

Use of Force in Norfolk and Suffolk



Quarter 2 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.

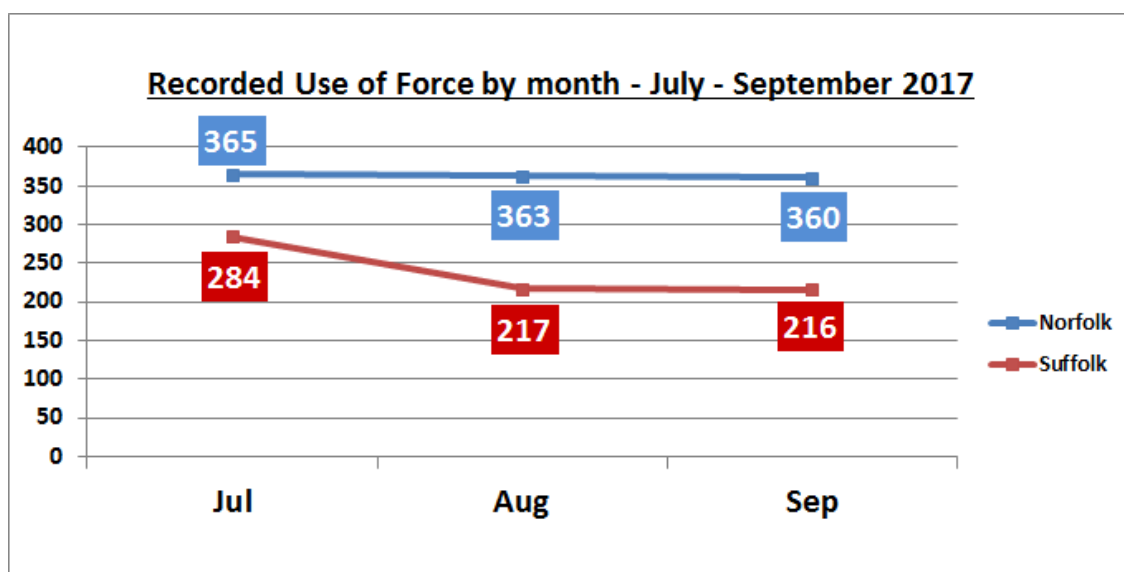
In April 2017 the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) established requirements for a consistent, uniformed approach from all Police Forces to record the use of force by officers. This means that every officer attending an incident where force has been used against an individual must complete and submit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

During July - September 2017, Norfolk submitted **1088** forms around use of force and Suffolk submitted **717** over this quarter.



Quarter Two 2017/18: In detail

Location of use of force incidents

Location	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Street/Highway	628	58%	378	53%
Dwelling	206	19%	148	21%
Custody	107	10%	90	13%
Hospital	27	2.5%	19	3%
Licensed Premises	17	1.6%	11	1.5%
Other Station	13	1.2%	5	0.7%
Motor Vehicle	13	1.2%	5	0.7%
Football Stadia	0	0%	1	0.1%
Not detailed	77	7%	60	8%

Use of force took place most often on a street/highway for both Forces (58% of the time in Norfolk and 53% in Suffolk).

Reason for use of force

Use of Force Reason(s)*	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Protect self	794	73%	520	73%
Protect other officers	794	73%	520	73%
Effect arrest	739	68%	442	62%
Prevent escape	471	43%	315	44%
Protect public	383	35%	243	34%
Prevent harm to Subject	389	36%	274	38%
Prevent offence	233	21%	144	20%
Effect search	243	22%	144	20%
Remove handcuffs	51	5%	24	3%
Secure Evidence	0	0%	1	0.1%
Method of Entry	0	0%	0	0%
Other	39	4%	25	3%

* Officers can select more than one category for their reasons

The most frequently cited reason for using force was to protect self/colleagues (73% for Norfolk and 73% 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	562	52%	331	46%
Size/ Gender/ Build	496	46%	247	34%
Mental Health	322	30%	234	33%
Drugs	314	29%	209	33%
Other	201	19%	114	18%
Prior knowledge	5	0.5%	5	0.7%
Possession of weapon	8	0.7%	8	1.1%
Crowd	0	0%	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 46% in Suffolk).

Primary behaviour of subjects perceived by Officers

Behaviour of Subject	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Active Resistance	291	27%	185	26%
Compliance	275	25%	202	28%
Aggressive Resistance	215	20%	182	25%
Verbal Resistance	122	11%	51	7%
Passive Resistance	123	11%	32	4%
No data available	47	4%	40	6%
Serious or Aggravated	15	1.4%	25	3%

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. This was the most common behaviour type encountered in Suffolk this quarter (28%).

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.

Active Resistance was the most common behavioural type encountered in Norfolk prior to force being used (27%).

Frequency and Effectiveness of Use of Force - by Type

Norfolk

Technique	Norfolk	% of All Reports	Effective	% Effective
Tactical Communications	888	82%	358	40%
Handcuffing	876	81%	790	90%
Unarmed Defence	281	26%	215	77%
Ground Restraint	187	17%	146	78%
Irritant Spray	87	8%	29	33%
Spit Protection	66	6%	50	76%
Baton (other than drawn only)	13	1.2%	13	100%

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	522	73%	211	40%
Handcuffing	544	76%	495	91%
Unarmed Defence	182	25%	147	81%
Ground Restraint	121	17%	74	61%
Irritant Spray	45	6%	20	44%
Spit Protection	53	7%	45	85%
Baton (other than drawn only)	7	1%	6	86%

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	78	11%	70	13%
18 – 34	385	53%	281	52%
35 – 49	194	27%	149	28%
50 – 64	63	9%	40	7%
65 or over	4	0.6%	1	0.2%
No data available	364	(33%)	176	(25%)
Total Recorded	724	(67%)	541	(75%)

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** (53% in Norfolk and 52% in Suffolk).

Ethnicity

Perceived Ethnicity of Subject *	Norfolk	% of recorded	Suffolk	% of recorded
White	921	91%	623	90%
Black (or Black British)	70	7%	52	7%
Asian (or Asian British)	8	1.4%	9	2.5%
Don't know	10	1%	9	1.3%
Chinese	1	0.1%	0	0%
Mixed	0	0%	0	0%
No data available	71	(7%)	22	(3%)

* 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** (91% in Norfolk and 90% in Suffolk).

Gender

Gender of the recording officers	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Reporting Officer	879	81%	598	83%
Female Reporting Officer	209	19%	118	16%
Transgender Reporting Officer	3	0.3%	1	0.15%

Gender of the subject	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Subject	866	83%	567	80%
Female Subject	183	17%	143	20%

In both forces, where gender was recorded, the majority of use of force forms identified the subject as male (83% 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	83	8%	66	9%
Subject Injured	142	14%	123	18%

8% of Norfolk forms, and 9% of Suffolk forms, indicated officer injury as a result of use of force.

14% of Norfolk forms, and 18% of Suffolk forms indicated subject injury as a result of use of force.

Outcomes

Outcome	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Arrested	776	71%	492	69%
Hospitalised **	34	3%	33	5%
Detained (MHA*)	31	3%	25	3%
Made off / escaped	5	0.5%	2	0.3%
Other	242	22%	165	23%

*Mental health Act

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

71% of Norfolk forms, and 69% of Suffolk forms, indicated that the subject was arrested following the use of force.

