

**ORIGINATOR: CHIEF CONSTABLE**

**PAPER NO: AP18/26**

**SUBMITTED TO: ACCOUNTABILITY AND PERFORMANCE PANEL –  
21 JUNE 2018**

**SUBJECT: USE OF STOP SEARCH IN SUFFOLK –  
1 APRIL 2017 TO 31 MARCH 2018**

**SUMMARY:**

1. This report provides analysis of stop and search for the twelve month period 1 April 2017 to 31 March 2018. There were 1,579 stops during the reporting period.
2. The number of stop and search used by Suffolk officers in the most recent quarter (323) was 1247 (79%) 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. 889 (56%) of all stop searches have drugs as the reason for the search. 210 (13.3%) of stop searches were strip searches and of these, 229 (92%) were in relation to drugs.
4. In quarter 4 of 2017/18, people whose ethnicity was categorised as Black and Ethnic Minority were 3.9 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity. This represents a decrease from 6.1 in quarter 4 of 2016/17. There has mostly been a general downtrend in disproportionality during the last 12 months with a slight upward fluctuation in quarter 3 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:
  - a) 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
  - b) 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 April 2017 and 31 March 2018 inclusive.

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

### 2.1 Use of stop and search

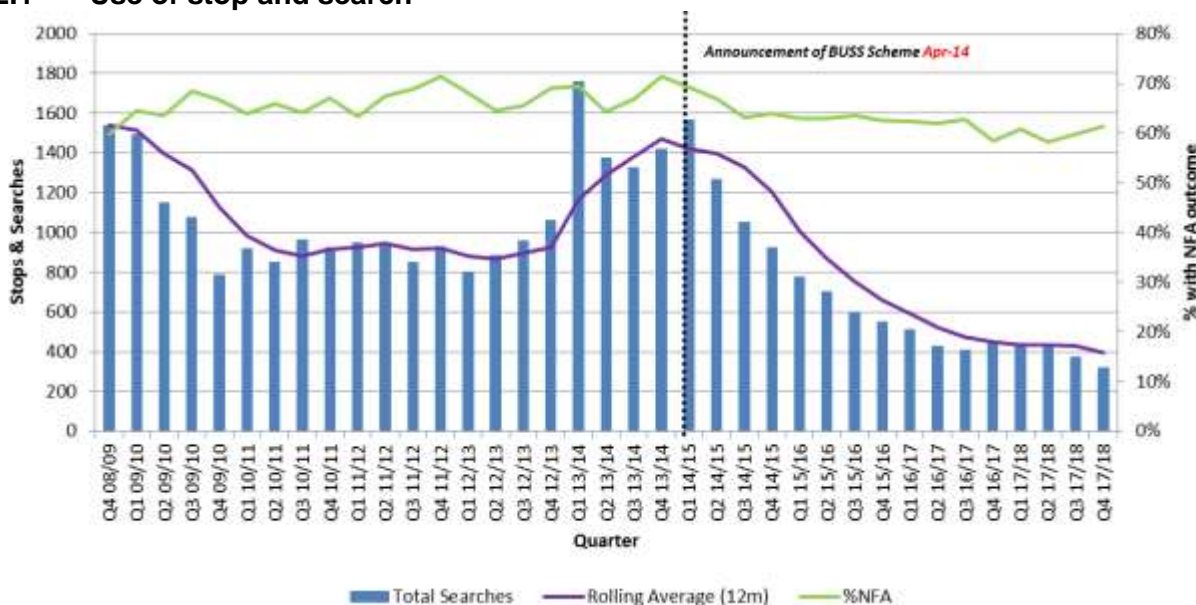


Figure 1: Long-term trends in use of stop and search in Suffolk

- 2.1.1 Figure 1 displays long term trends in stop and search over time. There has been a continued decline since Q4, 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

