

**ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**PAPER NO. AP17/70**

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –  
15 DECEMBER 2017**

**SUBJECT: USE OF STOP SEARCH IN SUFFOLK –  
1 OCTOBER 2016 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2017**

**SUMMARY:**

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve month period 1 October 2016 to 30 September 2017. There were 1,699 stops during the reporting period.
2. The number of stop and search used by Suffolk officers in the most recent quarter (393) was 1,177 (75%) lower than at the commencement of new Home Office stop and search standards in April 2014.
3. An assessment of the reason for search and the object of the stop show that the majority of stop and searches are associated with drugs. 1196 (70%) of all stop searches have drugs as the reason for the search. 248 (14.6%) of stop searches were strip searches and of these, 229 (92%) were in relation to drugs.
4. In quarter 2 of 2017/18, people whose ethnicity was categorised as Black and Ethnic Minority were 4.2 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity. This represents a slight decrease from the same quarter in 2016/17. There has been a general downtrend between quarter 4 of 2016/17 and quarter 2 of 2017/18.
5. Eight out of ten people stopped and searched reported that they understood the reasons for their search and were treated with respect and dignity by the officer(s).

**RECOMMENDATION:**

1. The Accountability and Performance Panel is asked to take account of the steps that the Constabulary is taking to ensure stop search legislation is used fairly and effectively.

# 1 USE OF STOP/SEARCH IN SUFFOLK OCTOBER 2016 - SEPTEMBER 2017

- 1.1 A new database for recording 'stop and search' and 'stop and account' was implemented in Suffolk in December 2014, as directed by the Home Office. The rationale behind the new database is to allow for greater governance of the use of stop and search powers, and allow for the identification of trends in the use of powers by individual officers, teams or stations. The new database also allows for increased data collection on stop and search outcomes.
- 1.2 The Home Secretary wrote to all forces in April 2014 following the findings of an HMIC inspection of how stop and search powers are used. Two main concerns raised were that:
- the HMIC found that fewer than half of police Forces in England and Wales complied with PACE 1984 requirements that arrangements are in place for stop and search records to be scrutinised by the communities they serve
  - some forces set officer targets in relation to stop and search
- 1.3 As a result, the Home Office and College of Policing introduced the 'Best Use of Stop and Search' scheme. Participating forces were asked to record the use of stop and search in more detail going forward in order to show the link (or otherwise) between the object of the search and the outcome. The scheme also introduced lay observation policies to enable members of the public to accompany officers on patrol and a 'community trigger' whereby police must explain to the public how powers are being used when there is a large volume of complaints.
- 1.4 This report (and future reports) is based on data collected from the new database. This report covers the period between 1 October 2016 and 30 September 2017 inclusive.

## 2 OVERALL TRENDS<sup>1</sup>

### 2.1 Use of stop and search

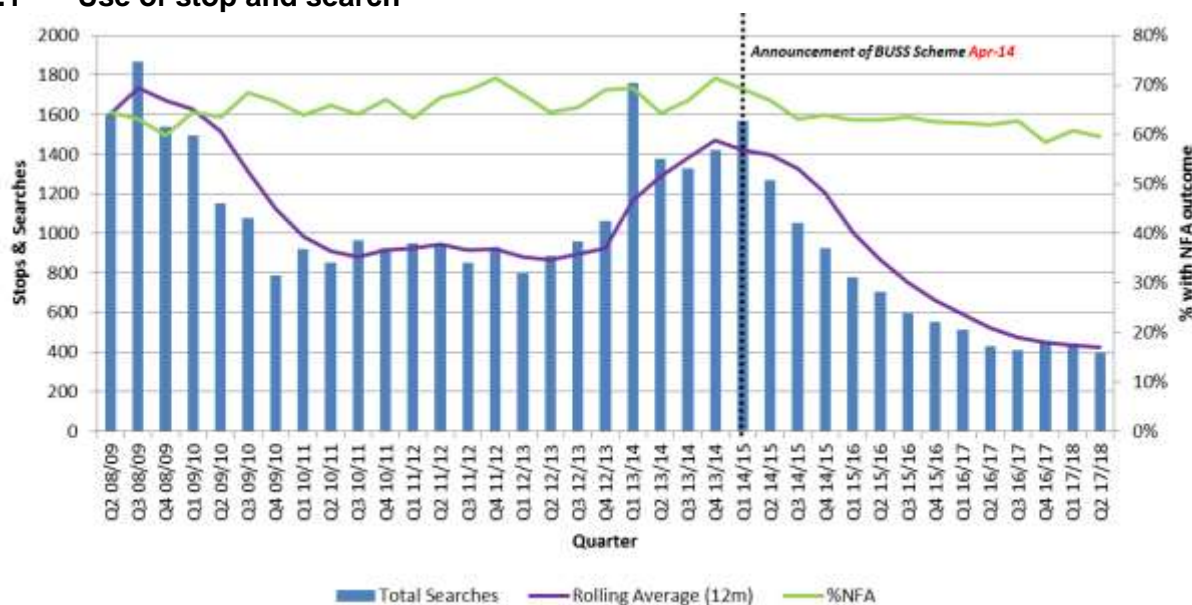


Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

- 2.1.1 Figure 1 displays long term trends in stop and search over time. There has been a continued decline during the second half of 2016/17 which reflects a consistent downward trend in stop and search since the announcement of the Best Use of Stop and Search (BUSS) scheme.

