

**STOP & SEARCH**

**JULY 2022 – JUNE 2023**

**COVER PAGE**

Total No. Stop & Searches Carried Out	<b>2,335</b>
Person and Vehicle	560
Person Only	1,719
Vehicle Only	56

Items Found	<b>807</b>
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Arrests	<b>667</b>
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Positive Outcome Rate	<b>45%</b>
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Searches of Juveniles (10-17 years)	<b>196</b>
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Strip Searches (full 63, partial 5)	<b>68</b>
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Section 60 Stops	<b>0</b>
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Khat Stops	<b>0</b>
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Stops in Other Force Areas	<b>411</b>
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*Jul-22 to Jun-23 Reason for Stop*

Reason for Stop	No.	%
Drugs	1,278	56%
Going equipped	314	14%
Stolen goods	372	16%
Offensive Weapon	271	12%
Other	58	3%
Terrorism	4	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,297</b>	
<i>Not specified</i>	38	2%

*Jul-22 to Jun-23 Stop Outcome*

Search Outcome1	Total	%
No further action	1,278	56%
Arrest	667	29%
Drugs warning	123	5%
Voluntary attendance	60	3%
Property seized	34	1%
Proceedings related to vehicle	26	1%
Police discretionary resolution	23	1%
Proceedings against linked person	17	1%
Postal requisition/postal charge/summons	13	1%
Community resolution	10	0%
Fixed penalty notice	4	0%
Caution - simple/conditional	4	0%
Penalty notice for disorder	4	0%
Persons located	3	0%
Damage incurred	1	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,267</b>	
<i>Not specified</i>	68	3%

*Self-defined Ethnicity of Stop & Search Subject*

Self-defined Ethnicity	No.	%
White	596	53%
Black	237	21%
Asian	170	15%
Mixed	77	7%
Other	48	4%
Chinese	4	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,132</b>	
<i>Not stated</i>	1,147	50%

*Stop Search Subject Gender*

Gender	Total	%
Male	2,004	90%
Female	231	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,235</b>	
<i>Not known</i>	44	2%

