

Committee(s): Professional Standards and Integrity Committee	Dated: 29 November 2022
Subject: Q1 & Q2 Stop and Search and Use of Force Update 2022-23	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 113-22	For Information
Report author: James Morgan, Superintendent, Head of City Police Task Force and Head of Contact	

Summary

This reports covers Q1 and Q2 of FY 22/23: due to Operation LONDON BRIDGE it was not possible to complete the Q1 report in time for the Committee's last meeting.

The use of Stop/Search powers, and the Use of Force, remain broadly in line with the established trends although both (overall) are down in this reporting period compared the corresponding reporting period in 21/22.

There have been no juvenile strip searches during the reporting period.

Taser use remains broadly consistent with the same period in 21/22, with 44 'uses' but no discharges (or firings).

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report

Main Report

Background

1. Members are asked to note that this report covers the Stop/Search and Use of Force data for Q1 and Q2, due to the impact of Operation LONDON BRIDGE on the original timeline for preparing the Q1 report.

Current Position – Stop Search

2. Over the first two quarters of FY 22/23, the force conducted 1092 Stop/Searches, leading to 299 arrests. Overall, the positive outcome rate for this period was 39%. This compares to 1424 stop/searches in the same period in FY 21/22 (down 23%); however, over the same comparator period the positive outcome rate was lower at

34%, whilst the number of arrests was slightly higher at 322 (a decrease of 7%). Members are reminded that positive outcome is recorded where the object of the search is found, and does not necessarily reflect arrest rates (finding the object of a search does not automatically result in an arrest).

3. There have been no searches conducted under s.60 authorities over this reporting period and no s.60 authorities have been granted. This compared to 1 search conducted in the same period in FY 21/22 (conducted in the MPS force area under an MPS authority).
4. Over this reporting period 107 juveniles (ages 10-17) have been searched. Of these, the majority (74%) were searched for going equipped, possession of a weapon (inc 2 for possession of a firearm) or stolen property: 20% were searched for drugs. In contrast, in the adult population the majority of searches were conducted for drugs (51%), with 31% of the adult population being searched for going equipped, possession of weapon or stole property. This is in line with the established trend, which sees the majority of searches overall being conducted for drugs, but within the juvenile cohort the main reason for searches being offensive weapons and going equipped.
5. For the current reporting period, the disproportionality for black members of the community was 2.4 (compared to 2.0 in the comparator period). This is within the established trend of between 1.9 and 2.5 over the preceding two years. Of black individuals stopped, the majority (50%) were searched for drugs, which is broadly in line with the adult population as a whole, whilst 43% were searched for going equipped etc., which is slightly higher than the adult population as a whole. However this does represent a decrease on the same period last year, where 72% of black individuals stopped were searched for drugs, with a 42% positive outcome rate (and 27% arrested). In contrast for this reporting period there was a 40% positive outcome rate (and 21% where arrested). Fewer black members of the community were stopped in this reporting period 98, compared to the previous year (133).
6. For Asian individuals, the disproportionality has dropped slightly from 1.5 in the comparator period to 1.2 in this reporting period. The majority of Asian individuals searched (61%) were searched for drugs, which is at odds with the adult population as a whole. However, when searches leading to arrests are considered in isolation, the disproportionality for Asian individuals falls to 0.8.
7. Searches under s.23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act continue to account for the majority of stop/searches, in line with the established trend. Searches under this power have a high positive outcome rate, with items being found in 43% of searches (drugs being found in 39% of searches and other items in 4%).
8. **Repeated Searches.** Committee members have previously asked for data on individuals subject to repeated searches. Members will recall that the design of force systems does not allow for this data to be provided; however based on a manual review of records for Q1 and Q2 of this financial year we can provide the following information on a 'one off' basis as a snapshot. Discounting duplicate entries or records where the subject has declined to provide their name, there are

29 records in Q1 and Q2 where the same person was subject to a search by City of London Police officers on more than one occasion: this represents 3% of the total searches over this period. A more detailed analysis of this sub-cohort is not possible.