<sup>1</sup> Rolling average based on a 12 month period

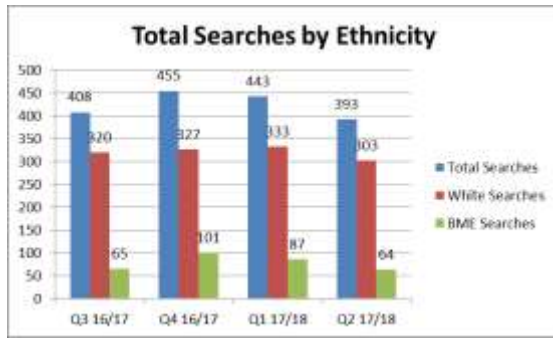


Figure 2: Total searches by ethnicity

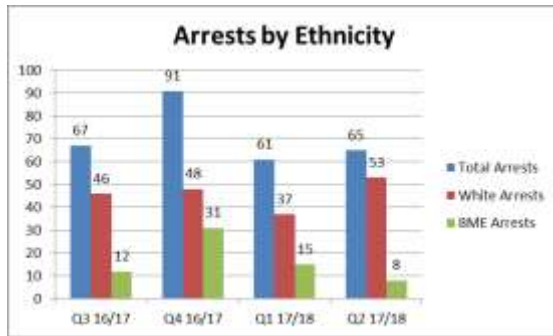


Figure 3: Total arrests by ethnicity (please note that an arrest may not result in a prosecution)

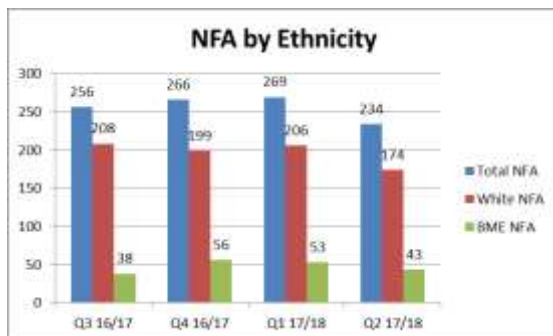


Figure 4: Total NFA by ethnicity

The above three charts (figures 2,3 & 4) show the Stop and Search trend data for the last 12 months, split by ethnicity. Please note, that in some cases the ethnicity data does not add up to the total number of searches, arrest outcomes and no further action outcomes because on occasions the ethnicity is not stated within the data.

2.1.2 Figure 5 displays the trend in usage of stop and search in Suffolk since the beginning of the reporting period and reflects the general downward trend previously mentioned since the introduction of BUSS. Since a peak of 420 average stop and searches per month in 2013/14, this has now reduced to an average of 140 per month in the last six months of 2016/17, with the number of stop and searches having remained below 180 per month for the last six months (April 2017 to September 2017).

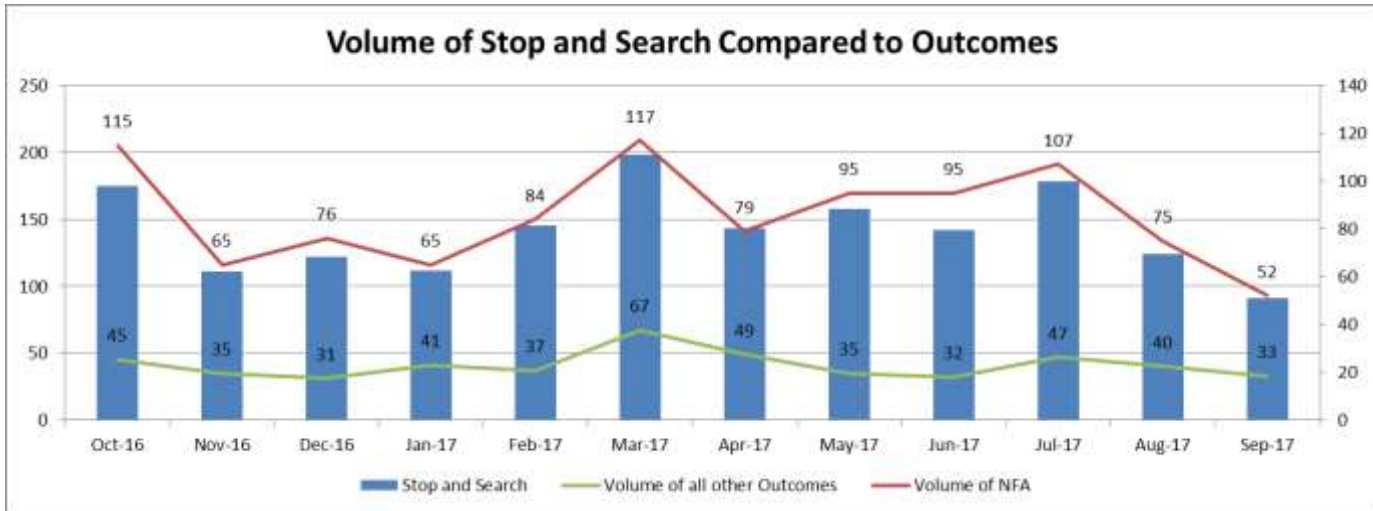


Figure 5: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes October 2016 – September 2017

2.1.3 Between October 2016 and September 2017, the average rate of searches resulting in no further action taken (NFA) was 60% which is a reduction of 1% compared to the previous report covering April 2016 to March 2017. An almost continual decrease in NFA rate since the introduction of BUSS compares to moderate fluctuations prior to April 2014 (ranging between 60% in quarter 4 of 2008/09 and 71% in quarter 4 of 2013/2014).

