

Use of Force in Norfolk and Suffolk



Quarter 1 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.

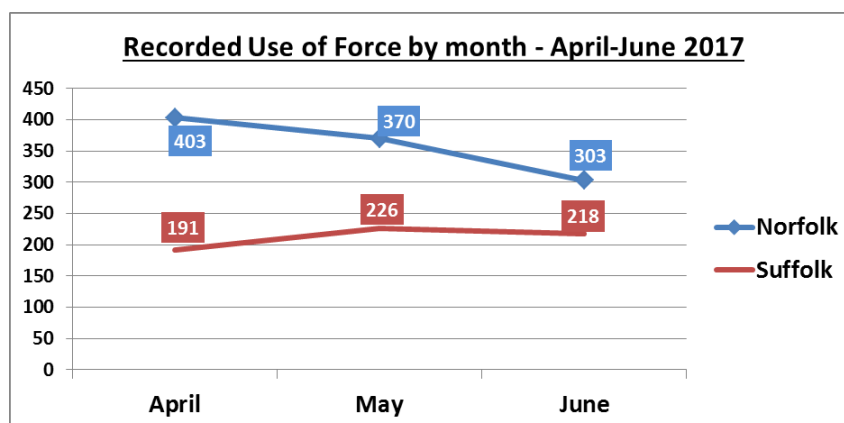
In April 2017 the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) established requirements for a consistent, uniformed approach from all Police Forces to record the use of force by officers. This means that every officer attending an incident where force has been used against an individual must complete and submit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

During April-June 2017, Norfolk submitted **1076** forms around use of force and Suffolk **635** over this quarter. This represents **2.1%** of total incidents received into the control room in Norfolk, and **1.4%** for Suffolk.



Quarter One 2017/18: In detail

Location of use of force incidents

Location	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Street/Highway	611	62%	355	60%
Dwelling	212	22%	132	22%
Custody	99	10%	57	10%
Hospital	25	3%	27	5%
Licensed Premises	17	1.7%	14	2.4%
Other Station	14	1.4%	8	1.3%
Football Stadia	1	0.1%	2	0.3%
Not detailed	97	9%	40	6%

Use of force took place most often on a street/highway for both Forces (62% of the time in Norfolk and 60% in Suffolk).

Reason for use of force

Use of Force Reason(s)*	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Protect self	807	75%	471	74%
Protect other officers	807	75%	469	74%
Effect arrest	730	68%	402	63%
Prevent escape	480	45%	244	38%
Protect public	394	37%	220	35%
Prevent harm	381	35%	230	36%
Protect subject	381	35%	229	36%
Prevent offence	223	21%	133	21%
Effect search	197	18%	116	18%
Remove handcuffs	29	3%	16	3%
Secure Evidence	1	0.1%	1	0.2%
Method of Entry	0	0%	0	0%
Other	39	4%	18	3%

* Officers can select more than one category for their reasons

The most frequently cited reason for using force was to protect self/colleagues (75% for Norfolk and 74% 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	555	52%	317	50%
Size/ Gender/ Build	464	43%	216	34%
Mental Health	319	30%	238	37%
Drugs	314	29%	209	33%
Other	201	19%	114	18%
Prior knowledge	8	0.7%	3	0.5%
Possession of weapon	4	0.4%	11	1.7%
Crowd	1	0.1%	0	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% in Norfolk and 50% in Suffolk).

Primary behaviour of subjects perceived by Officers

Behaviour of Subject	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Active Resistance	289	27%	162	26%
Compliance	269	25%	148	23%
Aggressive Resistance	255	24%	161	25%
Verbal Resistance	126	12%	72	11%
Passive Resistance	68	6%	30	5%
No data available	39	4%	34	5%
Serious or Aggravated	30	3%	28	4%

As defined by the College of Policing Manual of Guidance

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

Verbal resistance and gestures The subject refuses to comply either verbally or, by their body language, non-verbally.

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

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

Aggressive resistance The subject physically attacks the officer.

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

Both Forces recorded **Active Resistance** as the most common behavioural type encountered prior to force being used (27% in Norfolk and 26% in Suffolk).

Frequency and Effectiveness of Use of Force - by Type

Norfolk

Technique	Norfolk	% of All Reports	Effective	% Effective
Tactical Communications	872	81%	323	37%
Handcuffing	852	79%	771	91%
Unarmed Defence	274	26%	215	79%
Ground Restraint	204	19%	173	85%
Irritant Spray	90	8%	21	23%
Spit Protection	89	8%	67	75%
Baton (other than drawn only)	14	1.3%	13	93%

Note: Statistics on the use of Taser are published separately and are available on the Norfolk and Suffolk constabulary websites.

Suffolk

Technique	Suffolk	% of All Reports	Effective	% Effective
Tactical Communications	463	73%	166	36%
Handcuffing	478	75%	425	89%
Unarmed Defence	157	25%	126	80%
Ground Restraint	108	17%	78	72%
Irritant Spray	58	9%	17	29%
Spit Protection	45	7%	34	76%
Baton (other than drawn only)	6	0.9%	4	67%

Note: Statistics on the use of Taser are published separately and are available on the Norfolk and Suffolk constabulary websites.

Subject Details

Age

Perceived Age of Subject	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
11 – 17	75	11%	49	11%
18 – 34	419	60%	246	58%
35 – 49	158	23%	101	24%
50 – 64	42	6%	29	7%
65 or over	8	1.1%	2	0.5%
No data available	374	(35%)	208	(33%)
Total Recorded	702	(65%)	427	(67%)

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% in Norfolk and 58% in Suffolk).

Ethnicity

Perceived Ethnicity of Subject *	Norfolk	% of recorded	Suffolk	% of recorded
White	722	92%	428	89%
Black (or Black British)	40	5%	38	8%
Asian (or Asian British)	11	1.4%	12	2.5%
Don't know	11	1.4%	1	0.2%
Other	2	0.3%	4	0.8%
Chinese	0	0%	0	0%
Mixed	0	0%	0	0%
No data available	290	(27%)	152	(24%)

* 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** (92% in Norfolk and 89% in Suffolk).

Gender

Gender of the subject and the recording officers	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Subject	882	84%	500	80%
Female Subject	172	16%	122	20%
Male Reporting Officer	867	81%	564	89%
Female Reporting Officer	209	19%	70	11%

In both forces, where gender was recorded, the majority of use of force forms identified the subject as male (84% in Norfolk and 80% 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	118	11%	63	9%
Subject Injured	165	15%	107	17%

11% of Norfolk forms, and 9% of Suffolk forms, indicated officer injury as a result of use of force.

15% of Norfolk forms, and 17% of Suffolk forms indicated subject injury as a result of use of force.

Outcomes

Outcome	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Arrested	784	73%	443	70%
Hospitalised	49	5%	36	6%
Detained (MHA*)	29	3%	29	5%
Made off / escaped	3	0.3%	4	0.6%
Other	211	20%	123	19%

*Mental health Act

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

73% of Norfolk forms, and 70% of Suffolk forms, indicated that the subject was arrested following the use of force. Note that multiple forms may relate to the same subject/incident.

