Performance and Resources Scrutiny Programme 2022/23

Report to: the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner for Essex

Title of Report:	**Use of Force/Stop and Search – Q2 2022/23**
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1.0   Purpose of Report

To provide a quarterly update on Essex Police's use of force and stop and search powers.

2.0   Recommendations

There are no recommendations. This report is for the board to note.

3.0   Executive Summary

Use of Force

There is increasing evidence that Data Quality in Use of Force is not being maintained. Officers should be careful to ensure that the data they input is correct especially in the case of high impact tactics such as Firearms, Taser and AEP.

There were 5,669 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q2 2022/23. This is a decrease of 243 (4.3%) additional forms completed, compared to the same quarter for the 2021/22, and a 3.5% decrease on the previous quarter.

3,750 forms (66.1%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

Nine forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, a decrease of eight from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of nine separate incidents (five fewer than the previous quarter).
100 uses of Taser that have been recorded as a first tactic in this quarter (36 fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 150 separate incidents (78 fewer than the previous quarter).

77.8% of subjects on Use of Force records were male. 37.3% of all subjects are male and in the 18-34 age range, with the average age being 33 years old.

The proportion of subjects from Ethnic Minorities continues to be higher than the proportion within the population of Essex as a whole. 10.5% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 8.3 percentage points higher than the 2.2% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2019 ONS mid-year estimate).

54.0% of reasons for the use of force are to prevent harm to people or property. Alcohol was the highest Impact Factor.

The tactics most likely to cause injury to subjects is Dog Bite (61.5%), a Taser being fired has a 21.9% chance of resulting in a minor injury.

Stop and Search

There were 4,045 stops recorded in Quarter 2 of 2022/23. This is a decrease of 1.5% (62 records) on the previous quarter and a 2.9% increase (115 records) on the equivalent quarter last year. It seems likely that the volume of stops will continue at similar levels without an outside influence, such as a large operation or further pandemic restrictions, to drive volumes up or down.

According to the SMSR survey 58.4% of respondents agree that Essex Police use Stop Search powers fairly and respectfully. This falls to 56.0% for respondents from Ethnic Minorities.

98.4% (3,980) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops. There were 19 Section 60 Stops in Q2.

The peak age range for those stopped is 18-24, equating to 1,299 stops in the last quarter (32.1% of subjects) with 86.9% of subjects being male.

There were 3.3 Stops per 1000 people on individuals from Ethnic Minorities in Essex last quarter, this compares to 1.5 Stops per 1000 for White individuals. This means that an individual from an Ethnic Minority is just over twice as likely to be stopped

than a white individual. This disparity varies throughout the districts and is highest in Chelmsford/Maldon and lowest in Thurrock.

Black individuals are 3.6 times more likely to be stopped than White individuals, Black to White disproportionality is highest in the North LPA and lowest in the West LPA.

The quarterly EDIC (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion and Cohesion) Board looks at the position of Essex Police in relation to its Most Similar Group, Essex currently performs favourably when compared to similar forces.

For Q2 2022/23, 25.6% of Essex outcomes were positive which is 3.1 percentage points lower than the MSG average. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on individuals from Ethnic Minorities were 0.9 percentage point higher than for White individuals.

4.0   **Introduction/Background**

This report discusses the Use of Force forms and stop searches submitted for incidents occurring between 1st July and 30th September 2022.

The Use of Force data analysed in this report contains duplicates, as one form should be submitted per officer for each use of force. Therefore, if three officers use force against one subject in relation to the same incident, three forms should be submitted, and the subject would appear three times in the data (for that one incident).