## 2.2 Object and Reason for search

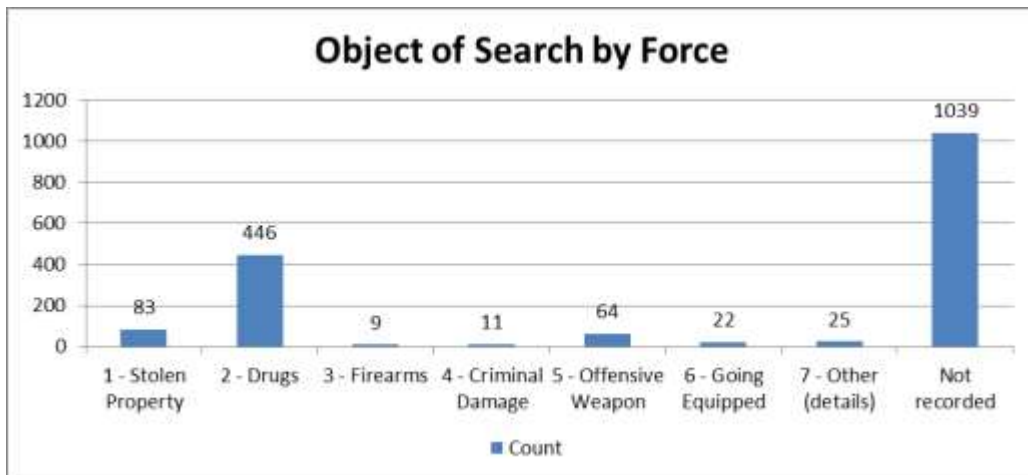


Figure 6: Object of search by Force

2.2.1 Figure 6 displays the object of stops and searches undertaken in Suffolk, for the data available during the reporting period. The prevalence of this tactic in relation to drugs is immediately apparent, with drugs as the object for the search accounting for 26% of all stops and searches. The highest volumes of these searches have taken place in the three main centres of population in Suffolk – Ipswich, Bury St Edmunds and Lowestoft which is where police intelligence indicates most drug dealing and usage activity takes place. Drugs related stop and searches in Ipswich (n=145) accounted for 32% of all stop and searches where drugs was recorded as the object of the search.<sup>2</sup>

2.2.2 During the reporting period there were 1196 (70%) of stop and searches where the reason for the search was drugs. 662 (55%) were carried out against persons aged under 25 years old. In respect of ethnicity, 263 (22%) of these searches were on those with a BME background,

<sup>2</sup> The 'object of stop and search' field was blank in 1039 (61%) of stop and searches and the 'reason' field was blank in 29 stop and search records which is less than 2% of all stop and searches.

881(74%) on those of White ethnicity and 52(4%) were on people for whom the ethnicity is not known.

## 2.3 Use of Strip Search

2.3.1 Between October 2016 and September 2017, there were 248 strip searches, accounting for 14.6% of all stop and searches in Suffolk which is an increase of 1.6% from the last report. Figure 7 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 92% being drug related. Drug dealers are known to use various tactics to conceal drugs about their person, including the concealing of drugs in body cavities, hence the high prevalence of the use of strip searches in relation to drugs.

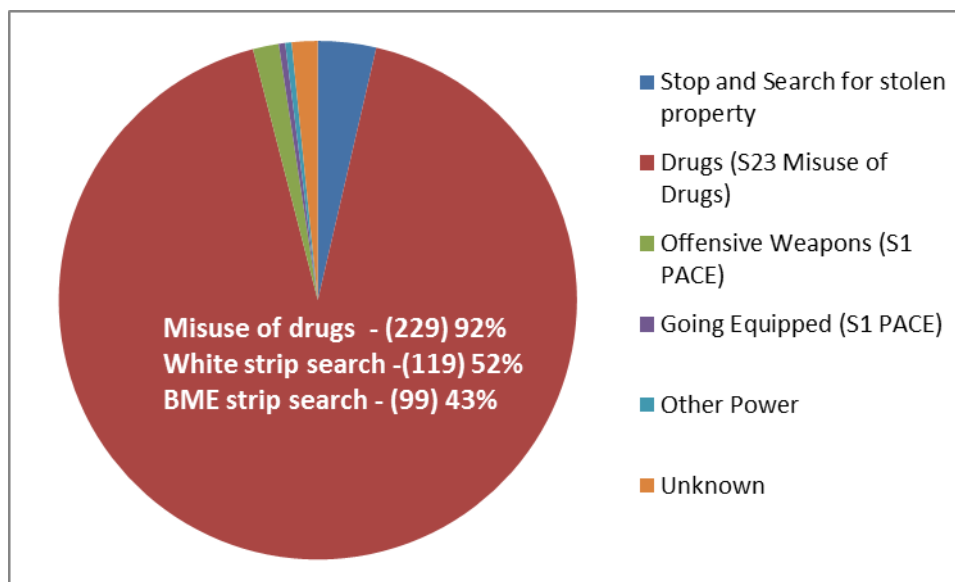


Figure 7: Suffolk Strip Search by reason

2.3.2 During the reporting period, 41% of all strip searches were undertaken on people of black or minority ethnic (BME) background, 55% on persons of White (British) ethnicity, with the remainder comprised of persons who have declined to define their ethnicity, or do not understand what is required. The item(s) being searched for is/are found in 26% of strip searches, whilst an item(s) not being searched for is/are found in 10% of strip searches.

Table 1: Strip search by reason and ethnicity

Strip Search Reason	Count	Percentage	White	White %	BME	BME %
Stop and Search for stolen property	9	3.6	9	100.00	0	0.00
Drugs (S23 Misuse of Drugs)	229	92.3	119	51.97	99	43.23
Offensive Weapons (S1 PACE)	4	1.6	3	75.00	1	25.00
Going Equipped (S1 PACE)	1	0.4	1	100.00	0	0.00
Other Power	1	0.4	1	100.00	0	0.00
Unknown	4	1.6	3	75.00	1	25.00
<b>Totals</b>	<b>248</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>136</b>	<b>54.84</b>	<b>101</b>	<b>40.7</b>

2.3.3 The age breakdown of persons subject to strip searches is reflective of the higher proportions of strip searches carried out for drugs, with 47% of all strip searches being of persons aged under 25 y/o. Table 2 shows that strip searches on those under 25 years of age account for 47% of all strip searches, with the highest age group of people searched are aged between 18 and 24 years.