9. **Strip Searches.** Members are reminded that stop/search legislation affords power to require the removal of different levels of clothing. For searches conducted on the street, only 'JOG' items (jacket, outer-garment, gloves) maybe removed. If more than 'JOG' items are removed, then the search constitutes a 'strip search' and must be recorded as such. There are two levels of strip search. A 'More Thorough Search' which can involve the removal of more than JOG items but not require the removal of underwear. A More Thorough Search must be conducted out of public view (this can include inside a police vehicle). If underwear is removed, this constitutes an 'Intimate Parts Exposed' search. Such a search may only be conducted in a police station. Force policy is that a Supervisor must be consulted and agree with the search (under legislation they are only required to be informed). Juveniles may be strip searched, but although there are no additional legislative bars which must be cleared to conduct such a search, in practise for it to be proportionate the grounds for such a search **must** be significant and robust, and recorded as such. When a juvenile is subject to any degree of strip search an appropriate adult should be present unless there is an overwhelming reason to conduct the search in their absence (for example, suspecting that the subject is concealing a weapon with the intention to hurt themselves or another person).
10. Members received a detailed update on juvenile strip searches at the last Professional Standards and Integrity Committee in September as part of a historic review conducted by the Professional Standards Dept.
11. As set out in our Q4 FY21/22 report, we will report on Strip/Searches in each of our reports to this committee.
12. Over this reporting period we conducted 29 strip searches, of which 2 constituted a More Thorough Search and 27 an Intimate Parts Exposed search (this compares to 45 in the comparator reporting period, of which 2 were More Thorough Searches and 43 Intimate Parts Exposed).
13. The majority (26) of strip searches were conducted under Misuse of Drugs Act powers, with 3 being conducted where the subject was thought to be going equipped or in possession of stolen goods.
14. Strip Searches may also be conducted in Custody, under separate powers within the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984. These are not conducted under Stop/Search powers, and are not recorded within Stop/Search statistics, or covered by this report.
15. **Juvenile Strip Search.** No under 18s were strip searched in this reporting period. As previously reported to the Committee, we will provide detail of any U18 strip searches in this report going forward in future.

16. **Dip Sampling.** The Force introduced a revised Standard Operating Procedure for the dip sampling of Stop/Search records in November 2021. As previously reported to this Committee, after an initial bedding in period in Nov and Dec 21, the new process became fully established from January 2022. The Force aims to achieve a 10-20% dip sampling rate, which is in addition to the 100% supervision of all Stop/Search and Use of Force reports by frontline supervisors. In addition to this, the Independent Advisory and Scrutiny Group (IASG) independently reviews a sample of stop/search record (and associated Use of Force records) each month, averaging approximately an 8-9% sampling rate. From November 2022 this will also include the review of selected Body Worn Video recordings.
17. Over the year to date (as at 29 Oct 22) the Force has recorded 1898 Stop/Searches, and we have internally dip sampled 282 of this: a sample rate of 13%. For Q1 and Q2, we recorded 1092 Stop/Searches and reviewed through dip sampling 188, giving a sampling rate of 14%.
18. The proportionate split between s23 Misuse of Drugs Act and s1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act records sampled is broadly in line with the split over the cohort as a whole (as set out above).
19. In June 2022 we introduced a change in the dip sampling process, requiring supervisors to rate each record they reviewed on a scale from 1 to 10. The scale is set out below. This change was introduced mid-month, so complete records for reviews against this new scale are only available for Q2 (Jul-Sep 22).
- a. **1 – Poor.** Very poor record or unlawful use of power.
 - b. **2-4 – Areas for significant improvement.** Serious omissions or errors with the conduct of the search.
 - c. **5 – Satisfactory.** Search was conducted lawfully and record is complete.
 - d. **6 – Good.** Search is conducted lawfully, record is complete, and officer acted in a professional manner.
 - e. **7-9 – Very Good.** Search is conducted lawfully, record is complete and accurate, and officer demonstrates very good professional standards, such as how they communicate with the subject, the respect shown the subject or their ability to de-escalate a situation.
 - f. **10 – Excellent.** An exemplar of how to conduct a Stop/Search in all respects which could be used for training purposes with new recruits.
20. For the period Jul-Sep 22, 93% of records reviewed scored 5 or above (99 records). For records covering Jul and Aug 22, the IASG found that 90% of the records they reviewed (27 out of 30) represented reasonable grounds (the review for the September records is not available at the time of writing). For Q1, the IASG found that 93% of the records they reviewed represented Reasonable Grounds.

21. Of the 6 records which failed to meet the standard, one record was scored as 1, and 5 records scored 4.
22. The record which scored 1 was reviewed by the officer's Inspector, who identified that the search commenced before GOWISELY¹ was given, when GOWISELY was given it was not given in full, and (most importantly) the grounds for the search were not sufficient to engage the power. The officer has been required to re-complete two eLearning packages, has been subject to a period of mentoring by an experienced and competent colleague and their subsequent searches are subject to detailed review by their Sergeant. A subsequent record (selected at random) of a search conducted by this officer by an independent supervisor scored 6, indicating that the training intervention has been successful.
23. In the records which was scored 4, there were two themes. First, the full points required under GOWISELY either not being given, or not recorded as Body Worn Video was activated too late. Second, where the officer conducting the stop is of a different sex to the subject of the search, and there is ambiguity in the record as to whether or not GOWISELY was given fully to the subject. In all cases, the officers involved have been debriefed and provided with support by their supervisors to learn from their errors.

