

Use of Force in Norfolk and Suffolk



Quarter 1 Summary
2018/19

USE OF FORCE IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK

Police officers are confronted with difficult and demanding situations on a daily basis, and are trained to use force proportionality, lawfully and only when necessary, in the pursuit of maintaining order and keeping people (including themselves) safe. This covers a variety of tactics including unarmed defence tactics, handcuffing, and drawing or using a Taser, in situations ranging from detention and transportation of individuals to a police station to preventing immediate harm.

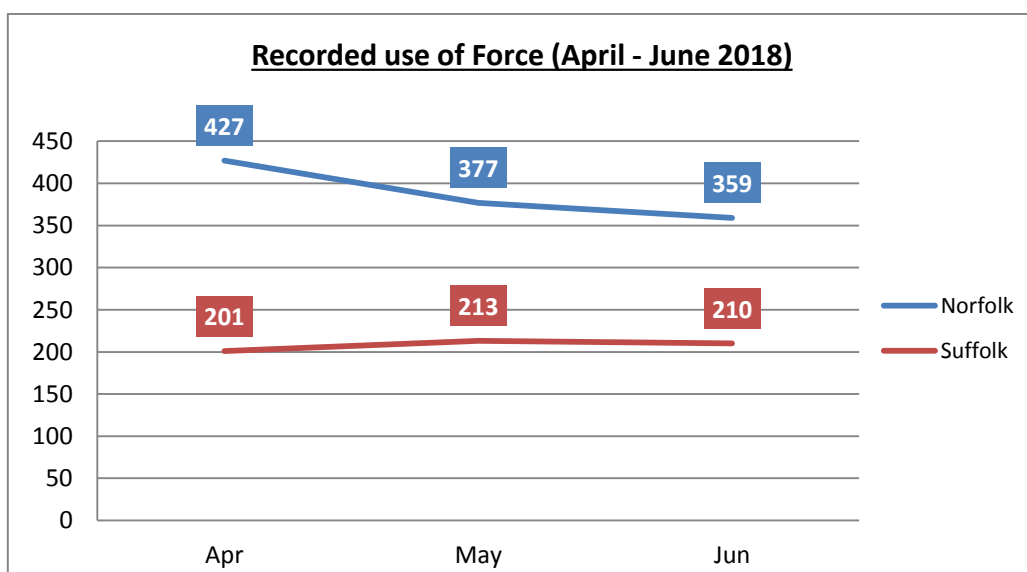
In April 2017 the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) established requirements for a consistent, uniformed approach from all Police Forces to record the use of force by officers. This means that every officer attending an incident where force has been used against an individual must complete and submit the necessary form. Consequently there may be more than one form submitted for a single incident. The figures quoted in this report refer to the number or percentage of forms as opposed to incidents.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies will publish their use of force data on a quarterly basis in order to promote transparency around the execution of policing powers and to allow public scrutiny.

As well as being a rich source of information from which we can evaluate the effectiveness of use of force techniques for training purposes and in the execution of duties, the data will also provide insight into the challenges faced by officers, and will illustrate how appropriate use of force can prevent harm to the public by enabling officers to maintain order.

Quarter One 2018/19: Summary

During April - June 2018, Norfolk submitted **1,163** forms around use of force and Suffolk submitted **624** over this quarter.



Quarter One 2018/19: In detail

Location of use of force incidents

Location	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Street/Highway	563	48.4%	320	51.3%
Dwelling	295	25.4%	150	24.0%
Custody	115	9.9%	67	10.7%
Hospital	39	3.4%	13	2.1%
Licensed Premises	26	2.2%	9	1.4%
Retail Premises	41	3.5%	15	2.4%
Motor Vehicle	3	0.3%	6	1.0%
Football Stadia	10	0.9%	1	0.2%
Not detailed/Other	71	6.1%	43	6.9%

The most common location for use of force was on a street/highway for both Forces (48.4% of the time in Norfolk and 51.3% in Suffolk).

Reason for use of force

Use of Force Reason(s)*	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Effect Arrest	803	69.0%	403	64.6%
Protect Self	570	49.0%	329	52.7%
Protect Other Officers	537	46.2%	320	51.3%
Prevent Escape	612	52.6%	296	47.4%
Prevent Harm	429	36.9%	240	38.5%
Protect Subject	429	36.9%	243	38.9%
Protect Public	364	31.3%	232	37.2%
Prevent Offence	313	24.6%	179	28.7%
Effect Search	286	24.6%	130	20.8%
Remove Handcuffs	52	4.5%	30	4.8%
Secure Evidence	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Method of Entry	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	40	3.4%	16	2.6%

* Officers can select more than one category for their reasons

The most frequently cited reason for using force was to Effect Arrest (69.0% for Norfolk and 64.6% for Suffolk).

Impact Factors

Impact factors refer to the dynamics of the situation as perceived by officers in deciding their use of force response. Consideration would be given to the need to elevate or reduce the level of force required for instance where the size or behaviour of the individual being restrained presents additional challenges.

Impact Factor	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Alcohol	601	51.7%	323	51.8%
Size/ Gender/ Build	464	39.9%	242	38.8%
Mental Health	359	30.9%	207	33.2%
Drugs	352	30.3%	203	32.5%
Possession of weapon	12	0.5%	12	1.9%
Prior knowledge	6	0.5%	7	1.1%
Crowd	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	185	15.9%	92	14.7%

Note: Groups as defined by Home Office for Annual Data Returns.