Table 2: Age breakdown and ethnicity of people who were the subject of a strip search

Age Category	Count of Strip Searches	Percentage of total Strip Searches		Percentage of Age Category		BME	Percentage of Age Category
		White					
Under 10 yrs	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
10-17 yrs	26	10.48	10	38.46	14	53.85	
18-24 yrs	90	36.29	30	33.33	56	62.22	
25-29 yrs	41	16.53	28	68.29	12	29.27	
30-34 yrs	15	6.05	10	66.67	5	33.33	
35-39 yrs	20	8.06	16	80.00	3	15.00	
40-44 yrs	31	12.50	26	83.87	5	16.13	
45-49 yrs	9	3.63	6	66.67	3	33.33	
50 yrs plus	12	4.84	8	66.67	4	33.33	
Not known	4	1.61	1	25.00	0	0	

## 2.4 Stop and Search Outcomes

Table 3: Suffolk Stop and Search Outcomes

Outcome Code	Count	Percentage of Outcomes		Percentage of Outcome Code		BME	Percentage of Outcome Code
		White					
Suspect arrested	284	16.72	184	64.79	66	23.24	
Suspect summonsed to court	39	2.30	31	79.49	8	20.51	
Offender cautioned	31	1.82	26	83.87	5	16.13	
Offender given drugs possession warning	99	5.83	81	81.82	16	16.16	
Offender given penalty notice	11	0.65	10	90.91	1	9.09	
Local resolution	28	1.65	25	89.29	2	7.14	
Article found- Detailed outcome unavailable	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	
Nothing found - No further action	1025	60.33	787	76.78	190	18.54	
Suspected psychoactive substance seized - no further action	0	0.00	0	0.00	0	0.00	
Not recorded	182	10.71	139	76.37	29	15.93	

2.4.1 The most common outcome for stop and search in Suffolk is 'No Further Action' (NFA), accounting for almost 60.33% of all outcomes, with a further 10.71% of searches where the outcome is not recorded, as displayed in Table 3. The NFA statistic is broadly consistent with the previous reporting period. However, there has been a slight reduction of 0.76% in the number of stop and searches that do not have the outcome stated.

2.4.2 The proportions of stop and search where NFA is the recorded outcome vary from district to district, ranging from 57.4% in St Edmundsbury, to 67.4% in Mid Suffolk. St Edmundsbury is the district with the lowest percentage of NFA outcomes (57.4%), whilst Mid Suffolk remains

as the district with the highest percentage of NFA outcomes (67.4%). The average percentage of NFA outcomes is 60.7%

## 2.5 Proportionality in the Use of Stop and Search

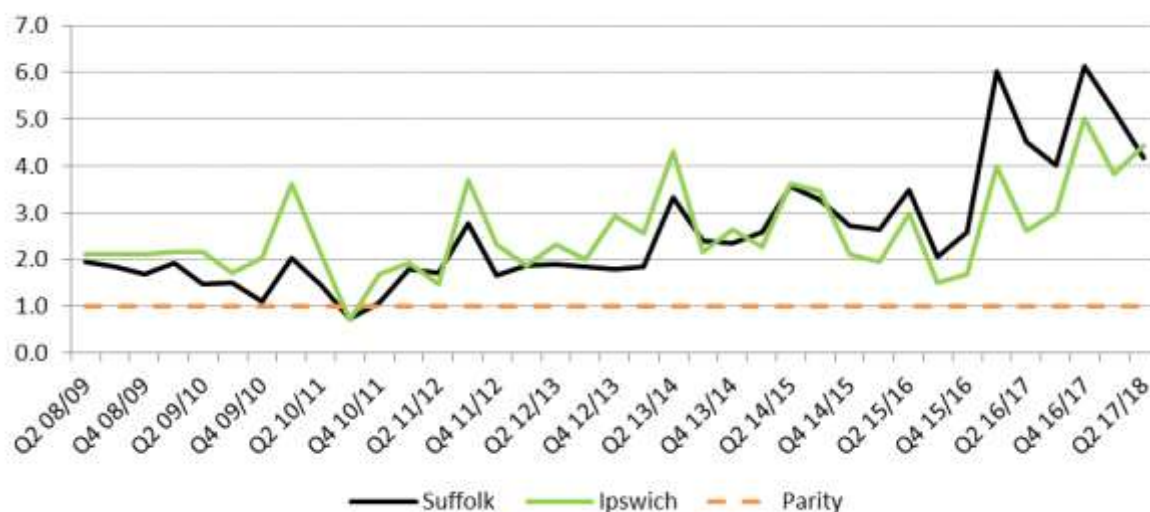


Figure 8: Proportionality in the use of Stop and Search in Suffolk

2.5.1 Figure 8 displays the ethnicity proportionality of the use of stop and search for Suffolk as a whole and for Ipswich (where the use of stop and search is most prevalent). As a guide, if the proportionality figure is equal to one, it equates to parity – or that a BME person has had an equal likelihood of being subject to a stop and search as a white person. Where the figure is greater than one, BME people have been disproportionately subject to the use of stop and search compared to white people<sup>3</sup>.

2.5.2 In the last quarter, people whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 4.2 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity when assessing the County as a whole. The statistics for Ipswich show that those whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 4.4 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity.