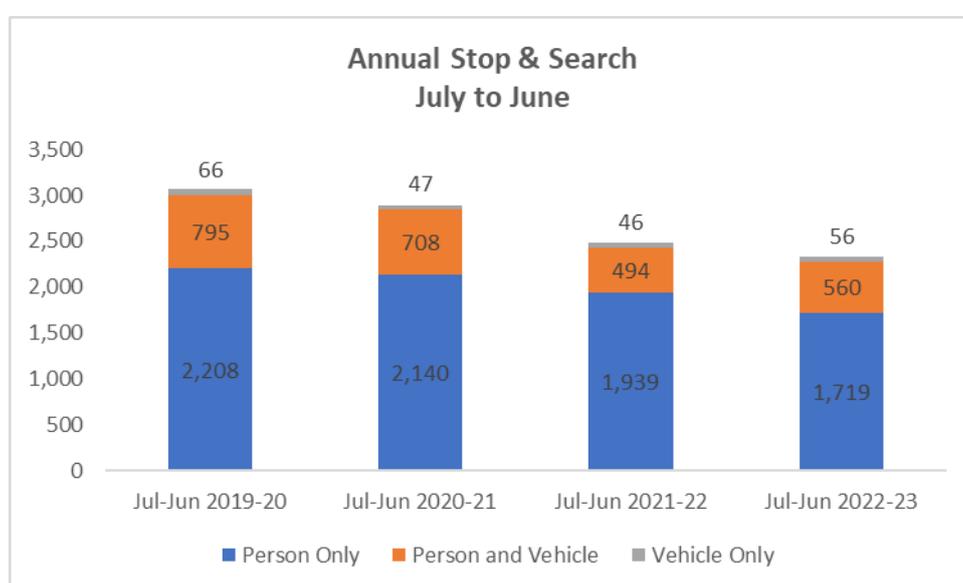
## 1.1 Key Findings

- Between July 2022 and June 2023 there were 2,335 Stop and Searches carried out by CoLP. This represents a 6% reduction compared to the previous year (July 2021 to June 2022, n=2,479).
- The arrest rate (29%) has improved compared to previous year (25%)
- Drugs stops continue to be the most common type of stop as observed in previous years (56%).
- There were 271 stops for offensive weapons, a 32% increase compared to the previous year. In total 26 weapons were found, including 6 firearms.
- The most common locations for stops were Bishopsgate, Cheapside, London Wall and Liverpool Street.
- A significant minority (18%) of stops occurred on MPS ground. These were typically in areas bordering the City.
- Most stops took place between Wednesday and Saturday between 13:00 and 00:59.
- The ethnic group most commonly stopped and searched was white, both in terms of perceived (52%) and self-defined ethnicity (53%)
- Levels of disproportionality have increased slightly for Black individuals (from 1.9 to 2.0) and have decreased substantially for Asian individuals (from 1.3 to 0.8).
- Most people stopped were between the ages of 18 and 34 years old (71%)
- There were 196 stops of under 18s, including 2 stops of 12 year old boys.
- There were 41 arrests of juveniles giving an arrest rate of 21%
- There were 63 full strip searches this year. Objects were found in 41 (65%) of them and 35 arrests were made (56%)
- The overall positive outcome rate was 40%

## 1.2 Yearly Breakdown

Between July 2022 and June 2023 there were 2,335 Stop and Searches carried out by CoLP. This represents a 6% reduction compared to the previous year (July 2021 to June 2022, n=2,479). Over the past few years there have been two notable drops in the number of stops in the City; in March 2020 and January-February 2021. These tally with coronavirus lockdowns. However, the downward trend in stops has extended beyond the pandemic with the number continuing to decrease since the beginning of 2020. This aligns with national trends.<sup>1</sup>

While stop and search volume is not at the level that it was before the pandemic, the arrest rate for stops has improved, with an arrest rate of 29% between July 2022 and June 2023. In fact, CoLP's Stop and Search arrest rate is higher than the national arrest rate of 13% and the Metropolitan Police Service's arrest rate of 14%.<sup>2</sup>



*% Change in Total Stops Jul 2019 to Jun 2023 and Arrest Rate*

Date Grouping	Total Stop & Search	% change	Arrest Rate
Jul-Jun 2019-20	3,069		28%
Jul-Jun 2020-21	2,895	-6%	24%
Jul-Jun 2021-22	2,479	-14%	25%
Jul-Jun 2022-23	2,335	-6%	29%

## 2.1 Reason for Stop

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.policeconduct.gov.uk/national-stop-and-search-learning-report-april-2022>  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/police-powers-and-procedures-stop-and-search-and-arrests-england-and-wales-year-ending-31-march-2022/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.police.uk/pu/your-area/metropolitan-police-service/performance/stop-and-search/>

The most common legal basis for searches during the year period was Misuse of Drugs (55%, n=1,268) followed by PACE (43%, n=981). The Firearms Act s47 accounted for less than 2% of stops, thirty-nine in number. There were no Section 60 stops I the period.

