small percentages of reporting. In 9% (n=72) of submitted forms the officer reporting was single crewed at the time of use of force.



- **Directorate:** UPD represents 96% of all UoF, followed by Crime (2%) with ECD, I&I and Business Support submitting 1% of forms or less.
- **Rank:** Constables (including PC, DC and SC) account for 94% of UoF, Sergeants account for 5% and 1% of forms are submitted by inspector rank or higher. Nine forms relate to actions taken by detective constables, sergeants or inspectors.
- **Gender:** Most officers using force are male (87%) compared to female (13%).
- **Age:** Officers ages ranged from 19-60 years with the average age being 31 years and most common being 34 years.
- **Training:** Most officers carrying out use of force had received Personal Safety Training (PST) within the previous 12 months. There were 48 incidences of UoF where the officer's PST occurred over 13 months ago, forces have been granted an extension on this as officers had not been able to undertake face to face training under social distancing rules.

2.6 Tactics Used

	Tactic																
Tactic Order	Tactical communications	Handcuffing (compliant and non-compliant)	Unarmed skills (including pressure points strikes restraints and takedowns)	Ground Restraint	Limb/Body restraints	Baton drawn	Baton used	Irritant spray PAVA drawn	Irritant spray PAVA used	Irritant spray CS drawn	Spit Guard	Dog deployed	Dog Bite	Taser	Firearms	Other / improvised	Not Applicable/ Order Unknown
1 st	473	228	37	9	3	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	-	5	-	2	21
2 nd	14	326	120	13	2	-	-	3	-	1	-	1	1	8	1	12	280
3 rd	5	33	25	10	3	1	-	1	1	-	1	1	-	1	-	5	695
4 th	1	4	7	5	-	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	760
5 th	1	-	3	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	775
6 th	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	780
7 th	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	781

Tactical communications and handcuffing are the most common first tactics employed in 60% and 29% of forms respectively. When officers are called to assist with an ongoing incident this may lead to more serious tactics such as taser and firearms being used as the first tactic.

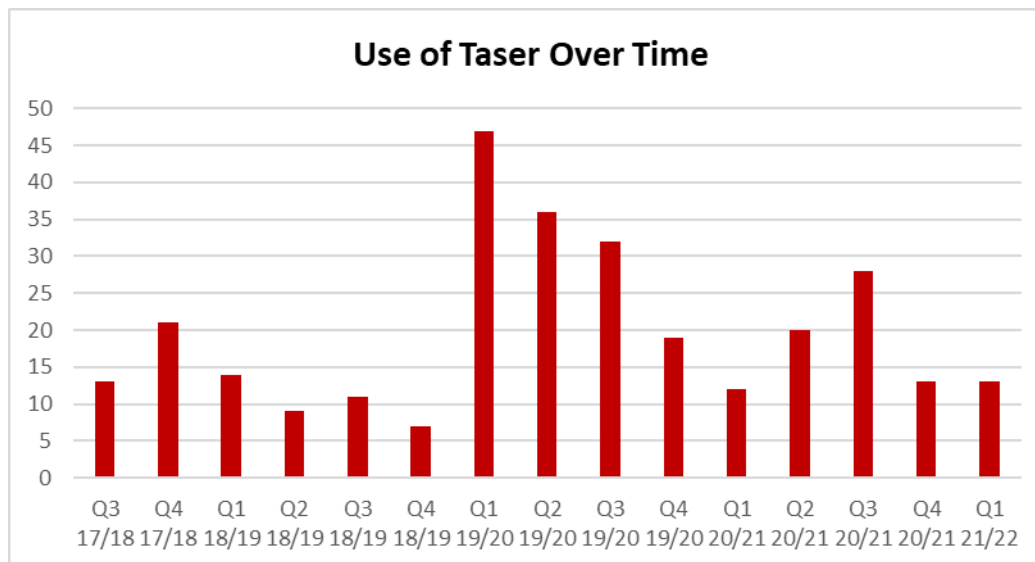
Some tactics were not used at all this quarter – such as horses – so have been removed from the table.

There are 21 forms where the order of tactics has not been recorded. In 34% of UoF forms (n=259) only one tactic is utilised, with the maximum number of tactics recorded on any form being 7. Tactics can be repeated across the form for example tactical communications might be used both 1st and 3rd.