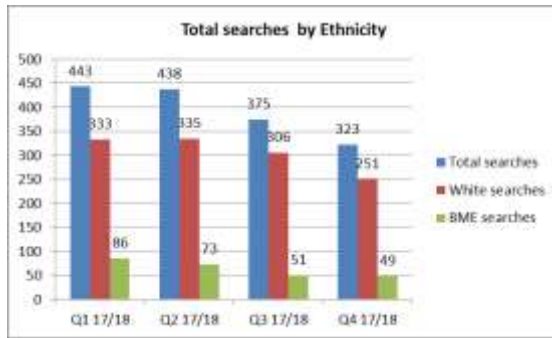


Figure 2: Total searches by ethnicity

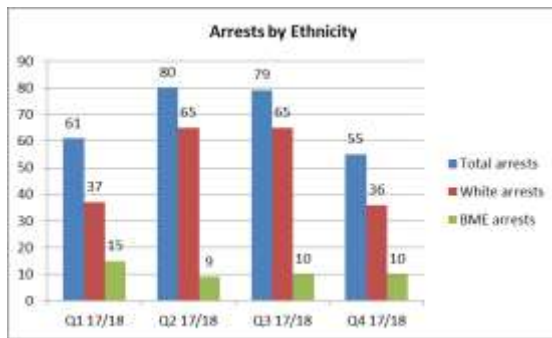


Figure 3: Total arrests by ethnicity (please note that an arrest may not result in a prosecution)

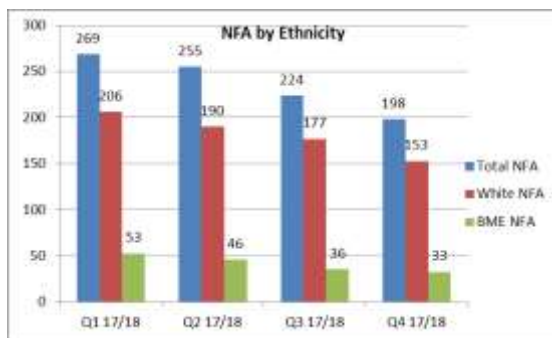


Figure 4: Total NFA by ethnicity

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 116 per month in the last six months of the 2017/18 reporting period, with the number of stop and searches having remained below 150 per month for the last six months (October 2017 to March 2018).



Figure 5: Volume of Stop and Search compared to outcomes April 2017 – March 2018

2.1.3 Between April 2017 and March 2018, the average rate of searches resulting in no further action taken (NFA) remained at 60%, with the NFA rate for quarter 4 of 2017/18 increasing to 61% from 60% in quarter 3. In terms of quarterly statistics, there has been 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