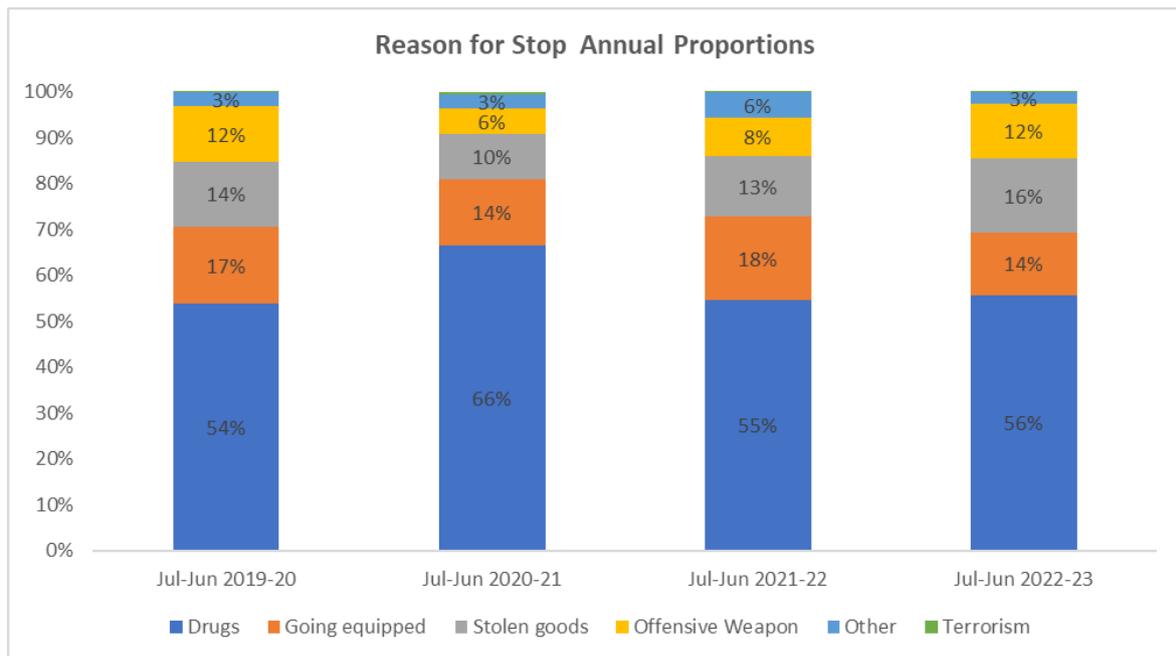
There are sometimes discrepancies between the 'Search Power' and 'Search Reason' listed. For example, searches where the Search Power used was the 'Misuse of Drugs Act 1971' and the search reason was listed as 'Articles for use in theft'. Unusual combinations are highlighted in yellow below. There were also 38 searches where either the search power and/or the search reason was not listed.

*Search Power and Search Reason - July 2022 to June 2022*

<b>Search Power</b>	<b>Search Reason</b>	<b>Total</b>
Anti-social Behaviour Crime and Policing Act 2014 (sch 8)	Hist - Drugs – Cannabis	2
Criminal Justice Act 1988 (s139B)	Articles for use in theft	2
Criminal Justice and PO Act 1994 (s60)	Hist - Drugs – Cannabis	1
Firearms Act 1968 (s47)	Firearms	39
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23)	Articles for use in theft	1
	Drugs - other controlled drugs	449
	Evidence - Offences under Act	17
	Hist - Drugs – Cannabis	800
	Not provided	1
Not specified	Not provided	38
PACE 1984 (s1)	Articles for use in criminal damage	24
	Articles for use in theft	268
	Bladed article	124
	Drugs - other controlled drugs	2
	Evidence - Offences under Act	17
	Game or poaching equipment	1
	Going equipped	43
	Goods - duty not paid, etc.	1
	Hist - Drugs – Cannabis	6
	Intoxicating liquor	1
	Offensive weapons	108
	Other	12
	Stolen goods	371
Sus crime/disorder/ASB	2	
PACE 1984 (s4)	Stolen goods	1
Terrorism Act 2000 (s43)	Terrorism - Any evidence indicating them to be a terrorist	4

*Jul-22 to Jun-23 Reason for Stop*

<b>Reason for Stop</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Drugs	1,278	56%
Going equipped	314	14%
Stolen goods	372	16%
Offensive Weapon / Bladed Article / Firearms	271	12%
Other	58	3%
Terrorism	4	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,297</b>	
<i>Not specified</i>	38	2%



Drugs stops continue to be the most common type of stop as observed in previous years (56%). Most drugs stops related to cannabis (n =809). There were 451 stops relating to ‘other controlled’ drugs, cocaine being the most common. There were no khat-related stops. Compared to the previous year, drugs stops decreased by 5%. In contrast, the number of ‘Stolen Goods’ stops increased by 14% compared to the previous year (n=372) and accounted for the second highest number of stops between July 2022 and June 2023.