Taser was available at the scene in 72% of forms (n=563). Taser trained officers submitted 357 forms, 257 were carrying at the time of the incident while 82 were not. Taser was drawn 13 times this quarter, most commonly red dotted (9) and otherwise just drawn (4). There were no Taser firings this quarter.

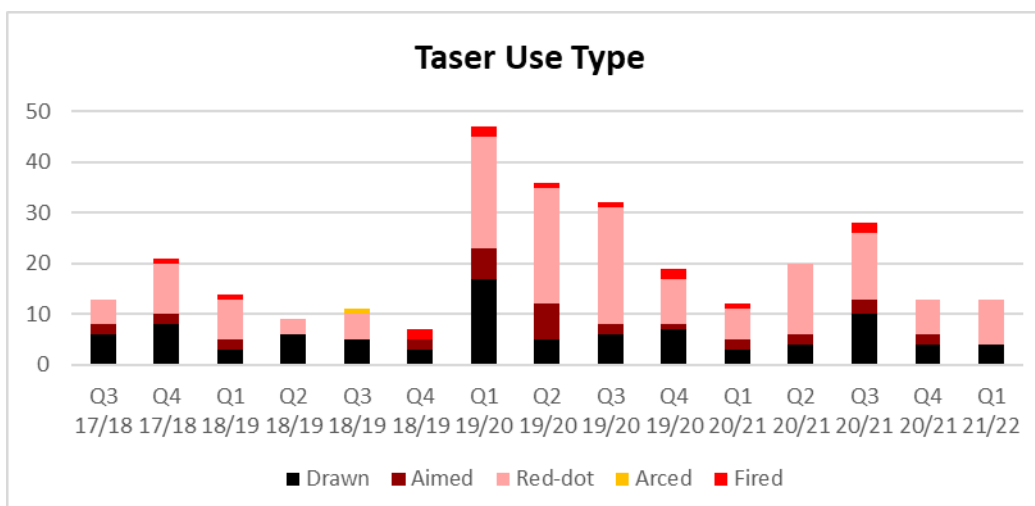
2.7 Taser Usage

On average since recording began on Niche RMS there have been 15 uses of taser recorded each quarter (roughly 5 uses a month). Taser use is recorded on 3% of all forms submitted. The most common highest usage is to red-dot the subject which is the case in 53% of reports (n=157), there have been 13 occasions of firing in the last 3 years. In just under a third of incidents the officer involved never goes further than drawing the taser (30%, n=89).



There was a clear increase in the use of taser in 2019/20 with reports increasing 227% from 41 to 134 between the two years. There was a particular spike in Q1 of 2019/20 when we also saw a spike in all forms being submitted, it was inferred this increase was related to an increase of protest activity in and around the capital in that period. This also coincides with an unprecedented crime increase in the city in 2019/20, particularly in Q1-Q3.

This quarter we have seen use of taser at a similar level to last quarter despite the overall increase in forms being submitted.



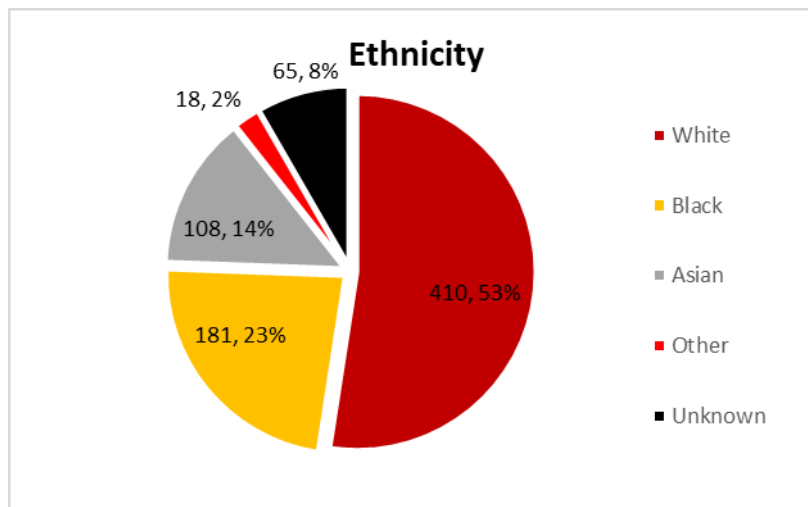
When looking at the ethnic breakdown of taser use over the last 12 months subjects have been predominantly either white or black (36%, n=31 each) with 9% of forms not recording the ethnicity of the subject (n=14). Comparing this to the greater London population suggests that black people are 4.5 times more likely to have taser used against them than their white

counterparts and Asian individuals 1.44 times more likely. However, caution needs to be taken with these numbers due to the small volumes as any change can have a big impact on the proportionality ratio.