Stop Searches are now recorded on two separate databases, the Stops Database that has been used up to now and the MobileFirst system (which is also used for the Use of Force data). Stops Database is now not active and used solely for historic figures.
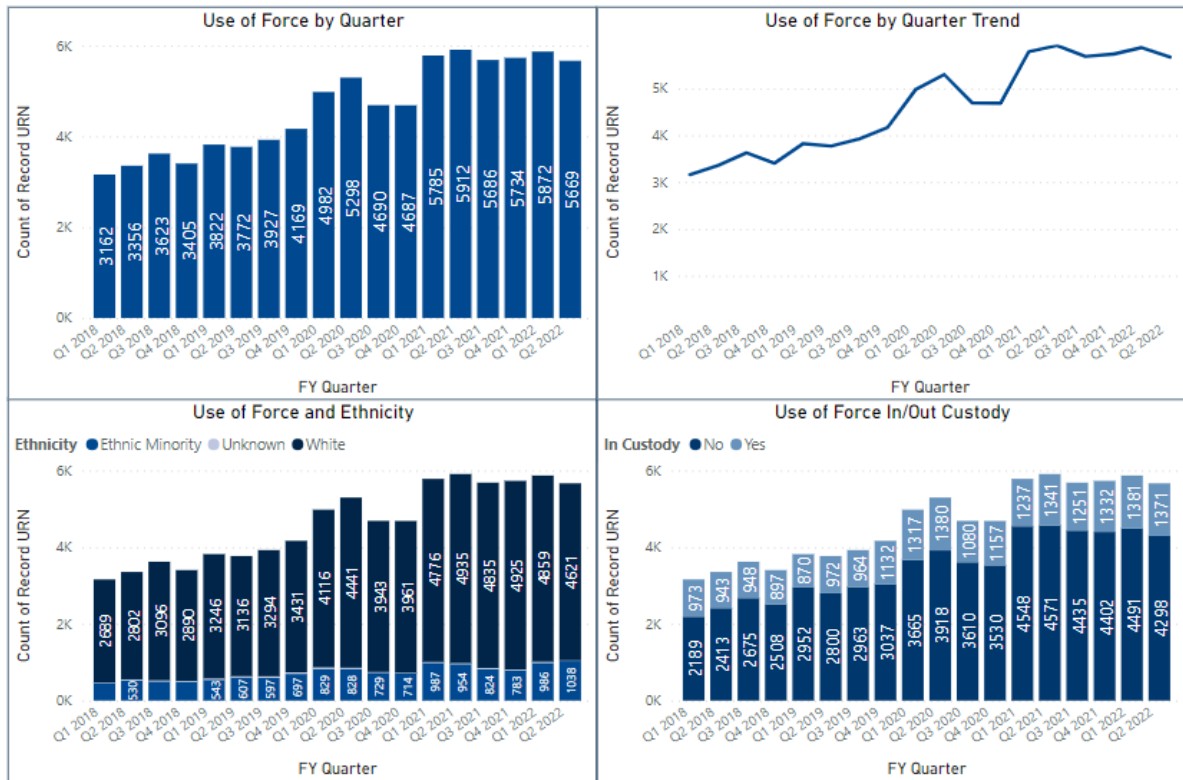
The Office of National Statistics has released 2019 mid-year population estimates with enough granular detail to be used for disproportionality at District level. This report uses that data instead of the 2011 Census.

Ethnicity data from the 2021 Census is due to be published by the ONS 3rd November.

For the purposes of this report, the term Ethnic Minorities is used to describe all minorities other than White minorities. White minorities are included in White.

5.0   Current Work and Performance

Use of Force

There were 5,669 instances of Use of Force were recorded in Essex during Q2 2022/23. This is a decrease of 243 (4.3%) additional forms completed, compared to the same quarter for the 2021/22, and a 3.5% decrease on the previous quarter. The proportion of force being used in custody remains stable. In the last quarter it was 24.2% compared to the 7-quarter average of 23.2%.

The below table details the tactics employed with each Use of Force in Q2 2022/23. It details the first eight tactics employed (not necessarily the most severe), and more than one will have been used in most incidents. The MobileFirst app allows for the inputting of up to 20 Tactics for one incident, there were no forms in this quarter in which more than eight tactics were detailed.

Compliant Handcuffing continues to be the most commonly used tactic both overall and in the first used tactic.

In 78 reports, Tactical Communications (Tac Comms) were the only method employed, suggesting further training on the app may be required, as a form is not required when Tac Comms are the only method. This is two reports more than the previous quarter.

69.5% of forms did not state that Tac Comms were used as a first tactic. It is unlikely that this is the case, it is inferred that officers simply did not enter Tac Comms as a tactic used.