(continued overleaf)

<sup>3</sup> Based on the ethnic breakdown for Suffolk / Ipswich given in the latest census (2011) - ONS

	Suffolk				Babergh				Forest Heath				Ipswich				Mid Suffolk				St Eds				Suffolk Coastal				Waveney			
	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME	Total	White	BME	% BME
Q1 2012/13	802	684	64	8.0%	82	74	7	8.5%	83	72	9	10.8%	145	107	25	17.2%	22	16	4	18.2%	193	180	8	4.1%	72	58	5	6.9%	190	177	6	3.2%
Q2 2012/13	887	727	68	7.7%	103	98	1	1.0%	121	106	8	6.6%	145	104	30	20.7%	48	44	1	2.1%	216	191	11	5.1%	64	53	4	6.3%	145	131	13	9.0%
Q3 2012/13	959	827	78	8.1%	99	99	0	0.0%	90	79	8	8.9%	213	165	41	19.2%	69	60	5	7.2%	181	166	7	3.9%	76	60	9	11.8%	207	198	8	3.9%
Q4 2012/13	1064	933	82	7.7%	122	119	2	1.6%	118	99	15	12.7%	138	93	34	24.6%	69	63	2	2.9%	243	224	10	4.1%	61	52	8	13.1%	297	283	11	3.7%
Q1 2013/14	1759	1510	141	8.0%	252	229	8	3.2%	141	117	15	10.6%	221	154	49	22.2%	91	83	2	2.2%	394	345	29	7.4%	103	91	10	9.7%	535	491	28	5.2%
Q2 2013/14	1376	1087	183	13.3%	125	113	5	4.0%	164	120	24	14.6%	309	183	98	31.7%	95	82	5	5.3%	279	251	13	4.7%	71	56	14	19.7%	316	282	24	7.6%
Q3 2013/14	1329	1116	132	9.9%	67	62	2	3.0%	124	102	15	12.1%	352	265	71	20.2%	108	98	5	4.6%	261	226	20	7.7%	103	90	7	6.8%	292	273	12	4.1%
Q4 2013/14	1420	1211	143	10.1%	140	128	8	5.7%	133	118	6	4.5%	304	222	73	24.0%	167	153	8	4.8%	337	307	19	5.6%	102	86	11	10.8%	227	197	18	7.9%
Q1 2014/15	1570	1320	170	10.8%	97	88	6	6.2%	180	138	35	19.4%	364	272	77	21.2%	123	115	2	1.6%	342	311	20	5.8%	150	136	9	6.0%	288	260	21	7.3%
Q2 2014/15	1268	1015	181	14.3%	88	73	11	12.5%	122	102	17	13.9%	336	216	97	28.9%	80	75	3	3.8%	257	225	18	7.0%	171	150	16	9.4%	201	174	19	9.5%
Q3 2014/15	1053	862	138	13.1%	78	74	4	5.1%	80	65	14	17.5%	291	189	81	27.8%	58	50	6	10.3%	235	218	10	4.3%	114	100	9	7.9%	183	166	14	7.7%
Q4 2014/15	927	800	110	11.9%	112	101	10	8.9%	91	75	12	13.2%	217	167	46	21.2%	82	80	2	2.4%	177	152	20	11.3%	54	49	3	5.6%	194	176	17	8.8%
Q1 2015/16	776	667	89	11.5%	83	70	12	14.5%	98	86	8	8.2%	190	148	36	18.9%	81	70	9	11.1%	157	133	20	12.7%	28	25	2	7.1%	139	133	2	1.4%
Q2 2015/16	885	724	127	14.4%	85	75	8	9.4%	79	71	6	7.6%	219	153	57	26.0%	66	55	5	7.6%	167	141	24	14.4%	65	55	8	12.3%	204	174	19	9.3%
Q3 2015/16	744	653	68	9.1%	82	71	11	13.4%	73	65	6	8.2%	145	117	22	15.2%	33	30	2	6.1%	161	142	17	10.6%	34	30	2	5.9%	216	198	13	6.0%
Q4 2015/16	715	605	79	11.0%	43	36	4	9.3%	53	41	12	22.6%	151	120	25	16.6%	47	42	3	6.4%	149	125	20	13.4%	36	31	5	13.9%	236	210	10	4.2%
Q1 2016/17	524	391	119	22.7%	46	40	6	13.0%	38	25	13	34.2%	173	107	61	35.3%	38	28	8	21.1%	115	92	19	16.5%	30	27	1	3.3%	84	72	11	13.1%
Q2 2016/17	428	338	77	18.0%	32	29	3	9.4%	33	26	6	18.2%	110	72	29	26.4%	24	22	2	8.3%	97	75	21	21.6%	57	50	6	10.5%	75	64	10	13.3%
Q3 2016/17	408	320	65	15.9%	48	37	10	20.8%	22	17	3	13.6%	98	67	25	25.5%	44	33	6	13.6%	109	94	10	9.2%	28	22	4	14.3%	59	50	7	11.9%
Q4 2016/17	455	327	101	22.2%	37	28	7	18.9%	27	21	6	22.2%	151	88	55	36.4%	44	43	1	2.3%	83	60	18	21.7%	27	20	5	18.5%	86	67	9	10.5%
Q1 2017/18	443	333	87	19.6%	33	27	4	12.1%	28	17	10	35.7%	135	86	41	30.4%	39	33	4	10.3%	136	107	22	16.2%	14	14	0	0.0%	58	49	6	10.3%
Q2 2017/18	393	303	64	16.3%	35	31	4	11.4%	35	28	7	20.0%	84	47	26	31.0%	60	54	3	5.0%	95	69	20	21.1%	31	26	3	9.7%	53	48	1	1.9%

Table 4: Suffolk Stop and Search by district, broken down by white / BME ethnicity



2.5.3 In order to add some context to proportionality, table above displays volumes of stop and searches over time in Suffolk at district level, broken down by white and BME stop and searches. The last 12 months of district data shows fluctuations amongst both White and BME stops, but overall the number of both White and BME stops and continued to decrease since quarter 1 of 2016/2017.