When we look at the behaviour of the subjects in taser incidents this quarter they were most likely to be offering active or aggressive resistance to the officers involved and all but 2 were arrested.

3.1 Subject Ethnicity

Similar to other aspects of Use of Force forms if more than one officer is involved in an incident the subjects details will be duplicated – these figures show the information from the forms and give an indication of individuals involved but will not be exact.



Most forms (53%) involve subjects that are white, this includes North and South European, followed by black (23%), Asian (14%) and other (including Middle Eastern) at 2%. 8% of forms record an unknown ethnicity.

Some unknown forms (n=21) were forms where subject details were not recorded these are all Public Order related and the information is not required in these instances.

3.2 Disproportionality

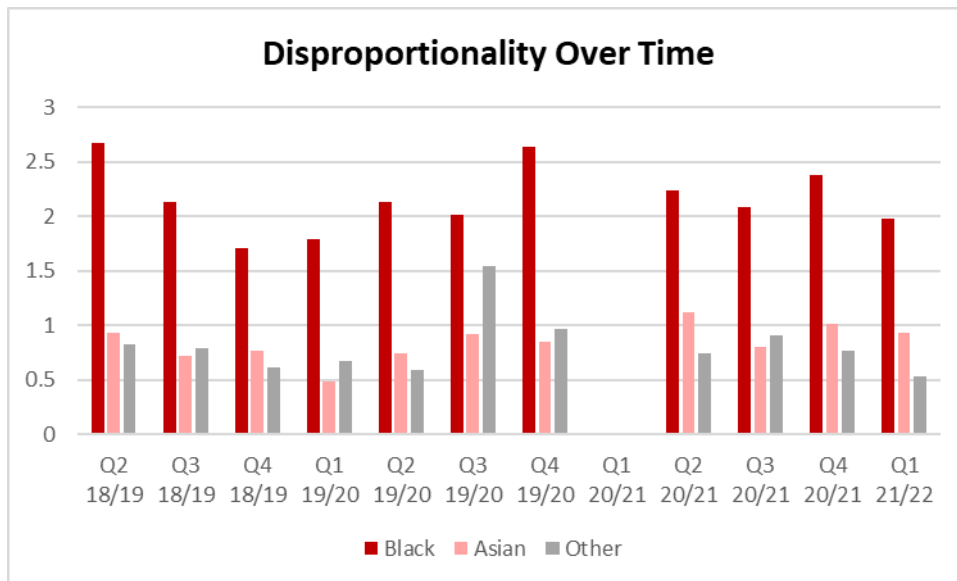
Due to the relatively small resident population compared to the large transient population in the City disproportionality is difficult to calculate. Therefore, the resident population of the whole London region (including the City) from the 2011 Census have been used. Based on this information people within black ethnic groups are 2.0 times more likely than the white population to have force used against them. People from other or Asian ethnic groups were as likely or less likely than white people to have force used against them this quarter.

BLACK
1.98

ASIAN
0.93

OTHER
0.53

If we look at disproportionality levels over the last two years we have dropped slightly below average levels of 2.2 for black individuals this quarter and are slightly higher than the 0.84 average for Asian individuals. Q1 20/21 disproportionality data was not calculated due to an issue with data extraction that quarter, we have seen slight decreases in all measures of disproportionality this quarter.



3.3 Subject Ethnicity Breakdown

- Points highlighted in **RED** indicate an over representation of more than 5% based on comparing white subjects and the overall cohort.
- Points highlighted in **YELLOW** indicate under representation of more than 5% based on comparing black subjects and the overall cohort.

3.3.1 White

There are a total of 410 white subjects recorded on forms; 85% were male, 7% female and 8% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 267 (65%) were arrested, higher than for the whole cohort at 60%.
- **Injury:** Of the 14 subjects who received an injury 8 were white.

