

Use of Force in Norfolk and Suffolk



Quarter 4 Summary

2017/18

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.

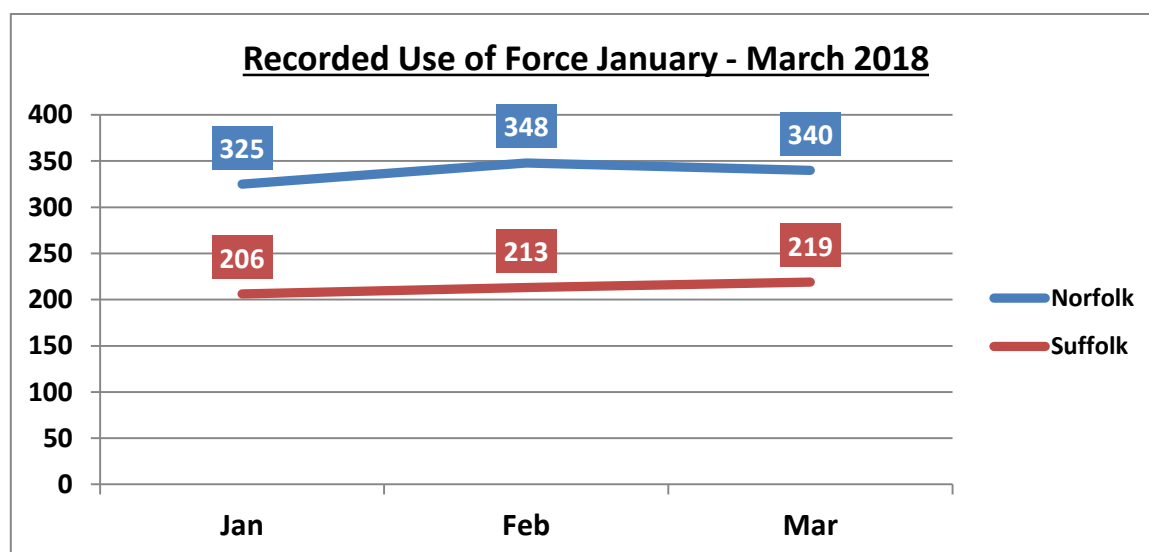
In April 2017 the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) established requirements for a consistent, uniformed approach from all Police Forces to record the use of force by officers. This means that every officer attending an incident where force has been used against an individual must complete and submit 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 Four 2017/18: Summary

During January - March 2018, Norfolk submitted **1013** forms around use of force and Suffolk submitted **638** over this quarter.



Quarter Four 2017/18: In detail

Location of use of force incidents

Location	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Street/Highway	429	42.3%	269	42.2%
Dwelling	287	28.3%	167	26.2%
Custody	102	10.1%	98	15.4%
Hospital	49	4.8%	22	3.4%
Licensed Premises	29	2.9%	15	2.4%
Retail Premises	31	3.1%	26	4.1%
Motor Vehicle	6	0.6%	4	0.6%
Football Stadia	7	0.7%	1	0.2%
Not detailed/Other	73	7.2%	36	5.6%

The most common location for use of force was on a street/highway for both Forces (42.3% of the time in Norfolk and 42.2% in Suffolk).

Reason for use of force

Use of Force Reason(s)*	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Effect Arrest	668	65.9%	406	63.6%
Protect Self	506	50.0%	312	48.9%
Protect Other Officers	490	48.4%	296	46.4%
Prevent Escape	454	44.8%	317	49.7%
Prevent Harm	371	36.6%	234	36.7%
Protect Subject	371	36.6%	235	36.8%
Protect Public	312	30.8%	164	25.7%
Prevent Offence	258	25.5%	153	24.0%
Effect Search	240	23.7%	156	24.5%
Remove Handcuffs	41	4.0%	33	5.2%
Secure Evidence	0	0.0%	1	0.2%
Method of Entry	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	41	4.0%	12	1.9%

** Officers can select more than one category for their reasons*

The most frequently cited reason for using force was to Effect Arrest (65.9% for Norfolk and 63.6% 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	533	52.6%	289	45.3%
Size/ Gender/ Build	438	43.2%	240	37.6%
Mental Health	343	33.9%	228	35.7%
Drugs	313	30.9%	224	35.1%
Possession of weapon	16	1.6%	12	1.9%
Prior knowledge	9	0.9%	10	1.6%
Crowd	1	0.1%	0	0.0%
Other	151	14.9%	96	15.0%

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 (52.6% in Norfolk and 45.3% in Suffolk).