Tactic	Tactic 1	Tactic 2	Tactic 3	Tactic 4	Tactic 5	Tactic 6	Tactic 7	Tactic 8	Tactic Count	%age of Tactics
Compliant Handcuffing	1711	497	86	18	5	1	0	0	2318	21.77%
Tactical Communication	1601	403	108	51	22	5	2	0	2192	20.58%
Unarmed skills	561	573	275	103	33	13	4	3	1565	14.70%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	642	460	238	65	20	3	3	1	1432	13.45%
Ground Restraint	523	365	190	62	19	7	0	0	1166	10.95%
Other / improvised	273	340	167	95	28	3	0	0	906	8.51%
Limb / Body Restraints	158	217	107	54	12	9	2	0	559	5.25%
Taser	100	88	14	0	2	1	0	0	205	1.93%
Spit guard	12	21	31	27	13	6	1	0	111	1.04%
CS PAVA used	20	9	13	7	3	1	0	0	53	0.50%
CS PAVA drawn	18	9	9	2	0	1	1	0	40	0.38%
Dog Deployed	13	10	1	2	0	0	0	0	26	0.24%
Baton drawn	16	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	22	0.21%
Shield	4	5	1	3	1	0	0	0	14	0.13%
Dog Bite	2	4	5	1	1	0	0	0	13	0.12%
Firearms	9	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	0.08%
Baton used	4	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	8	0.08%
AEP aimed	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	5	0.05%
AEP drawn	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0.04%
AEP used	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0.01%

3,750 forms (66.1%) involved the use of either compliant or non-compliant handcuffs.

Nine forms showed Firearms as a first tactic, a decrease of eight from last quarter. All Firearms use forms refer to a total of 9 separate incidents (five fewer than the previous quarter). In all the cases, the subject was in possession of a weapon and in nine of the incidents, a firearm aimed was enough to end the incident, in the final incident the form records that Other/Improvised methods were used as the next tactic. The incident number for this form does not detail any firearm usage.
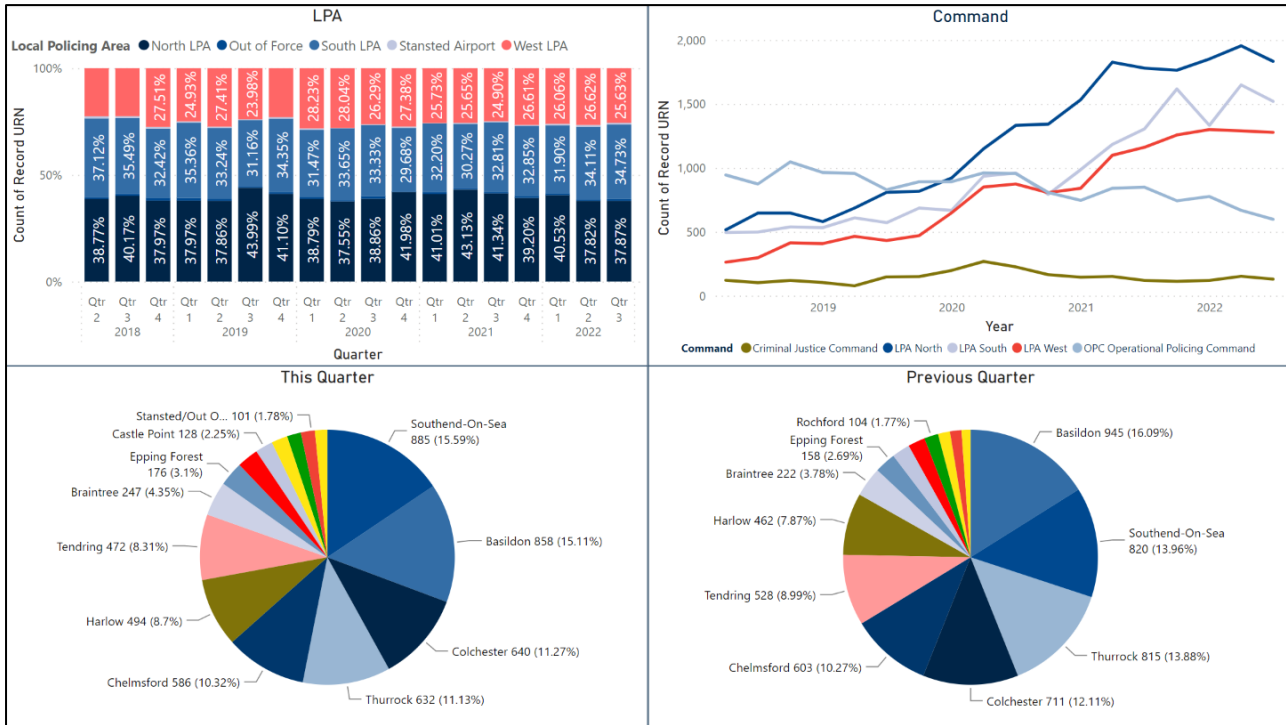
No injuries were recorded in forms that included Firearms as a tactic for the last quarter. Further analysis has revealed some potential data quality issues – four forms show a firearm was fired; no subjects are listed as injured but three of these forms have an outcome of "Hospitalised". Having reviewed the Incident Comments in STORM, none of the four mention a firearm being used, and none actually list Firearms as a tactic.

