

Committee(s): Police Professional Standards and Integrity Committee (PSIC)	Dated: 5 th November 2021
Subject: Q2 Stop and Search Update	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1- People are safe and feel safe
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	N/A
If so, how much?	N/A
What is the source of Funding?	N/A
Has this Funding Source been agreed with the Chamberlain's Department?	N/A
Report of: Commissioner of Police Pol 82-21	For Information
Report author: Superintendent James Morgan, Head of City Police Task Force & Head of Contact	

Summary

At the time of writing this report, only the summary data (appended below) was available. It is anticipated that the full report will be available before the Committee meets, but it will not have been scrutinised as the Stop/Search and Use of Force Working Group next meets after the Committee's November meeting. Key trends will be verbally briefed to members at the Committee meeting.

Since the last Stop/Search and Use of Force report three briefed sessions have been held for PSIC and Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group (IASG) members, which were well received. A further (evening) session is planned for before the end of the year. Opportunities for 'ride alongs' for members to see the powers being used in action are being planned, as is a comparable session of Use of Force for the new year.

The number of stop/searches in this quarter remains broadly consistent with previous quarters, with only a variation of 2 against Quarter 1. The positive outcome rate is 33% for this quarter, a slight (but not statistically significant) variation on Q1, and consistent with the established trend. Monthly averages are also consistent with the previous 12 month average. Whilst searches under the Misuse of Drugs Act remain the largest single group in this quarter, there has been an increase in searched under s1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) for 'going equipped'. White individuals (self-defined and officer perceived) account for the largest group stopped and searched in this quarter although 48% of those stopped did not state a self-defined ethnicity (again, consistent with the established trend).

Use of Force in Q2 is down (619) compared to Q1 (782). Handcuffing remains the most used type of force. Taser was used 24 times this quarter, but not discharged on any occasion. There has been a slight increase in the use of force on female subjects (10% in Q2 compared to 5% in Q1). The ethnic breakdown of subjects of use of force remains broadly consistent with Q1.

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report

Main Report

Background

1. The summary of the Quarter 2 reports for both Stop/Search and Use of Force are attached at Appendix 1 and 2 respectively. At the time of writing, the full analytical reports are not available. As previously briefed to members, this is due to a clash with the quarterly Home Office data extract demanding most of the limited capacity in the Performance Information Unit. The full report should be available before the Committee meets, and key trends will be verbally briefed to members then. However, as the next Stop/Search and Use of Force Working Group does not meet until after the Committee's November meeting the analytical report will not have been through that internal scrutiny process.

Current Position – Stop Search

2. The summary quarterly analytical report is attached at Appendix 1.
3. As with previous quarters, there are no substantial variations in the established trends which are evident from the summary data. Whilst there is a slight variation between Q1 (715) and Q2 (713) this is not statistically significant. The variation in the positive outcome rate shows slightly more variation (33% Q2, 37% Q1) but again this is not statistically significant.
4. Searches for drugs under the Misuse of Drugs Act powers continue to account for the largest number of searches, which is consistent with the established trend. However, in Q2 there was a marked increase in searches for 'going equipped' under the s1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act powers (85 in Q1, 182 in Q2). It is likely that this increase was driven by the large-scale protests, linked to Extinction Rebellion, that occurred in the City during August and September, where officers may have stopped and searched individuals on the reasonable suspicion that they had items for committing criminal damage (paint etc) in their possession.
5. Without the full analytical report, we are unable to comment on the disproportionality index at the time of writing. However, as the percentages of self-defined ethnicity for white, black and Asian individuals (and those who declined to self-define their ethnicity) have not changed significantly, then we would expect the disproportionality indexes to remain roughly in line with the previous quarter and established trend.

Current Position – Use of Force

6. The summary quarterly analytical report is at Appendix 2.
7. This quarter has seen a reduction in the use of force: 782 in Q1 compared to 619 reports in Q2. A difference of 163 reports. Although the volume is down, the types of force use remain consistent with previous quarters. Handcuffing remains the most common use of force with 448 reports in this quarter.