Under the offensive weapons category (n=271) there were 124 searches for a bladed article and 108 for a general offensive weapon. This represents a 32% increase compared to the previous year. There were thirty-nine firearms stops during the year. Six of these resulted in a firearm being found (one was an airsoft weapon, another was an imitation firearm). The majority of firearms stops occurred in the MPS area (67%, n=4).

There were 4 Terrorism stops between July 2022 and June 2023, the same number as the previous year. All occurred on CoLP ground and resulted in no further action.



### 3.1 Ethnicity

Both self-defined ethnicity and perceived ethnicity are recorded when an individual is stopped and searched. There were 2,279 stops where a person was searched between July 2022 and June 2023. Exactly half (50%) of search subjects did not state their ethnicity.

*Self-defined Ethnicity of Stop & Search Subject*

<b>Self-defined Ethnicity</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
White	596	53%
Black	237	21%
Asian	170	15%
Mixed	77	7%
Other	48	4%
Chinese	4	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,132</b>	
<i>Not stated</i>	<i>1,147</i>	<i>50%</i>

*Perceived Ethnicity of Stop & Search Subject*

<b>Perceived Ethnicity</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
White	1,022	52%
Black	508	26%
Asian	315	16%
Middle Eastern	111	6%
Chinese/Japanese/SE Asian	15	1%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,971</b>	
<i>Not known/stated</i>	<i>308</i>	<i>14%</i>

The most commonly stopped and searched individuals were perceived to be white by the Searching Officer (52%, n=1,022). This is a very similar proportion to those who self-defined as white (53%, n=596). The next most commonly stopped and searched individuals were perceived to be black by the Searching Officer (26%, n=508). This is a slightly lower proportion than those who self-defined as black (21%, n=237).

Comparisons across the two recorded ethnicities are somewhat difficult as categories do not match exactly. For example, a number of individuals perceived as black (n=33) or white (n=16) self-defined as mixed ethnicity but this is not an option the officer can select for perceived ethnicity.

### 3.2 Disproportionality

#### 3.2.1 What is disproportionality?

In 2010 the Equality and Human Rights Commission published a 'Stop & Think' report which examined the use of stop search by UK police forces. Two measures were used to assess fairness in terms of ethnicity; a disproportionality ratio and a count of excess stops.

Since then disproportionality has become a key measure for forces when examining the use of stop & search. The ratio looks at how much more likely black and Asian people are to be searched than white people based on their prevalence in the local population. Calculating the figure in this way allows for comparisons between forces of different sizes and ethnic diversity.

#### 3.2.2 Disproportionality and the City

Due to the relatively small resident population compared to the large transient one in the City it is not easy to address questions of disproportionality. Traditionally this is calculated using the resident population of an area and the officer perceived ethnicity. In the current period, however, there were only eleven people stopped who gave their address as being within City grounds.

Another option available is to use the workday population which includes all people who gave a fixed workplace in the City and those residents who are at home during the day. However, given that

63% (n=1,428) person stops occur outside of a typical working day (Monday-Friday 08:00-18:59), this is also unlikely to given an accurate representation of the available street population. Post-pandemic working pattern changes will further compound this.

When we look at the residential addresses of people stopped this quarter, 73% lived in the Greater London Area, 20% were from other regions of the UK and 7% were of no fixed abode. Based on this, disproportionality has been calculated using the residential population figures for the whole London region.<sup>3</sup> Census data from 2021 has been used here.