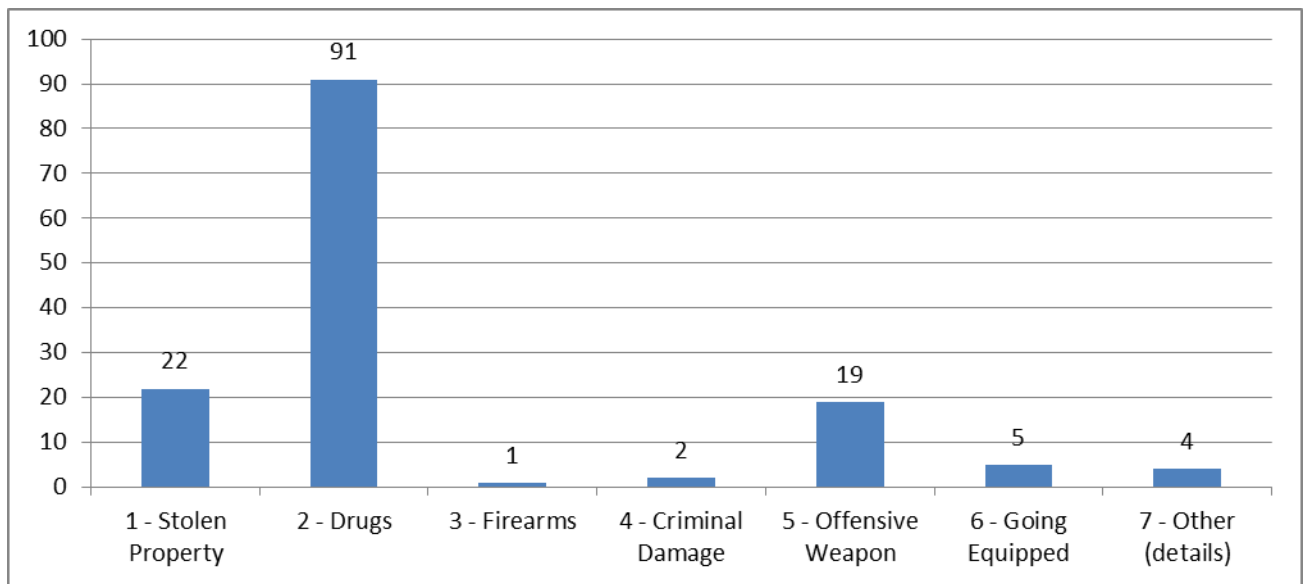


Figure 6: Count of Object of Search

2.2.1 Figure 6 displays the object of stops and searches undertaken in Suffolk, for the data available during the reporting period. Please note that due to difficulties in respect of extracting data there were only 144 records out of a total of 1579 for which it has been possible to ascertain the object of search. Scrutiny of stop and search records has taken place and it is clear that officers are actually recording in this field at the time of the stop search. The highest volumes of these 144 searches have taken place in two of the main centres of population in Suffolk – Ipswich and St Edmundsbury districts which is where police intelligence indicates that there is a higher prevalence of drug dealing and usage activity. Drugs related stop and searches in Ipswich (n=37) accounted for 70% of the stop and searches where drugs was recorded as the object of the search, and in St Edmundsbury the percentage was 61% (n=27).

2.2.2 During the reporting period there were 889(56%) of stop and searches where the reason for the search was drugs. Analysis of these drugs searches shows that, 468 (53%) were carried out against persons aged under 25 years old. In respect of ethnicity, 176(20%) of these searches were on those with a BME background, 671(75%) on those of White ethnicity and 42 (5%) were on people for whom the ethnicity is not known/not stated.

## 2.3 Use of Strip Search

2.3.1 Between April 2017 and March 2018, there were 210 strip searches, accounting for 13.3% of all stop and searches in Suffolk which is a decrease of 1.3% compared to the last report. Figure 7 displays the reasons for those strip searches, with 174 (83%) 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.

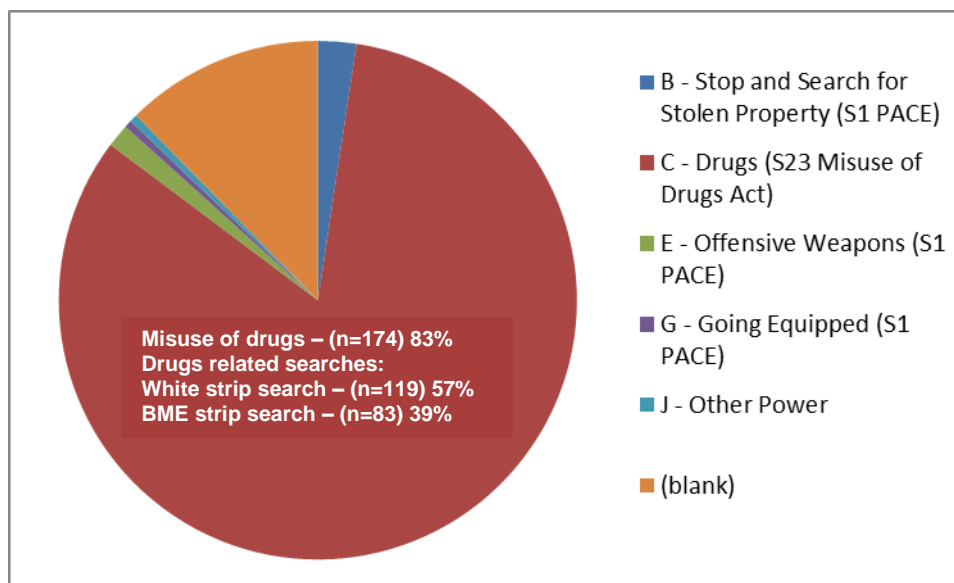


Figure 7: Suffolk Strip Search by reason for search

2.3.2 During the reporting period, 83 (39%) of all strip searches were undertaken on people of black or minority ethnic (BME) background, 119 (57%) 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 61(29%) of strip searches, whilst an item(s) not being searched for is/are found in 25 (12%) of strip searches.