2.5.4 Furthermore, table 5 displays stop and search over the same period, showing the percentage of all stop and searches on persons of BME ethnicity, along with the proportionality ratio. With reference to Table 5, the overall disproportionality value for Suffolk has decreased during first two quarters of 2017/18 as compared to quarter 4 of 2016/17.

Table 5: Proportionality of Suffolk Stop and Search by district

Quarter	Suffolk		Babergh		Forest Heath		Ipswich		Mid Suffolk		St. Edmundsbury		Suffolk Coastal		Waveney														
	% BME Prop.	3.3	% BME Prop.	5.1%	% BME Prop.	2.4	% BME Prop.	17.5%	% BME Prop.	2.5	% BME Prop.	27.8%	% BME Prop.	3.4	% BME Prop.	10.3%	% BME Prop.	5.7	% BME Prop.	4.3%	% BME Prop.	1.1	% BME Prop.	7.9%	% BME Prop.	2.5	% BME Prop.	7.7%	% BME Prop.
Q3 2014/15	13.1%	2.7	8.9%	4.5	13.2%	1.8	21.2%	2.2	2.4%	1.2	11.3%	3.3	5.6%	1.7	8.8%	4.2													
Q4 2014/15	11.9%	2.7	14.5%	7.8	8.2%	1.1	18.9%	2.0	11.1%	6.1	12.7%	3.7	7.1%	2.2	1.4%	0.7													
Q1 2015/16	11.5%	2.7	14.5%	7.8	8.2%	1.1	18.9%	2.0	11.1%	6.1	12.7%	3.7	7.1%	2.2	1.4%	0.7													
Q2 2015/16	14.4%	3.5	9.4%	4.8	7.6%	1.0	26.0%	3.0	7.6%	4.3	14.4%	4.2	12.3%	4.1	9.3%	4.7													
Q3 2015/16	9.1%	2.1	13.4%	7.0	8.2%	1.1	15.2%	1.5	6.1%	3.2	10.6%	3.0	5.9%	1.9	6.0%	2.9													
Q4 2015/16	11.0%	2.6	9.3%	5.0	22.6%	3.4	16.6%	1.7	6.4%	3.4	13.4%	4.0	13.9%	4.5	4.2%	2.1													
Q1 2016/17	22.7%	6.0	13.0%	6.8	34.2%	5.9	35.3%	4.6	21.1%	13.1	16.5%	5.0	3.3%	1.0	13.1%	6.5													
Q2 2016/17	18.0%	4.5	9.4%	4.7	18.2%	2.6	26.4%	3.2	8.3%	4.2	21.6%	6.8	10.5%	3.3	13.3%	6.6													
Q3 2016/17	15.9%	4.0	20.8%	12.2	13.6%	2.0	25.5%	3.0	13.6%	8.3	9.2%	2.6	14.3%	5.0	11.9%	5.9													
Q4 2016/17	22.2%	6.1	18.9%	11.3	22.2%	3.2	36.4%	5.0	2.3%	1.0	21.7%	7.3	18.5%	6.9	10.5%	5.7													
Q1 2017/18	19.6%	5.2	12.1%	6.7	35.7%	6.7	30.4%	3.8	10.3%	5.6	16.2%	5.0	0.0%	0.0	10.3%	5.2													
Q2 2017/18	16.3%	4.2	11.4%	5.8	20.0%	2.8	31.0%	4.4	5.0%	2.5	21.1%	7.0	9.7%	3.2	1.9%	0.9													

2.5.5 A potential limitation of using census population data on which to base proportionality calculations is that not all persons that are subject of stop and search in Suffolk will be resident in the county. Between October 2016 and September 2017, there was a total of 1,699 stop and searches – 1,210 were on Suffolk residents, 293 on individuals who are resident outside Suffolk, and 196 where the address was not stated. Therefore, a further analysis was undertaken at a county level, looking at disproportionality of stops and searches only where the postal address of the subject is identified as within Suffolk, displayed in table 6.

Table 6: Suffolk stop and search broken down by postal address

	Total	White	BME	Ethnicity not stated	Percentage BME	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	1210	1007	156	47	13.41%	3.07
Postal address outside Suffolk	293	155	125	13	44.64%	15.98
Postal address not given	196	121	36	39	22.92%	5.89
<b>Total</b>	<b>1699</b>	<b>1283</b>	<b>317</b>	<b>99</b>		

2.5.6 Table 6 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons resident outside Suffolk has on overall figures. For the reasons stated in 2.5.5, it is argued this is a more balanced way of looking at proportionality of stop and searches in Suffolk, if using the demographic profile of Suffolk residents as a basis for judging proportionality. Clearly, the use of stop and search remains disproportionate when looking at this sub-sample, but not as disproportionate.

Table 7: South Suffolk (Ipswich) stop and search broken down by postal address

	Total	White	BME	Ethnicity not stated	Percentage BME	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	335	226	96	13	59.62%	3.40
Postal address outside Suffolk	61	23	37	1	61.66%	12.90
Postal address not given	72	39	14	19	26.41%	2.87
<b>Total</b>	<b>468</b>	<b>288</b>	<b>147</b>	<b>33</b>		

2.5.7 As in Table 6, the data in Table 7 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons resident outside Suffolk has on overall figures. Table 7 is an assessment of stop and searches in South Suffolk (Ipswich). In line with County statistics, the use of stop and search remains disproportionate when analysing this sub-sample, but not as disproportionate.