Levels of disproportionality have increased slightly for Black individuals (from 1.9 to 2.0). Disproportionality has decreased substantially for Asian individuals (from 1.3 to 0.8). Compared to the Metropolitan Police which records a disproportionality figure of 4.0 for Black individuals and 1.3 for Asian individuals over the same period.<sup>4</sup>

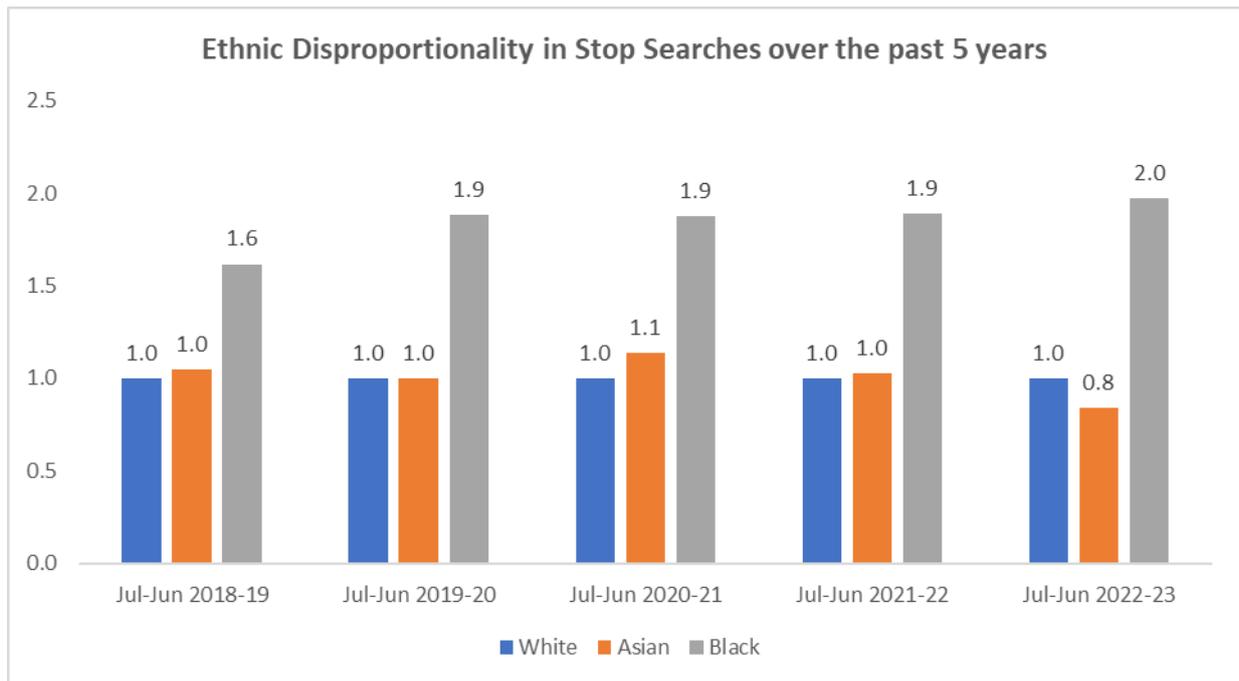
*Census 2021 - Greater London Residential Population by Ethnicity*

<b>Ethnic Group</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
White	4,731,172	54%
Asian	1,817,647	21%
Black	1,188,369	14%
Other	556,772	6%
Mixed	505,776	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>8,799,736</b>	

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<sup>33</sup> <https://www.ethnicity-facts-figures.service.gov.uk/uk-population-by-ethnicity/national-and-regional-populations/regional-ethnic-diversity/latest>

<sup>4</sup><https://public.tableau.com/app/profile/metropolitan.police.service/viz/MPSStopandSearchMonthlyReportv2/Coversheet>



### 3.3 Individual Officer Bias

In order to determine whether any individual CoLP officers were demonstrating bias in who they selected to stop and search, records for the past 5 years were examined. Any searching officer<sup>5</sup> who had searched 50 or more subjects within the period of which over 40% were Black or Asian was pulled for further examination.