Current Position – Use of Force

24. Over this reporting period, a total of 1192 uses of force were recorded, compared to 1608 over the same period last year, a decrease of 26%. In both this reporting period and the corresponding reporting period last year 60% of uses of force involve arrests, and handcuffing remains the largest single use of force by a large margin.
25. Over this reporting period, batons have been used twice (3 times in FY 21/22) and police dogs have been deployed 4 times (14 in the same period in FY 21/22). A total of 7 officers were injured in incidents involving the use of force (18 in FY 21/22), and 22 subjects were injured as a result of the use of force (25 in FY 21/22).
26. Force remains most used against male subjects (78% this reporting period compared to 79% in the comparable period FY21/22).
27. Disproportionality for Asian subjects of force is largely unchanged at 0.82 this reporting period, and 0.85 in the comparator period. However for black individuals, the disproportionality has risen from 2.2 in the comparator period to 2.78 in this reporting period. The proportion of use of force incidents involving black subjects leading to arrest is approximately the same as the population as a whole (61%). Similarly, the likelihood of taser being used is broadly the same: 3% for black subjects, 4% for the population as a whole.
28. **Taser.** Over the reporting period the Force recorded 44 uses of Taser, but no discharges. This compares to 46 in the comparator period, with no discharges

¹ GOWISELY is an acronym used by officers as an 'aide memoire' for the information they are supposed to give to a stop/search subject, prior to commencing the search, to ensure compliance with Code A of PACE.

also. Committee members are reminded that a use of a taser is recorded whenever an officer draws it from the holster, aims it, activates the laser 'red dot' sighting system or draws a subject's attention to the device with an "Arc Display" (showing the arching of electricity across the front of the device). Firing, or discharge, is recorded separately.

29. Due to a change in reporting processes and introduction of Power-Bi it is not currently possible to provide a more detailed analysis of taser use at this time, this is being discussed internally with the Director of Information with a view to developing capability / capacity in this area.

Conclusion

30. Both Use of Force and Stop Search remain, largely, in line with established trends.

Appendices

1. Data summaries

James Morgan

Superintendent

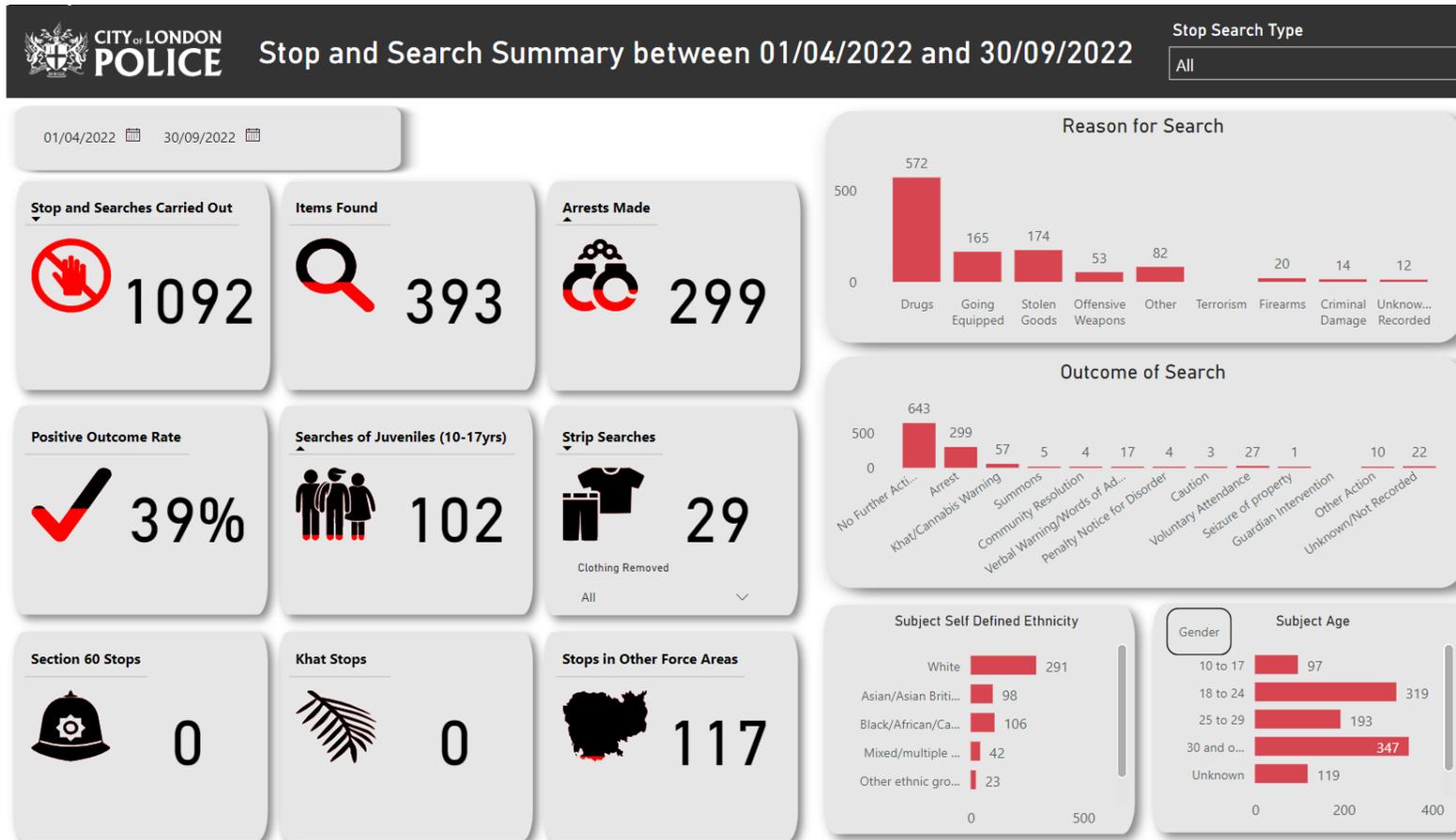
Force lead for Stop/Search and Use of Force

