

Committee(s): Professional Standards and Integrity Committee	Dated: 9 th May 2023
Subject: Q4 Stop and Search and Use of Force 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 55-23	For Information
Report author: Superintendent Bill Duffy, Head of City Police Task Force & Head of Contact	

Summary

This report covers Q4 of FY 22/23. (Jan 01st 2023 – March 31st 2023)

The use of Stop/Search powers, and the Use of Force, remains broadly in line with the established trends previously reported to the Committee last meeting.

- There have been 560 stop searches during the reporting period. This led to 171 arrests.
- Taser use remains in established trends.
- There were 21 uses of Taser recorded this period, with 0 discharged, and no uses involving Juveniles.
- No Section 60 Stop Searches conducted.
- No Juvenile strip searches.
- 20 Strip searches conducted (81% Misuse of Drugs Act)
- 47 Juveniles stop search (34% for drugs, 25% Going Equipped and 6% Offensive Weapon)
- 789 Use of force forms completed (66% involved arrest).

Recommendation

Members are asked to note the report.

Main Report

Background

1. This is the Police's routine report to inform members of the overarching trends relating to the use of Stop/Search powers and the Use of Force by officers. A full data pack is attached to the report at Appendix 1. The report provides an overview of the key trends, and an analysis of key aspects of the use of these powers.

Current Position – Stop Search

2. Over Q4 of FY 22/23, the force conducted 560 Stop/Searches, this compares to 652 stop/searches in the same period in FY 21/22.
3. Q4 22-23 Stop Searches lead to 171 arrests compared to 160 arrests in Q4 21-22.
4. Overall, the positive outcome rate for Q4 22-23 was 43% compared to 34% for Q4 FY 21-22.
5. Whilst the overall number of stop searches was lower in Q4 22-23 compared to Q4 21-22, the number of arrests was higher with a higher positive outcome rate.
6. Members are reminded that positive outcome is recorded where there is a positive outcome following the search: this can include finding the object of the search; finding another prohibited item which was not the object of the search; or arrest (directly linked to the search or for other offences) (this is not an exhaustive list). As such, the positive outcome rate will always vary from the arrest or find rates.
7. The CoLP is exploring the possibility of including national comparator data in the future and will update on this in future reports.
8. There have been no searches conducted under s.60 authorities over this reporting period and no s.60 authorities have been granted. This is the same as it was for Q4 in FY 21/22.
9. Over this reporting period 47 juveniles (<10-17yrs>) have been searched. Of these, the majority (34%) were searched for drugs, possession of a weapon (incl 2 for possession of a firearm) and 17% stolen property: 25% were searched for going equipped. In contrast, in the adult population the majority of searches were conducted for drugs (58%), with 12% of the population being searched for going equipped etc. This is in line with the established trend, which sees the majority of searches overall being conducted for drugs, and within the juvenile cohort the main reason for searches being for drugs and going equipped.
10. For the current reporting period, the disproportionality for black members of the community was 2.7 (compared to 2.02 in the comparator period). This is not within the established trend of between 1.9 and 2.5 over the preceding two years. Of black individuals stopped, the majority (71.42%) were searched for drugs, which is broadly in line with the adult population as a whole, whilst 12% were searched for

going equipped, which is slightly higher than the adult population as a whole. However, this does represent an increase on the same period last year, where 55% of black individuals stopped were searched for drugs, with a 37% positive outcome rate (and 30% arrested). In contrast for this reporting period there was a 41% positive outcome rate (and 30% where arrested). There has been an increase by 1 in the numbers of black members of the community who were stopped in this reporting period 63 compared to the previous year (62).

11. For Asian individuals, the disproportionality has remained the same from 1.2 in the comparator period to 1.2 in this reporting period. The majority of Asian individuals searched (74.42%) were searched for drugs, which is at odds with the adult population as a whole.
12. 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 an average positive outcome rate, with items being found in 50% of searches (drugs being found in 41% of searches and other items in 5%).
13. **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) may be 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.
14. 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 practice 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).
15. As set out in our Q4 FY21/22 report, we will report on Strip/Searches in each of our reports to this committee.
16. Over this reporting period we conducted 20 strip searches, of which 3 constituted a more thorough search and 17 an intimate parts exposed search (this compares to 19 in the comparator reporting period, of which 1 were more thorough searches and 18 intimate parts exposed).
17. The majority (84%) 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.

18. 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.
19. **Juvenile Strip Search.** Initially reports showed 1 juvenile had been strip searched. The records for this incident were reviewed. (Stop Search and Custody). This was a data error (Custody data captured) as NO juvenile had been strip searched in this period. Other records have been checked and this confirms NO juveniles were strip searched in this reporting period.
20. **Dip Sampling.** Due to an online reporting template expiring the data set for dip sampling is not available for this update. We are currently working with IT to refresh the form and ensure the dip sampling process continues and the data for Q4 can be analysed.
21. Following IT solution, Dip Sampling data will be reported back to this Committee.

Current Position – Use of Force

22. Over this reporting period, a total of 789 uses of force were recorded, compared to 655 over the same period last year, increase of 17%. In this reporting period, 66% of uses of force involved arrests, compared to 65% in the same period last year, and handcuffing remains the largest single use of force by a large margin.
23. Over this reporting period, batons haven't been used, and no police dogs been deployed for use of force. A total of 2 officers were injured in incidents involving the use of force, (compared to 3 in Q4 FY 21/22) : 8 incidents resulting in a referral to PSD, 7 with investigation ongoing and 1 resolved. This complaint was reviewed and dealt with by local management within Local Policing and the resolution accepted by the complainant.
24. Force remains most used against male subject (80% this reporting period compared to 82% in the comparable period FY21/22).
25. Disproportionality for Asian subjects in use of force has changed at 0.86 this reporting period from 0.7 in the comparator period. For black individuals, the disproportionality has risen from 2.60 in the comparator period to 2.76 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 (70%). Similarly, the likelihood of taser being used is broadly lower: 2.2 % for black subjects, 2.6% for the population as a whole.
26. **Taser.** Over the reporting period the Force recorded 21 uses of Taser, and 0 taser discharge. This compares to 28 in the comparator period, and 1 discharged incident. 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.

27. Of these 28 Taser incidents, none involved Juveniles

Future Work

- Stop Search lead engaged with Home Office (HO). HO will be attending IASG meeting to observe process.
- University of East London partnership with CoLP. Students attending journey in policing and stop search training sessions. First session 27th April 2023
- Increased layer of dip sampling – Chief Inspector City Force Incident Manager (FIM) conducting daily dip sampling of Use of Force / Stop Search and Body Worn Video (BWV).

Conclusion

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

Appendices

Appendix 1- Q4 Data pack

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