Impact Factors

- 160 (39%) link to alcohol, higher than the whole cohort of 32%.
- 181 (44%) link to drugs, slightly lower than the whole cohort rate of 46%.
- 95 (23%) have mental health concerns, higher than the whole cohort at 20%.
- 131 (32%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, the same as the overall rate.
- 35 (9%) involve possession of a weapon, slightly lower than 10% for all forms.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 74% were handcuffed, just below 76% for the whole cohort.

- **Taser:** 5 out of 13 uses involved white subjects.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 6 out of 9 occasions were against white subjects.
- **Spit guard:** 3 out 4 occasions involved white subjects.

3.3.2 Black

There are a total of 181 black subjects recorded on forms; 86% were male, 4% female and 10% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 108 (60%) were arrested, the same as the whole cohort.
- **Injury:** Of the 14 subjects who received an injury 5 were black.

Impact Factors

- 47 (26%) link to alcohol, lower than the whole cohort of 32%.
- 82 (45%) link to drugs, just below the the overall percentage of 46%.
- 35 (19%) have mental health concerns, slightly lower than the whole cohort at 20%.
- 78 (43%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, higher than overall 32%.
- 22 (12%) involve possession of a weapon, just higher than the whole cohort of 10%.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 78% were handcuffed, higher than the overall rate of 76%
- **Taser:** Use recorded 6 times against black subjects.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 3 of the 9 occasions were against black subjects.
- **Spit Guards:** Use recorded once involving a black subject.

3.3.3 Asian

There are a total of 108 Asian subjects recorded on forms; 94% were male, 3% female and 3% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 56 (52%) were arrested, lower than the overall rate.
- **Injury:** Of the 14 subjects who received an injury 1 was Asian.

Impact Factors

- 21 (19%) link to alcohol, much lower than the whole cohort of 32%.
- 58 (54%) link to drugs, higher than the whole cohort at 46%.
- 9 (8%) have mental health concerns, lower than the whole cohort at 20%.
- 22 (20%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, lower than 32% for the whole cohort.
- 10 (9%) involved possession of a weapon, lower than the overall rate of 10%.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 89% were handcuffed, higher than the whole cohort at 76%.
- **Taser:** Use recorded 2 times against Asian subjects.

3.3.4 Summary

- White individuals were more likely to be impacted by alcohol than other ethnic groups. They were also slightly more likely to be arrested than other groups
- Incidents involving black individuals were less likely to be affected by alcohol and more likely impacted by the subject's size/gender/build. They were more likely than other groups to be involved in incidents where taser was drawn.
- Use of force incidents involving Asian individuals were most likely to be impacted by drugs and less likely to be impacted by any other factors and they were more likely to be handcuffed than other groups.

3.4 Subject Gender

The subject's gender has been recorded on 90% of forms (n=701) continuing the improvement seen in recent quarters from previous levels around 80%, for those forms where the gender is known 94% are Male and 6% Female. Overall percentages are shown below;



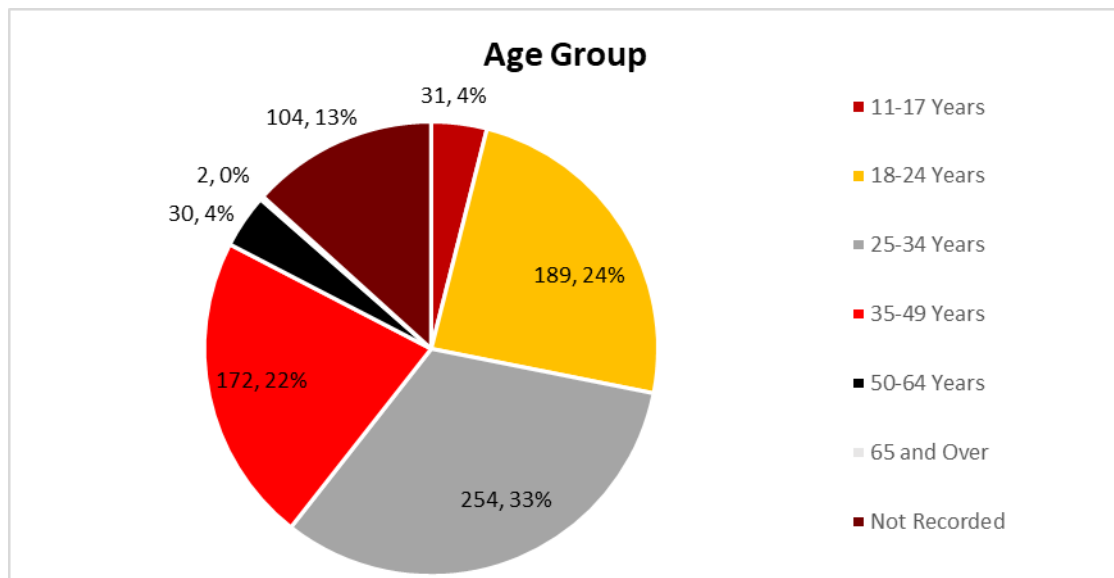
For those forms where gender has been recorded males are significantly overrepresented regarding UoF compared to females. They are 16 times more likely to have force used against them when compared to their prevalence in the wider population.