## 2.6 Community Satisfaction / Quality of Service

Table 8: Responses to the question: Did you understand the reason for being searched?

	Total	Male	Female	Asian	Black	Mixed	Chinese/Other	White
Didn't Answer	14.42%	14.55%	10.89%	5.56%	8.47%	11.11%	20.00%	12.24%
No	0.77%	0.65%	1.98%	1.85%	1.13%	3.70%	0.00%	0.47%
Yes	84.81%	84.80%	87.12%	92.59%	90.40%	85.18%	80.00%	87.30%

2.6.1 Table 8 displays the responses to the question 'Did you understand the reason for being searched?' As the table shows, the majority of respondents did understand the reason for the search (85%) with a further 14% not answering the question. Just under 1% of respondents answered that they did not understand why they were searched.

Table 9: Responses to the question: Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?

	Total	Male	Female	Asian	Black	Mixed	Chinese/Other	White
Didn't Answer	15.48%	15.84%	10.89%	5.56%	10.17%	12.35%	20.00%	13.33%
No	0.82%	0.93%	0.59%	0.00%	2.82%	1.23%	0.00%	0.47%
Yes	83.70%	83.23%	88.61%	94.44%	87.01%	86.42%	80.00%	86.20%

2.6.2 Table 9 displays responses to the question 'Did you feel you were treated professionally, respectfully and with dignity?' Responses are similar to the previous question, with 84% of respondents answering that they did and just less than 1% saying they did not.

2.6.3 While the satisfaction of those identifying as Chinese/Other is significantly lower than for other ethnicities, it should be noted that during the reporting period the number of stop searches for Chinese/Other amounts to 5 (less than 1% of total stop searches) of with no reports of reports of dissatisfaction.

## 3 OPERATIONAL ACTIVITY

3.1.1 The Stop and Search Reference Group (SSRG) is a community group set up to:

- Openly discuss the disproportionality in 'Stops and Searches' of people defining their own ethnicity as Black and Minority Ethnic (BME).
- Improve trust and confidence in the way Police conduct Stops and Searches
- Improve community cohesion in Suffolk

3.1.2 The location of these meetings has historically been the ISCRE offices on St Matthews Street, but identifying alternative venues remains a standing agenda item for the group to increase

interest in the group from new and different groups. Recent meetings have been held at the University of Suffolk, Waterfront Building, Neptune Quay, Ipswich.

- 3.1.3 The following section outlines some of the operational context within which the Stop and Search tactic has been used in Suffolk this year.

### **3.2 East Suffolk**

- 3.2.1 Stop and Search is a tactic that has again been used with significant success throughout the last 6 months in particular by the East Scorpion team. The Scorpion team are responsible for the proactive enforcement around Operation Velocity (East) and they also target those individuals that feature in locally commissioned operation Operation Theodore which focusses on drug dealing issues in the Leiston area. The objective of these operations is to target the external supply of Class A drugs into the area and disrupt those county lines businesses from operating within East Suffolk. The majority of proactive work carried out to target these dealer groups is conducted by the East Scorpion team. The most favoured and effective tactic has been to deploy plain clothes officers to identified hot spot areas to utilise their powers of stop and search under Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. These stop searches on the street have gathered evidence of personal drug use (recent purchases) and also identified premises where dealers have established themselves, often within local vulnerable drug users homes. This evidence and additional information has allowed the spontaneous entry into premises to arrest people on suspicion of drug trafficking offences.
- 3.2.2 There has been considerable success in using this method with a number of individuals being found and arrested in possession of large quantities of Class A drugs. A very recent example of this was the stop and search of an individual which led to a premises search and subsequent arrest of another individual. Both of these people were charged with being concerned in supply and PWITS Class A drugs (crack cocaine) and were remanded in custody, £500 worth of drugs and £1,000 in cash was recovered. The team has produced a number of other similar results throughout the year using this tactic.
- 3.2.3 The use of stop and search also helps to provide community reassurance and ensures that the wider public are not adversely affected by an increase in acquisitive or violent crime that often accompanies any widespread increase in Class A drug availability.

### **3.3 West Suffolk**

- 3.3.1 Stop and search remains an important tool in front line policing, particularly around Operation Velocity (formerly Operation London). All towns in West Suffolk have been affected by County Lines drug dealing and the police response has focussed on safeguarding vulnerable people, disrupting drug dealing activity and minimising drug related anti-social behaviour.
- 3.3.2 In accordance with the National Intelligence Model, the use of stop and search powers by officers in a targeted and intelligence-led manner has contributed to frustrating, dismantling and disrupting dealers of Class A controlled drugs and to gather intelligence/evidence relating to those involved in the supply of Class A controlled drugs.
- 3.3.3 The police have continued to engage in a multi-agency approach to combat the risk posed by County Lines drug dealing. There have been further targeted weeks of action aligned to Operation Velocity throughout 2017, during which there were positive warrants and seizures following targeted enforcement campaigns. Recently, local media have accompanied police during pro-active enforcement deployments in Haverhill where the positive actions of the police have been broadcast.
- 3.3.4 An initiative to train local officers as Operation Velocity Champions is underway to broaden the Western Suffolk's resilience and knowledge base around methods to tackle Class A drug dealing.