Primary behaviour of subjects perceived by Officers

Behaviour of Subject	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Active Resistance	287	28.3%	167	26.2%
Compliance	259	25.6%	150	23.5%
Aggressive Resistance	228	22.5%	150	23.5%
Passive Resistance	80	7.9%	51	8.0%
Serious or Aggravated	20	2.0%	31	4.9%
Other	139	13.7%	89	13.9%

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. This was the most common behaviour type encountered in both Norfolk and Suffolk this quarter (28.3% and 26.2% respectively).

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	517	51.0%	194	37.5%
Compliant Handcuffing	429	42.3%	413	96.3%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	402	39.7%	377	93.8%
Unarmed Defence	296	29.2%	246	83.1%
Ground Restraint	139	13.7%	133	95.7%
Irritant Spray	99	9.8%	79	79.8%
Spit Protection	22	2.2%	21	95.5%
Baton (other than drawn only)	5	0.5%	4	80.0%

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.

Suffolk

Technique	Suffolk	% of All Reports	Effective	% Effective
Tactical Communications	254	39.8%	89	35.0%
Compliant Handcuffing	250	39.2%	242	96.8%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	240	37.6%	231	96.3%
Unarmed Defence	207	32.4%	187	90.3%
Ground Restraint	50	7.8%	49	98.0%
Irritant Spray	52	8.2%	41	78.8%
Spit Protection	5	0.8%	5	100.0%
Baton (other than drawn only)	2	0.3%	1	50.0%

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.

Subject Details

Age

Perceived Age of Subject	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
0 - 10	3	0.3%	1	0.2%
11 – 17	82	8.0%	70	11.0%
18 – 34	615	60.1%	390	61.1%
35 – 49	242	23.7%	140	21.9%
50 – 64	70	6.8%	33	5.2%
65 or over	11	1.1%	4	0.6%
No data available	29	(2.8%)	19	(3.0%)
Total Recorded	1,023	(96.6%)	638	(97.1%)

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** (60.1% in Norfolk and 61.1% in Suffolk).

Ethnicity

Perceived Ethnicity of Subject *	Norfolk	% of recorded	Suffolk	% of recorded
White	923	90.6%	574	90.7%
Black (or Black British)	70	6.9%	42	6.6%
Asian (or Asian British)	9	0.9%	5	0.8%
Don't know	12	1.2%	8	1.3%
Chinese	1	0.1%	2	0.3%
Other	4	0.4%	2	0.3%
No data available	33	(3.2%)	26	(4.1%)
Total Recorded	1019	(96.8%)	633	(96.0%)

* 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 90.7% in Suffolk).

Gender

Gender of the recording officers	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Reporting Officer	851	84.0%	520	81.5%
Female Reporting Officer	159	15.7%	118	18.5%
Officer does not identify	3	0.3%	0	0.0%

Gender of the subject	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Subject	830	80.1%	514	80.3%
Female Subject	205	19.8%	125	19.5%
Transgender Subject	1	0.1%	1	0.2%

In both forces, where gender was recorded, the majority of use of force forms identified the subject as male (**80.1%** in Norfolk and **80.3%** 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	87	8.5%	36	5.6%
Subject Injured	141	13.9%	124	19.4%

8.5% of Norfolk forms, and **5.6%** of Suffolk forms, indicated officer injury as a result of use of force.

13.9% of Norfolk forms, and **19.4%** of Suffolk forms indicated subject injury as a result of use of force.

Outcomes

Outcome	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Arrested	690	68.1%	411	64.4%
Hospitalised	64	6.3%	25	3.9%
Detained (MHA*)	23	2.3%	30	4.7%
Made off / escaped	6	0.6%	2	0.3%
Other	230	22.7%	170	26.6%

*Mental health Act

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

68.1% of Norfolk forms, and **64.4%** of Suffolk forms, indicated that the subject was arrested following the use of force.