Two officers met the above criteria. The first has since left the force and made 57 stops between 2019 and 2020. Over half (54%, n=31) of these were subjects perceived to be black. This officer tended to stop young black males, primarily for drugs searches or offensive weapons searches. Most commonly this officer's searches of black subjects resulted in no object being found (48%, n=15), more than with white subjects (36%, n=4). The majority of the officer's searches of black subjects were NFA'd (65%, n=20), however, this proportion was higher in searches of white subjects (73%).

The second officer that met the criteria for further examination is still working at CoLP and has conducted 52 searches since 2021, 60% of which were of black subjects (n=31). The majority of these searches were for drugs (55%, n=17). The vast majority of the Officer's searches of black subjects resulted in a negative search (74%, n=23) and 84% of these stops were NFA'd. The Officer conducted 1 full strip search of a 19 year old black male for drugs. The search object was found.

This case has been referred to PSD to review.

### 3.4 Age, Gender and Home Address

Between July 2022 and June 2023 the most commonly stopped aged group was 18 to 24 years old (37%, n=775), followed by 25 to 34 years old (34%, n=714). Nine percent of subjects were aged between 10 and 17 years (n=196). The youngest people to be stopped were two 12 year old boys.

<sup>5</sup> In a small number of cases, the 'Searching Officer' may not be the Officer who made the decision to stop and search a subject. This will normally be due to the gender of the subject.

One of the boys was white and was stopped on Millenium Bridge as it was believed he was carrying a bladed article. The other boy was of unknown ethnicity and was stopped on Cheapside for going equipped. Both stops were NFA'd.

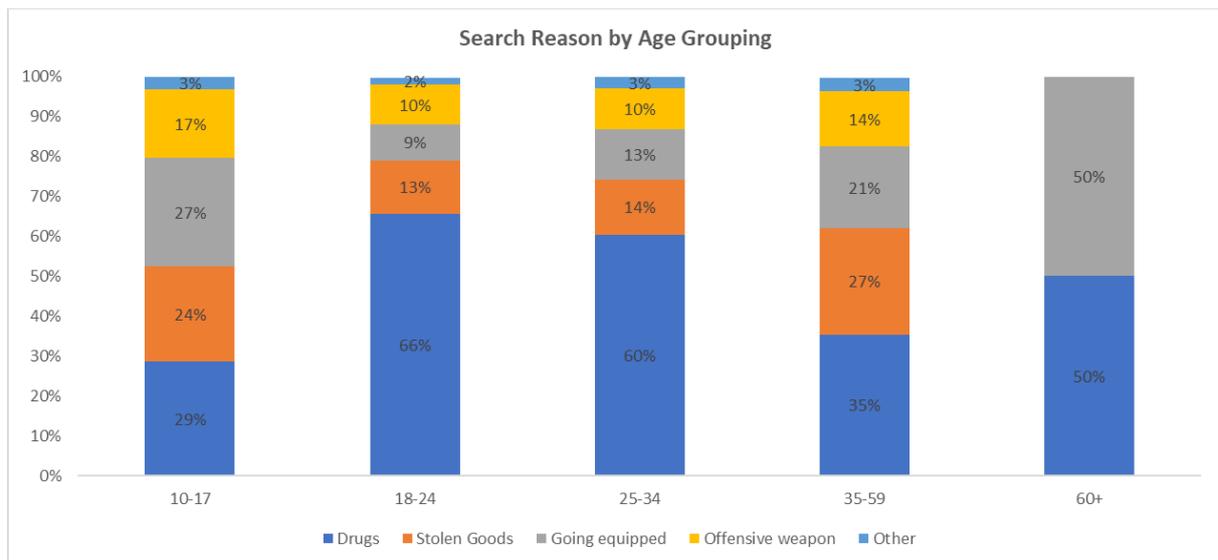
*Stop Search Subject Age*

Age Grouping	No.	%
10-17	196	9%
18-24	775	37%
25-34	714	34%
35-59	430	20%
60+	6	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,121</b>	
<i>Not known</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>7%</i>