T: 020 7601 2102

E: james.morgan@cityoflondon.police.uk

Appendix 1 Data Summaries

Stop Search



Use of Force



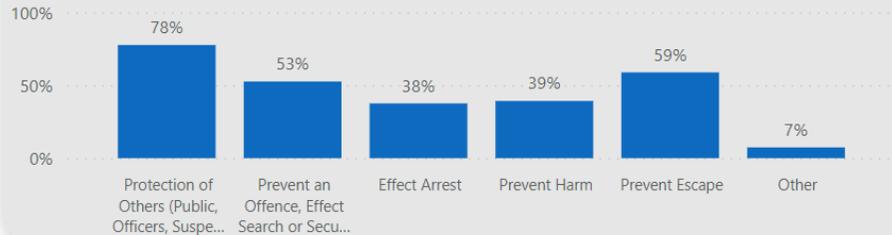
Use of Force Summary for the period between 01/04/2022 and 30/09/2022

Select filters

01/04/2022 30/09/2022

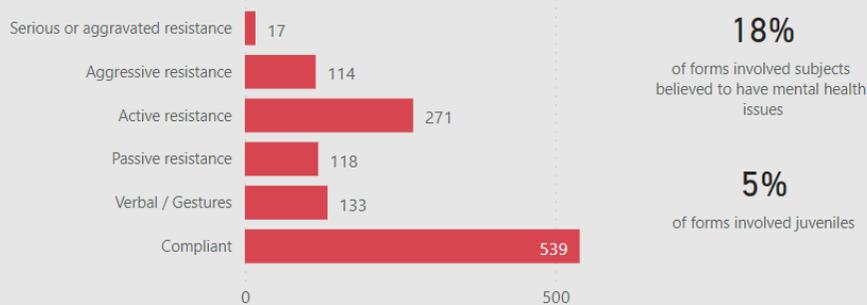


Reason for Use of Force (% of all forms)

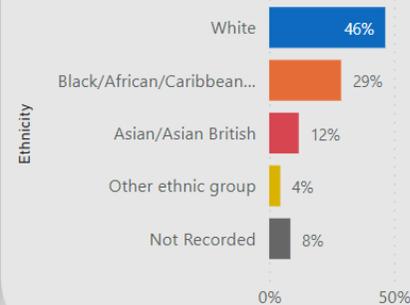


This summary provides an insight into the number of submitted use of force forms. More than one form can be submitted for an incident if multiple officers are involved. Each form can also include multiple reasons for the use force and/or multiple tactics. Details of the subject on the forms submitted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

Forms Submitted by Conduct



Subject Ethnicity



Subject Gender