More than one impacting factor can be cited on each form.

Alcohol was the most commonly cited impacting factor for both forces (51.7% in Norfolk and 51.8% in Suffolk).

Primary behaviour of subjects perceived by Officers

Behaviour of Subject	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Active Resistance	299	25.7%	132	21.2%
Compliance	336	28.9%	152	24.4%
Aggressive Resistance	249	21.4%	172	27.6%
Passive Resistance	86	7.4%	52	8.3%
Serious or Aggravated	20	1.7%	38	6.1%
Other	173	14.9%	78	12.5%

As defined by the College of Policing Manual of Guidance

Active resistance The subject pulls away or pushes the officer but makes no attempt to strike them.

Compliance The subject offers no resistance and complies with requests. It is important that the officer understands that this could change rapidly.

Aggressive resistance The subject physically attacks the officer.

Passive resistance The subject stands/sits/lies still and will not move.

Serious or aggravated resistance The subject commits an assault which presents the possibility of serious injury or death. This includes the use of weapons.

Frequency and Effectiveness of Use of Force - by Type

Norfolk

Technique	Norfolk	% of All Reports	Effective	% Effective
Tactical Communications	585	50.3%	237	40.5%
Compliant Handcuffing	544	46.8%	531	97.6%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	456	39.2%	419	91.9%
Ground Restraint	142	12.2%	134	94.4%
Irritant Spray	76*	6.5%	68	89.5%
Spit Protection	20	1.7%	20	100%
Baton (other than drawn only)	4	0.3%	4	100%

Note: Statistics on the use of Taser are published separately and are available on the Norfolk and Suffolk constabulary websites. Officers may submit the same force type multiple times per report.

***Irritant Spray Used – does not include ‘drawn’**

Suffolk

Technique	Suffolk	% of All Reports	Effective	% Effective
Tactical Communications	300	48.1%	115	38.3%
Compliant Handcuffing	254	40.7%	245	96.5%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	251	40.2%	233	92.8%
Ground Restraint	68	10.9%	66	97.1%
Irritant Spray	36*	5.8%	31	86.1%
Spit Protection	12	1.9%	12	100%
Baton (other than drawn only)	4	0.6%	1	25.0%

Note: Statistics on the use of Taser are published separately and are available on the Norfolk and Suffolk constabulary websites. Officers may submit the same force type multiple times per report.

***Irritant Spray Used – does not include ‘drawn’**

Subject Details

Age

Perceived Age of Subject	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
0 - 10	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
11 – 17	111	9.5%	61	9.7%
18 – 34	710	60.5%	359	57.3%
35 – 49	279	23.8%	171	27.3%
50 – 64	65	5.5%	32	5.1%
65 or over	7	0.6%	3	0.5%
No data available	37	3.2%	12	1.9%
Total Recorded	1,173	96.9%	626	98.1%

Over half of the use of force forms submitted in this quarter recorded a subjects perceived age as being between **18 and 34 years old** (60.5% in Norfolk and 57.3% in Suffolk).

Ethnicity

Perceived Ethnicity of Subject *	Norfolk	% of recorded	Suffolk	% of recorded
White	1,056	90.6%	540	87.9%
Black (or Black British)	75	6.4%	46	7.5%
Asian (or Asian British)	14	1.2%	18	2.9%
Don't know	11	0.9%	10	1.6%
Chinese	3	0.3%	0	0.0%
Other	6	0.5%	0	0.0%
No data available	42	3.6%	24	3.9%
Total Recorded	1,165	96.5%	614	96.2%

** Groups as defined by Home Office for Annual Data Returns, and perceived by the officer as opposed to self-defined ethnicity by the subject.*

The majority of use of force forms for both forces identified the subjects as being perceived to be of **white ethnicity** (90.6% in Norfolk and 87.9% in Suffolk).

Gender

Gender of the recording officers	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Reporting Officer	973	83.7%	508	81.4%
Female Reporting Officer	186	16.0%	109	17.5%
Officer does not identify	3	0.3%	7	1.1%
Transgender	1	0.1%	0	0.0%

Gender of the subject	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Subject	937	79.0%	530	84.5%
Female Subject	245	20.7%	96	15.3%
Transgender Subject	4	0.3%	1	0.2%

In both forces, where gender was recorded, the majority of use of force forms identified the subject as male (**79.0%** in Norfolk and **84.5%** in Suffolk). Note: forms may not always have a gender recorded.

Officer and Subject Injuries

Injury sustained to Officer or Subject as a result of Use of Force	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Officer Injured	103	8.9%	52	8.3%
Subject Injured	154	13.2%	148	23.7%

8.9% of Norfolk forms, and **8.3%** of Suffolk forms, indicated officer injury as a result of use of force.

13.2% of Norfolk forms, and **23.7%** of Suffolk forms indicated subject injury as a result of use of force.

Outcomes

Outcome	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Arrested	848	72.9%	431	69.1%
Hospitalised	50	4.3%	26	4.2%
Detained (MHA*)	36	3.1%	23	3.7%
Made off / escaped	2	0.2%	0	0.0%
Other	227	19.5%	144	23.1%

**Mental health Act*

*** Including hospitalisation for medical conditions existing prior to the use of force*

72.9% of Norfolk forms, and **69.1%** of Suffolk forms, indicated that the subject was arrested following the use of force.