Strip Search Reason	Count	Percentage	White	White %	BME	BME %
Stop and Search for Stolen Property (S1 PACE)	5	2.38%	5	100.00%	0	0.00%
Drugs (S23 Misuse of Drugs Act)	174	82.86%	91	52.29%	75	43.10%
Firearms (S47 Firearms Act)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Offensive Weapons (S1 PACE)	3	1.43%	2	66.66%	1	33.33%
Offensive Weapons (S139-CJA, Schools)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Going Equipped (S1 PACE)	1	0.48%	1	100.00%	0	0.00%
Articles to cause Criminal Damage (S1 PACE)	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
Other Power	1	0.48%	1	100.00%	0	0.00%
Not recorded	26	12.38%	19	73.07%	7	26.92%
<b>Totals</b>	<b>210</b>	<b>100.00%</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>56.66%</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>39.52%</b>

Table 1: Strip search by reason and ethnicity

The above table shows the strip search by reason and ethnicity. The first two columns show the count and percentage of stop and searches according to the reason for search. The following columns assess the count/percentage according to ethnicity for each of the reasons for stop search, and this part of the table should be read crossways. There may

be instances where the percentages do not tally, and this is due to the ethnicity not being stated on some stop and search records.

2.3.3 During the reporting period, the age category for which there were the most strip searches was 25 years and over for all strip searches irrespective of ethnicity and for those with a White background it was also 25 years and over and for BME subjects it was the 18-24 years age category.

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	White Count	Percentage of Age Category	BME Count	Percentage of Age Category
Under 10 Years	0	0.00%	0	0.00%	0	0.00%
10-14 years	2	0.95%	2	100.00%	0	0.00%
15-17 years	20	9.52%	9	45.00%	9	45.00%
18-24 years	69	32.86%	27	39.00%	41	59.00%
25 years and over	115	54.76%	80	69.56%	33	28.69%
Not known	4	1.90%	1	25.00%	0	0.00%

## 2.4 Stop and Search Outcomes

Table 3: Suffolk Stop and Search Outcomes

Outcomes	Count	Percentage of Outcomes	White Count	Percentage of Outcome Code	BME Count	Percentage of Outcome Code
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	9	0.57%	9	100.00%	0	0.00%
Local resolution	37	2.34%	29	78.37%	7	18.91%
Not stated	139	8.80%	105	75.53%	23	16.54%
Nothing found - No Further Action	946	59.91%	726	76.74%	167	17.65%
Offender cautioned	28	1.77%	23	82.14%	5	17.85%
Offender given drugs possession warning	94	5.95%	85	90.42%	8	8.51%
Offender given penalty notice	9	0.57%	8	88.88%	1	11.11%
Summoned to court	42	2.66%	37	88.09%	4	9.52%
Suspect arrested	275	17.42%	203	73.81%	44	16.00%

2.4.1 The most common outcome for stop and search in Suffolk is 'No Further Action' (NFA), accounting for almost 60% of all outcomes, with a further 8.80% 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 reduction of almost 2% in the number of stop and searches that do not have the outcome stated indicating that the quality of recording may have improved.

2.4.2 The proportions of stop and search where NFA is the recorded outcome vary from district to district, ranging from 52.2% in Babergh, to 64.8% in Mid Suffolk. The average percentage of NFA outcomes is 58.5%.