*Stop Search Subject Gender*

Gender	Total	%
Male	2,004	90%
Female	231	10%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,235</b>	
<i>Not known</i>	<i>44</i>	<i>2%</i>

For all age groups drugs were the most common stop reason. However, for those aged between 18 and 34 drugs heavily outweighed all other stop categories (63%). Whereas for juveniles and those aged over 35 the proportion was notably lower (29% and 36% respectively). In both of those age groups acquisitive crime was the more likely to be the reason for the stop (51% and 47% respectively) compared to those aged between 18 and 34 (24%).



The majority (90%, n=1,866) of subjects were male. The age distribution of male and female subjects was very similar. While drugs were the most common stop reason for both males and female, males were more likely to be stopped for drugs than females (55% and 39% respectively). The reverse was the case for 'stolen goods' stops, with 27% of female stops and 18% of male stops occurring for that reason.

Almost three-quarters of subjects reported their home address as being in London (73%). The most common borough was Tower Hamlets (n=184) which housed over double the number of subjects as the next most common borough; Newham (n=90). Only eleven subjects lived within the City of London.

A significant minority of subjects came from other regions of the UK (20%, n=361). Essex (n=74) and Kent (n=45) were the most commonly listed counties. Somewhat surprisingly the West Midlands was the next most commonly listed county, with 32 subjects.

There were 123 subjects that were of no fixed abode (7%) and 4 subjects that were from outside the UK.

*Stop and Search Subject Home Address*

<b>Subject H/A</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
MPS	1,263	72%
City of London	11	1%
Other UK	361	20%
NFA	123	7%
Outside UK	4	0%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,762</b>	<b>1</b>
<i>Address Unknown</i>	517	23%

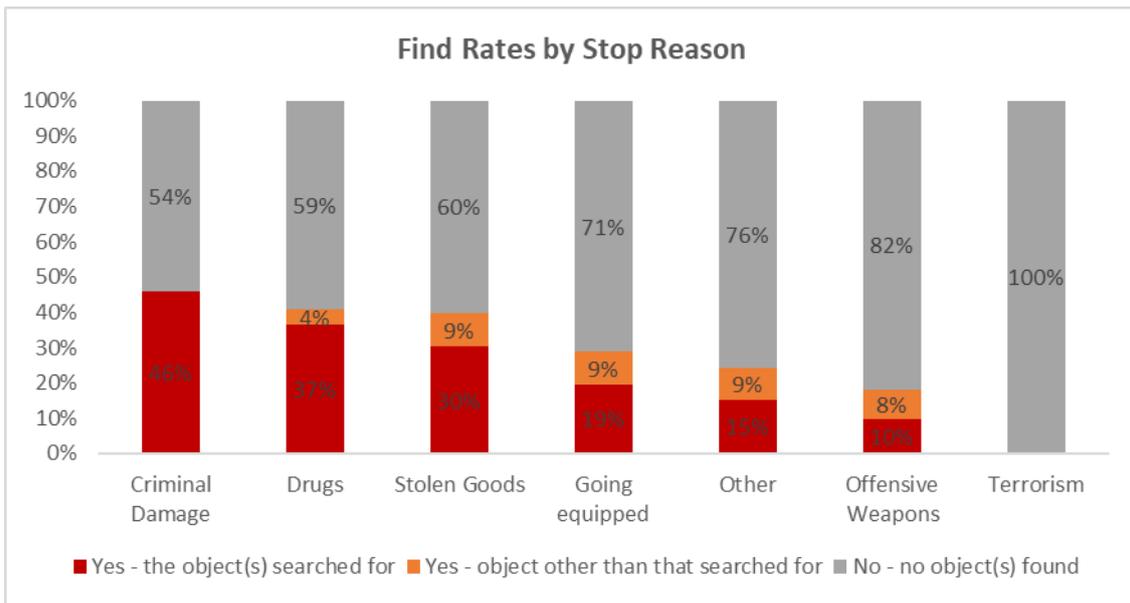
#### **4.1 Outcomes – Find Rates**

There were 807 searches during the period which resulted in an object being found, 664 where the object of the search was found and 143 where something different was discovered giving a find rate of 36%.