On the whole females were less compliant with use of force than men (38% to 53%) and were more likely to offer passive resistance than men, no women offered serious or aggravated resistance this quarter.

3.5 Subject Age

The age of subjects is not recorded on several forms (13%, n=104), 21 of these forms refer to Public Order where the details are not routinely recorded.

Force is used most frequently against those aged 15-34 years old (33%, n=254) and then 18-24 years old (24%, n=189).

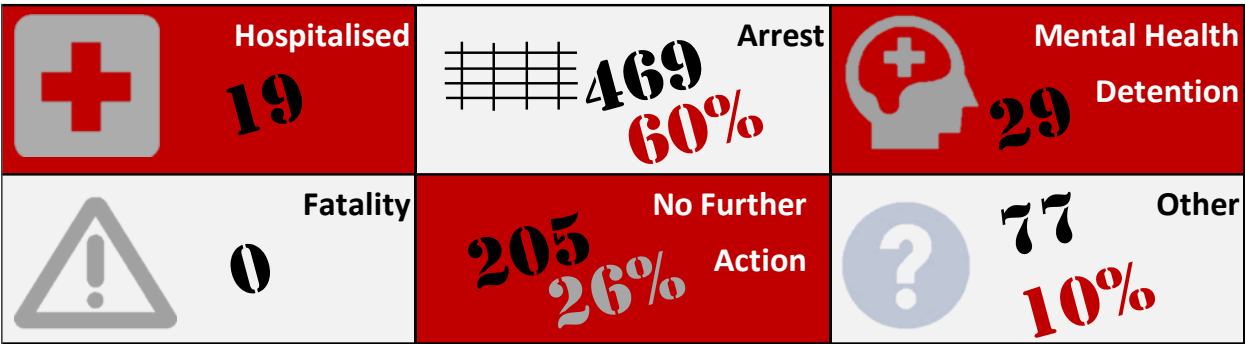


3.5.1 Children (Under 18)

Indicators in **RED** are those greater than the average for the whole cohort, while those in **YELLOW** are lower than average.

- There were 31 forms involving children – aged between 14 and 17, the majority were 17 years old (58%, n=18).
- There were five forms submitted in relation to 14 year olds involving 4 individuals – all male, 3 white and one black. In three cases the only force used was handcuffs but one individual who offered aggressive resistance was put in ground restraints and arrested.
- 27 forms involved a male juvenile and four involved females.
- The most stated impact factors were drugs (35%, n=11) or other (42% n=12). Children were less likely than the overall cohort to be impacted by all factors apart from **possession of weapon** which was involved in 16% of juvenile forms compared to 10% overall.
- There were no incidents involving taser used against juveniles this quarter.
- **87% handcuffed**; **68% arrested**. Juveniles were both more likely to be handcuffed and more likely to be arrested than the whole cohort (76% and 60% respectively).

3.6 Outcomes



The majority (60%) of UoF result in an arrest of the subject.

This quarter there are 19 forms showing a hospitalisation outcome with two of these subjects receiving an injury in the course of the use of force whilst 1 was detained under the mental health act.

Use of the new outcome field of No Further Action have continued to increase this quarter, noted on just over a quarter of forms and outcomes classed as other have correspondingly decreased.