## 2.5 Proportionality in the Use of Stop and Search

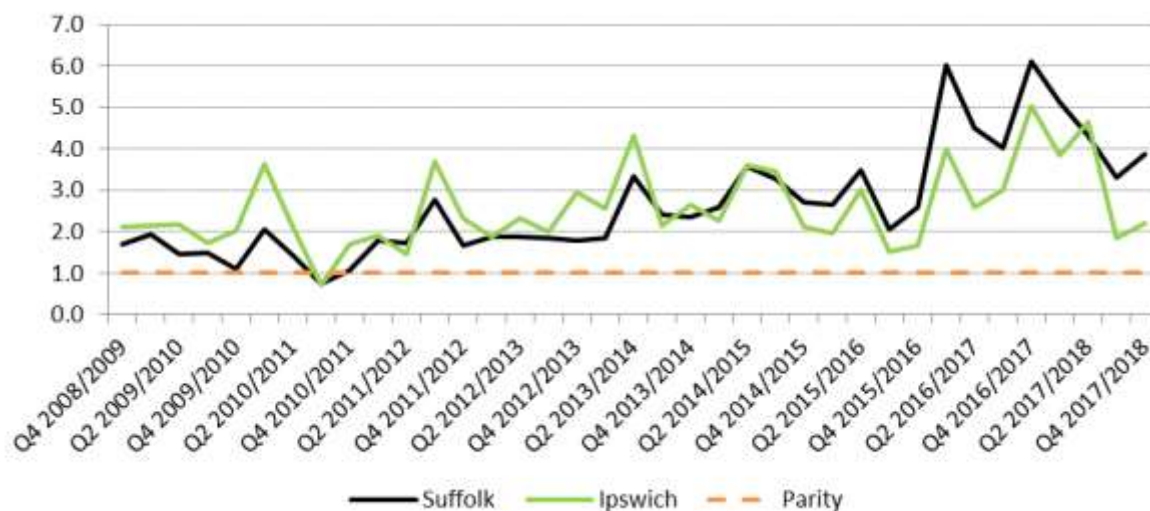


Figure 8: Proportionality in the use of Stop and Search in Suffolk

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>2</sup>.

2.5.2 In the last quarter, people whose ethnicity was categorised as BME were 3.9 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 2.2 times more likely to be stopped and searched than people of 'White' ethnicity.

(continued overleaf)

<sup>2</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
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	86	19.4%	33	27	4	12.1%	28	17	10	35.7%	135	86	41	30.4%	39	33	4	10.3%	136	107	21	15.4%	14	14	0	0.0%	58	49	6	10.3%
Q2 2017/18	438	335	73	16.7%	38	34	4	10.5%	37	30	7	18.9%	107	59	34	31.8%	63	57	3	4.8%	96	69	21	21.9%	40	34	3	7.5%	57	52	1	1.8%
Q3 2017/18	375	306	51	13.6%	27	22	4	14.8%	23	20	1	4.3%	96	74	17	17.7%	39	30	6	15.4%	91	70	17	18.7%	40	38	2	5.0%	59	52	4	6.8%
Q4 2017/18	323	251	49	15.2%	19	16	1	5.3%	38	24	9	23.7%	95	66	18	18.9%	35	33	2	5.7%	62	48	11	17.7%	26	24	2	7.7%	48	40	6	12.5%

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 that from a county perspective the overall number of stop and searches has decreased for both White and BME stops although fluctuations have been seen in some of the individual districts.

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 three quarters of 2017/18 with a slight increase in quarter 4 of 2017/18.

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.	2.7	% BME Prop.	7.8	% BME Prop.	1.1	% BME Prop.	2.0	% BME Prop.	6.1	% BME Prop.	3.7	% BME Prop.	2.2	% BME Prop.	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	19.4%	5.1	12.1%	6.7	35.7%	6.7	30.4%	3.8	10.3%	5.6	15.4%	4.8	0.0%	0.0	10.3%	5.2
Q2 2017/18	16.7%	4.3	10.5%	5.3	18.9%	2.6	31.8%	4.6	4.8%	2.4	21.9%	7.4	7.5%	2.4	1.8%	0.8
Q3 2017/18	13.6%	3.3	14.8%	8.2	4.3%	0.6	17.7%	1.8	15.4%	9.2	18.7%	5.9	5.0%	1.5	6.8%	3.2
Q4 2017/18	15.2%	3.9	5.3%	2.8	23.7%	4.3	18.9%	2.2	5.7%	2.8	17.7%	5.6	7.7%	2.3	12.5%	6.3