8. Notably, Taser use has increased in Q2 compared to Q1. In Q1 it was 'used' 13 times and not discharged at all. In Q2, it has been 'used' 24 times, but as with Q1 there were no instances where it was discharged. Members are reminded that a Taser is classed as being 'used' when the officer draws it from its holster, aims it, or activates the sighting system (also known as 'Red Dotting'). Discharges (when the Taser is fired) are recorded separately from 'uses'.
9. In this quarter 7 officers recorded being injured in incidents involving the use of force, compared to 11 in Q1. Subjects who were injured as a result of the use of Force showed a similar variation: 14 in Q1, 18 in Q2.
10. As with Stop/Search data, in the absence of the full analytical report we are unable (at the time of writing) to comment on the disproportionality index however percentages of subjects self-identifying as white, black, Asian or declining to state a self-defined ethnicity remains broadly constant with the previous quarter. Based on this, the established trend in the disproportionality index is likely to be maintained in this quarter.

Matters arising from previous PSI Meeting

11. Since your last meeting, 3 briefing sessions have been held for members of this Committee and the Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group (IASG) on police Stop/Search powers. These were well received. We are in the process of making arrangements for members of both the Committee and IASG to attend 'ride alongs' to see these powers being used in a live operational environment. We aim to offer the first dates for this before the end of year.
12. We are planning to provide members with a fourth opportunity to receive the Stop/Search powers briefing during November (date/time to be confirmed).
13. We are also planning for a similar briefing session for members of the Use of Force legal framework early in the 2021, to be followed up with the opportunity to observe key training where officers put that framework into practice (Officer Safety, Taser and Public Order training). Details will be shared with members before the end of the year.
14. A new tactical lead for Stop/Search and Use of Force has now been appointed (Chief Inspector Jo Steed) who will act as a deputy for the Strategic lead (Supt James Morgan).
15. The review of Use of Force involving juveniles is still ongoing. Over Q1 and Q2 force was recorded as being used against 61 juveniles. The majority (73%) were aged 16 or 17; 15% were aged 15, and the remaining 10% 14 or less.
16. Of those 61 reports of Use of Force, Possession of a weapon was a factor in 28% of the reports; drugs in 34% and alcohol 26%. As noted above, we do not have the full analytical report for Q2 but compared to the Q1 report, this represents a slightly higher proportion of incidents involving a weapon (10% for all reports in Q1), and slightly less than drugs and alcohol (46% and 32% respectively for Q1).

17. In the majority of reports (80%) officers recorded that they used force to protect themselves. This is followed by the protection of other officers (67%), protection of the subject and the public recorded in 38% of reports: this is broadly in line with the trend in the Q1 report. Preventing harm was cited in 43% of reports (again in line with the Q1 report), and preventing offences was a reason for force in 39%, which is lower than in the Q1 report.
18. As with overall use of force across both quarters, handcuffing represented the largest single type of force used (77%). Tactical comms feature similarly prominently in this cohort of reports. Taser was used in 10% (6) of reports: none involved discharge. One report involved drawing the Taser, one involved the device being aimed and the remaining 4 involved 'Red Dotting'. All the subjects involved were aged 16, with one exception (aged 15). Possession of a weapon featured in 4 of the 6 reports, and officers recorded being threatened with a weapon in 3 of the 6 reports. Four of the subjects were white, and two black: this is broadly in line with the ethnic breakdown (self-defined) across all use of force reports. Of these incidents, 4 occurred after 2300 and before 0700; a 5th occurred after 2000 and only one occurred during the day.
19. In summary, this sub-cohort of subjects are broadly in line with the wider cohort as a whole, with the notable exception of the involvement of a weapon which features almost 3 times as often with this juvenile cohort, compared to the cohort as a whole (Q1 data). Work is ongoing to further examine these reports, including a dip sampling of Body Worn Video. We will provide further updates with our Q3 report.
20. We have raised the question about tracking subjects of repeat stop/search with the national Stop Search working group. The national lead's office is not aware of any Forces that track subjects stop/searched across Force boundaries (a query has been sent to Forces to confirm). A small number (three) forces reportedly track and report on this: all those Forces operate a different Record Management System (RMS) to the City of London which enables this reporting. Our RMS (Niche) is not currently capable of doing this and to report on this would require a manual examination of hundreds of records which is not viable. We will raise the question in the Niche user group to gauge the interest from other Niche forces for pursuing a software change. However, unless there is a further substantive update from the national lead's office or a positive response from the Niche User Group, we will not report further on this matter.

Conclusion

21. Based on the limited analysis that's been conducted in the absence of the full analytical report, and the scrutiny provided by the Stop/Search and Use of Force Working Group, patterns of stop/search and use of force remain largely consistent with the trends in Force established over the preceding 12-24 months.

Appendices

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

James Morgan**Superintendent****Head of City Police Task Force & Head of Contact**

T: 020 7601 2102

E: james.morgan@cityoflondon.police.uk