### **3.4 South Suffolk**

- 3.4.1 Suffolk Constabulary has a drugs team which is focussed on Operation Velocity. The team works on Class A drugs businesses that are mainly concerned in the supply of heroin and crack cocaine. The businesses are assessed for the levels of threat, risk and harm that they pose to the community and are tackled accordingly based on this threat level. Intelligence opportunities are focussed around these businesses together with further development work to ensure that stop searches and drugs warrants are intelligence led. The drugs team is supported by proactive Scorpion teams working to the same principles. Police officers receive specific briefings around drug businesses operating in their area to ensure a focussed approach around enforcement and stop searches.
- 3.4.2 During the reporting period, 77 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to Operation Volcanic. 35 (45%) resulted in a strip search. 39 (51%) of the stop and searches were used on those of white ethnicity and 36 (47%) on BME, with ethnicity not stated in 2 (2.6%) of cases.
- 3.4.3 In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Volcanic, 50 (65%) were Suffolk addresses, 20 (26%) were addresses outside Suffolk and the address had not been stated in 7 (9%) of cases.
- 3.4.4 The NFA rate for Operation Volcanic is 65% (50 out of 77).
- 3.4.5 Operation Volcanic remains a priority for Suffolk Police within the Southern Area. The drugs team and Scorpion team are tasked around intelligence led enforcement, and multi-agency work continues through the Gold Group structure.
- 3.4.6 During the reporting period, the following results have been recorded:
- Cash seized: £72,278
  - Crack/heroin seized: 230g
  - Class A Wraps: 4766
- Please note that the above statistics are approximate, as confirmed results are awaited.*
- 3.4.7 Operation Woven is an intervention focusing on preventing younger drug group members from committing crime in the Southern Area over the summer period and was established during March 2017. During the reporting period 38 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to this operation. 14 (37%) resulted in a strip search. 18 (47%) of the stop searches were used on those of white ethnicity and 17 (45%) on those of BME background with ethnicity not stated in 3 (8%) of cases.
- 3.4.8 The age range of those individuals stopped in respect of Operation Woven was between 15 years and 52 years.
- 3.4.9 In respect of the postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Woven, 30 (79%) gave Suffolk addresses, there was 1 (2.6%) of addresses outside Suffolk and the address was not stated in 7 (18%) of cases.
- 3.4.10 The NFA rate for Operation Woven is 76% (29 of 38).

## **4 NATIONAL COMPARISON**

- 4.1.1 The latest national stop search data is published to March 2017<sup>4</sup>. In the year ending March 2017 there were 303,228 stops and searches conducted by police in England and Wales including the British Transport Police under section 1 of PACE, a fall of 21% compared with the previous year. For the same period of time in Suffolk there was a reduction of 31%. Between the year ending March 2016 and the year ending March 2017 the number of stops reduced from 2634 to 1805.
- 4.1.2 The latest national data are for the financial year 2016/2017. This data shows that Suffolk conducted up to 3 stops per 1,000 of population compared to 4 stops per 1,000 of population

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<sup>4</sup> Home Office Stop and Search collection, March 2017

in the previous financial year. In England and Wales there were 5 searches per 1,000 population in the year ending March 2017.

- 4.1.3 In the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just under 4 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. This is an increase nationally as compared with data for the year ending March 2016 which showed that those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were 3 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. The explanation from a national perspective is that an increase in disproportionality has been seen because the number of searches has fallen more amongst the White group than among BME groups in the last year.

In Suffolk, for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just over 5 times as likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. This is an increase compared with data for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2016 which showed that those who considered themselves to be from BME groups were just under 3 times likely to be stopped as those who considered themselves to be White. As with national data, the number of searches has fallen more amongst the White group than among BME groups between the two years.

## **5 BEST USE OF STOP AND SEARCH (BUSS) / HMIC INSPECTIONS / ALL PARTY PARLIAMENTARY GROUP FOR CHILDREN (APPGC) RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 5.1.1 The Home Office has requested that all police forces in England and Wales provide returns in relation to progress against actions arising from Best Use of Stop and Search, HMIC PEEL Inspections and APPGC (in terms of use of stop and search on children and young people) in one standardised format.

- 5.1.2 Appendix A displays the latest version of the Suffolk and Norfolk collaborated response to progress against these actions. All of the recommendations contained within have been loaded into the force tracking system, and progress against them is monitored at the Organisation Board (chaired by Deputy Chief Constables), where the Constabulary's lead for stop and search (ACC Rachel Kearton) is held to account.

- 5.1.3 This plan is also available to members of the public via the Suffolk Constabulary website via the following link:

[http://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/page/downloads/norfolk\\_suffolk\\_stop\\_search\\_action\\_plan\\_v2.pdf](http://www.suffolk.police.uk/sites/suffolk/files/page/downloads/norfolk_suffolk_stop_search_action_plan_v2.pdf)

- 5.1.4 Appendix B displays the latest statistics in respect of the Proportionality of Stop and Search Use in Suffolk in respect of BME and Age. This report is for quarter 2, 2017-2018 and analyses data from 01/10/2016 to 30/09/2017.

## **6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **7 OTHER IMPLICATIONS AND RISKS**

- 7.1 There are no other implications or risks associated with this report

<b>ORIGINATOR CHECKLIST (MUST BE COMPLETED)</b>	<b>PLEASE STATE 'YES' OR 'NO'</b>
Has legal advice been sought on this submission?	No
Has the PCC's Chief Finance Officer been consulted?	No
Have equality, diversity and human rights implications been considered including equality analysis, as appropriate?	Yes
Have human resource implications been considered?	No
Is the recommendation consistent with the objectives in the Police and Crime Plan?	Yes
Has consultation been undertaken with people or agencies likely to be affected by the recommendation?	Yes
Has communications advice been sought on areas of likely media interest and how they might be managed?	No
Have all relevant ethical factors been taken into consideration in developing this submission?	Yes