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 April 2017 and March 2018, there was a total of 1,579 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	BME as percentage of total	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	1155	969	137	49	11.86%	2.80
Postal address outside Suffolk	244	130	102	12	4.18%	15.55
Postal address not given	180	126	20	34	18.80%	3.15
<b>Total</b>	<b>1579</b>	<b>1225</b>	<b>259</b>	<b>95</b>		

2.5.6 Table 6 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons who are 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	BME as percentage of total	Proportionality
Postal address in Suffolk	323	226	77	20	23.84%	2.73
Postal address outside Suffolk	42	14	25	3	59.52%	14.32
Postal address not given	68	45	8	15	11.76%	1.43
<b>Total</b>	<b>433</b>	<b>285</b>	<b>110</b>	<b>38</b>		

2.5.7 As in Table 6, the data in Table 7 demonstrates the effect that stop and searches on persons who are 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	13.62%	13.32%	10.86%	2.86%	10.79%	9.52%	0.00%	11.18%
No	1.52%	1.43%	2.86%	2.86%	0.72%	5.95%	0.00%	0.82%
Yes	84.86%	85.25%	86.28%	94.28%	88.49%	84.52%	100.00%	88.00%

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 over 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	14.82%	14.60%	11.43%	14.29%	13.67%	9.52%	0.00%	12.00%
No	1.39%	1.43%	1.71%	0.00%	2.88%	2.38%	0.00%	0.73%
Yes	83.79%	83.97%	86.86%	85.71%	83.45%	88.10%	100%	87.27%

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 over 1% saying they did not.

2.6.3 In terms of public satisfaction it can be seen that just over eight out of ten stop search subjects were satisfied with the way in which they were treated by officers. Although the most dissatisfaction was experienced by those subjects from a black ethnic background, the percentage was only 2.88% which equated to four negative responses.

## 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 is responsible for the proactive enforcement around Operation Velocity (East) and it also targets 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.

- 3.2.2 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 hotspot 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 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.

- 3.2.3 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.

- 3.2.4 In November 2017 the team stop searched an individual in Lowestoft and found him in possession of 2 wraps of crack, they then searched his home and found a further 30 wraps of crack, 12 wraps of heroin and £500 cash. The suspect was charged and remanded for possession with intent to supply heroin/crack; he received 38 months in prison.

- 3.2.5 Operation Maud was a drug trafficking operation that concluded in April 2018 where stop and search was used. Officers conducted observations on a suspected drug dealer's home and periodically detained callers and searched them to find evidence of recent purchases. During the arrest phase of this operation officers found crack, heroin and cash in the target premises to the value of £20K.

- 3.2.6 In March 2018 officers stop searched two individuals and found a large hunting knife and £700 cash; one of the subjects was subsequently charged and imprisoned.

- 3.2.7 The team has produced a number of other similar results throughout the year using these tactics.

- 3.2.8 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 search continues to remain an effective tool in relation to detecting and disrupting activity around Op Velocity, which has impacted on all towns within the Western Area. This is a proactive tool used alongside other aspects of policing including the issue of section 8 notices to support safeguarding of vulnerable individuals and active engagement with partners to support Community Protection Notices (CPN) and Criminal Behaviour Orders (CBO) to dissuade and deter Op Velocity activity.

- 3.3.2 Engagement with partners is fundamental to supporting the fight against County Lines, with levels of associated violence and vulnerabilities increasing. Western Area officers are actively involved in weeks of action, whereby dedicated resources are allocated to focus on Op Velocity related activity and intelligence. These are planned events with additional resources and active links in with partners and media. There is also a planned multi agency workshop

with partners to determine county lines strategic plan for the Western Area, identifying roles and responsibilities. Furthermore there is an established working relationship with the Enfield Gang Unit, who have significant amount of intelligence on several key Op Velocity targets impacting on the Western Area. This has assisted in developing the County Lines picture and also provided other avenues for proactive enforcement.