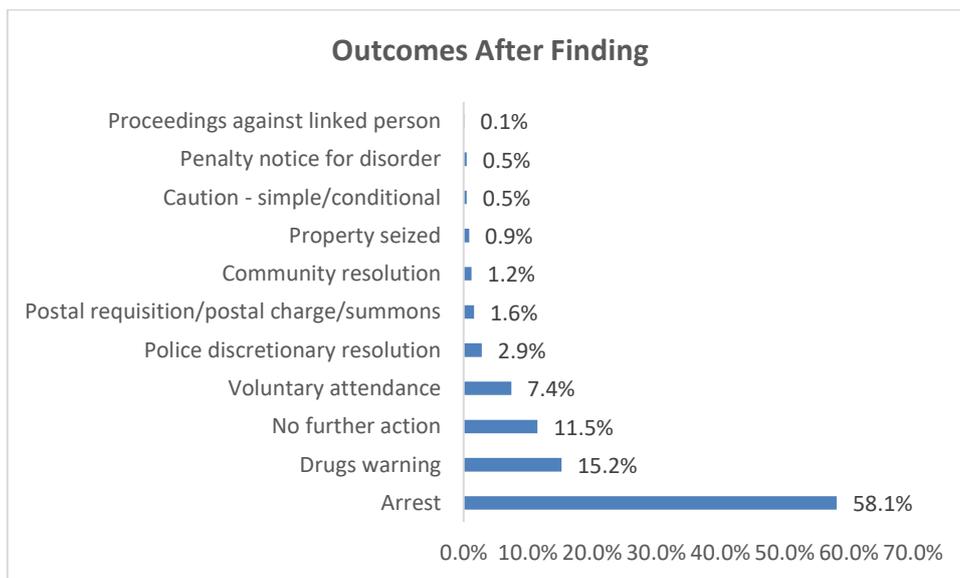
Find rates in general were highest for criminal damage searches (46%, 11 out of 24 stops). All of these stops resulted in the item being searched for being found. The next highest find rates were for stolen property searches and drugs searches (41% and 40% respectively). Find rates were lowest for offensive weapons stops with only 18% resulting in an item being found (n=48).

*Objects Found in Search Jul-22 to Jun-23*

<b>Search Object(s) Found?</b>	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
No - no object(s) found	1,431	64%
Yes - the object(s) searched for	664	30%
Yes - object other than that searched for	143	6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,238</b>	
Not specified	41	2%



The most common outcome after finding an object was to arrest the subject of the stop (58%, n=469). The second most common outcome was to issue a drugs warning (15%, n=123). The no further action rate after finding was 12% (n=93). This continues a trend that started at the end of 2020 for low no further action rates after finding which had previously been around 20-30%.



Subjects were asked to remove their outer clothing for 388 stops this quarter, primarily for drugs searches (57%). There were 63 full strip searches and 5 partial strip searches (88% for drugs, 7% for going equipped and 4% for stolen goods). There was a find rate of 63% for full and partial strip searches. The most common outcome of strip searches was arrest (53%), followed by NFA (28%).

The majority of strip search subjects were male (94%, n=64). The youngest person strip searched was 17 years old and the oldest was 50.

## **4.2 Outcomes – Arrests**

There were 667 arrests from stop search during the period, 29% of all person stops. This continues the low arrest rate from the previous year. Whereas, before that, the arrest rate had been 36% or 37%. Most arrests resulted from drugs stops (53%, n=355) or stolen goods (21%, n=140). Search is a preventative power and intended to negate the need for arrest.