- 3.3.3 Op Velocity has allocated champions representing all localities within the Western Area. Their main role is to actively engage with the Intelligence department and support a directed focus on intelligence building and proactive activity around local Velocity issues. As part of this process we are offering enhanced training to these SPOCs including direct input around S.8 notices, CBO, CPN and use around Op Velocity. Furthermore attachments are being arranged to work alongside proactive Scorpion teams. This will enhance the skills to tackle the ever present threat, harm and risk presented via Op Velocity activity.
- 3.3.4 The Western Area Scorpion Team continues to provide an excellent proactive capacity to target Velocity and other priority issues. They continue to lead on various avenues of proactivity including the use of stop searches. Uniformed officers are aware and are using this power. Two examples of good practice have been identified:
- 3.3.5 Following decamp from a vehicle linked to County Lines, Officers stopped an individual matching description who was acting suspiciously in nearby vicinity. Detained for search under S.23 MDA, whereby positive result for cannabis. Resulted in caution due to amount of drugs located, but excellent intelligence gathering opportunity for a known Op Velocity nominal.
- 3.3.6 Intelligence to suggest individual was dealing for a known County Line. Officers attempted to stop an individual, which resulted in protracted search, eventually locating him in garden of unknown residential property attempting to hide under a bush and burying items. Recovered items included a quantity of cash and 2 x mobile phones. Detainee was admitted to hospital where he admitted plugging drugs up his anus, and bundle containing heroin was produced. The individual was charged and remanded for Possession with Intent to Supply (PWITS).
- 3.3.7 The continued use of Stop Search powers is an effective tool in disrupting County Lines activity and also gaining important intelligence to continue to build a detailed picture of activity, thereby assisting in managing threat, harm and risk presented with this line of criminality.

### **3.4 South Suffolk**

- 3.4.1 The presence of the drugs team remains within the South of the County. The team remain committed to the disruption of the highest scoring business based on the threat, harm and risk posed by the businesses. They are actively lead by real time intelligence and other covert tactics. The team remains supported by the Scorpion team to ensure timely responses to information and intelligence and reduce threat. The local intelligence unit share and disseminate intelligence regionally to ensure departments are working with the most current and update to date information.
- 3.4.2 In addition regular Op Velocity meetings continue to ensure proactive teams are tasked in line with the presented threats and community needs. Bespoke Athena briefings are also generated to provide uniformed officers with current and relevant information relating to local and county lines businesses to assist in reducing criminality and ensuring directed stop search efforts.
- 3.4.3 The Urban Street Gang Unit (formerly Op Woven) and now the Youth Gang Prevention Team continue to work with partner agencies in the south of the county directed by intelligence and information to prevent vulnerable persons at risk of Child sexual exploitation (CSE) and seek to prevent those who exploit them.
- 3.4.3 A tactical action plan exists to ensure cohesion between the proactive teams and the relevant SNT areas to ensure that vulnerable persons or areas presenting any threat, risk and harm are managed. Vulnerable addresses are further discussed and allocated to appropriate resources to reduce criminal activity and harm to persons through the monthly area tasking meetings.

- 3.4.5 Following Op Velocity tasking in September 2017, officers attended an address in Ipswich to ensure the welfare of a vulnerable adult female. Upon attending the address two individuals were subject to stop search and found in possession of a quantity of cash and drugs. The individuals were young males likely to be subjects of CSE sent from London to deal on behalf of a county lines business. Following police engagement the young males were returned to a place of safety and the appropriate local authority informed to ensure their welfare.
- 3.4.6 In February 2018 a business was developing a growing County Lines profile in Ipswich, the involved parties presented a high level of threat including their criminal activity, violent behaviour and propensity to engage in the CSE of vulnerable young persons. Appropriate tasking and dissemination of intelligence led to the stop and search of individuals long with the locating of a premises during which vulnerable young persons were found and taken to a place of safety along with the recovery of large quantities of money totalling over £10,000 as well as drugs.

### 3.5 Operation Velocity

- 3.5.1 Operation Velocity is an intervention focussing on all drugs use/supply in Suffolk which encompasses Operations Boulevard, London and Volcanic. During the reporting period, 188 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to these operations with 42 (22%) of those stops being in Ipswich. 22(52%) of the stops in Ipswich resulted in a strip search. There were 22 (52%) of the Ipswich stops used on subjects from a White background and 18 (42%) on BME subjects.

Please refer to the table below for countywide statistics.

*Table 10: Countywide comparisons for Operation Velocity, including statistics for Operations Boulevard, London and Volcanic*

District	Number of Stops	Number of BME stops	Number of White stops	Strip Searches	NFA outcome	Address in Suffolk	Address out of Suffolk
Babergh	6 (3%)	0 (0%)	5 (83%)	4 (67%)	3 (50%)	4 (67%)	0 (0%)
Forest Heath	19 (10%)	8 (42%)	11 (58%)	6 (32%)	13 (68%)	6 (32%)	10 (53%)
Ipswich	42 (22%)	18 (42%)	22 (52%)	22 (52%)	25 (60%)	30 (71%)	7 (17%)
Mid Suffolk	11 (6%)	2 (18%)	9 (82%)	3 (27%)	10 (91%)	9 (82%)	1 (9%)
St Edmundsbury	86 (46%)	29 (34%)	52 (60%)	41 (48%)	53 (62%)	46 (53%)	28 (33%)
Suffolk Coastal	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
Waveney	24 (13%)	0 (0%)	23 (96%)	5 (21%)	16 (67%)	22 (92%)	0 (0%)
<b>Total</b>	<b>188 (100%)</b>	<b>57 (30%)</b>	<b>122 (65%)</b>	<b>81 (43%)</b>	<b>120 (64%)</b>	<b>117 (62%)</b>	<b>46 (24%)</b>

- 3.5.2 In respect of postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Velocity incorporating statistics from Boulevard, London and Volcanic), 117 (62%) were Suffolk addresses, 46 (24%) were addresses outside Suffolk and the address had not been stated in 25 (13%) of cases.
- 3.5.3 The NFA rate for Operation Velocity (incorporating statistics from Boulevard, London and Volcanic) is 64% (n=120)
- 3.5.4 Results (cash and drug seizures):
- During the reporting period, the approximate value of cash seized under Op Velocity West investigation was £20,410.00 Approximate total drugs seized was 2535 deals of Class A (Heroin and Crack cocaine) a conservative estimate based upon these deals being the smaller 0.1 gram or £10 commodities; the value of these drug seizures is approximately £25,350.00.
  - The Op Velocity results for the Southern Area show that the approximate value of cash seized amounted to £37,512.00 and the approximate number of wraps seized was 5,315.

### **3.6 Urban Street Gang Unit / Operation Woven**

- 3.6.1 The Urban Street Gang Unit (USGU) formerly 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 16 stop and searches have been flagged as being linked to this operation. 10 (63%) resulted in a strip search. 4 (25%) of the stop searches were used on those of white ethnicity and 11 (69%) on those of BME background with ethnicity not stated in 1(6%) of stops.
- 3.6.2 The age range of those individuals stopped in respect of Operation Woven was between 17 years and 52 years.
- 3.6.3 In respect of the postal addresses given by persons stopped in relation to Operation Woven, 11 (69%) gave Suffolk addresses, there were 2 (12%) of addresses outside Suffolk and the address was not stated in 3 (19%) of cases.
- 3.6.4 The NFA rate for Operation Woven is 75% (12 of 16).

## **4 NATIONAL COMPARISON**

- 4.1.1 The latest national stop search data is published to March 2017<sup>3</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 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.
- 4.4.4 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.

<sup>3</sup> Home Office Stop and Search collection, March 2017

- 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