100 uses of Taser that have been recorded as a first tactic in this quarter (36 fewer than the previous quarter). All Taser use refers to 150 separate incidents (78 fewer than the previous quarter).

Tactic Number	Taser Tactics	Total Effective	%age Effectiveness
1	100	94	94.0%
2	88	77	87.5%
3	14	11	78.6%
4	0	0	-
5	2	2	100.0%
6	1	1	100.0%
Total	205	185	90.2%

After each Tactic entered on a Use of Force form, the officer records whether the tactic has been effective. Using this data, Taser tactics are 90.2% effective. The effectiveness of Taser tactics increases for later tactics.

The single use of AEP appears to have been entered in error. Further reading of the incident shows that a Taser was drawn but no AEP was used.
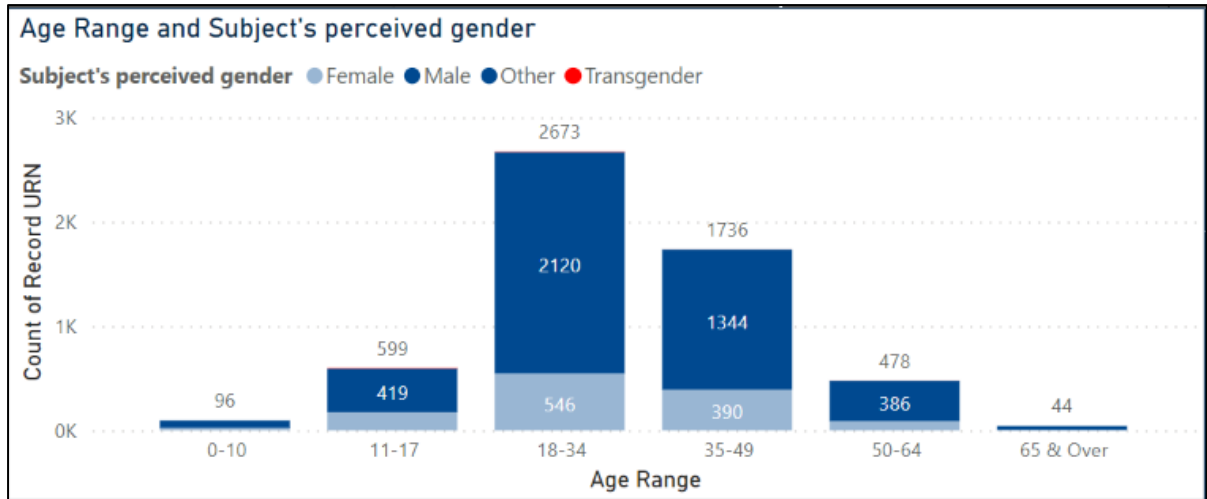

Historically Colchester, Basildon, Southend, Thurrock, Chelmsford, Harlow and Tendring are the districts that account for most use of force. These seven districts accounted for the location of 80.4% of all force used. The proportions of location by LPA remain consistent.

When looking at which Commands use force the most[1], the Local Policing Areas and OPC account for 93.8% of all forms recorded in the past quarter. Since the inception of Use of Force forms on Mobile First, all three LPAs have shown an upward trend in the volume of forms submitted by officers, this is a reflection on how technology has improved the ease of reporting in this area and, as a result, improved data quality.

77.8% of those subjected to Use of Force were identified by officers as male, 21.9% were identified as female, this is a slightly lower proportion of Female subjects than the last quarter (24.9%). 12 subjects were identified as transgender.

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[1] In order to do this, the Collar Number is looked up on a snapshot of serving officers taken each month. The caveat here is that all figures are based upon where an officer CURRENTLY serves.

33 was the average age for subjects (where a date of birth was given/stated), for males the average is 33 and for females the average age is 32. The mode (age most recorded) is 26 for female subjects and 32 for males. Males with a perceived age between 18-34 years were the most common gender and age band in the review period.

81.4% of subjects were White, this is 11 percentage points lower than the proportion of White residents of Essex.

10.5% of subjects against whom force was used were Black. This is 8.3 percentage points higher than the 2.2% Black resident population proportion in Essex (2019 ONS mid-year estimate).

	Use of Force per 1000 population						Ratio to White				
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities
LPA North	2.32	2.56	3.04	21.93	9.73	6.75	1.10	1.31	9.45	4.19	2.91
Braintree	1.45	2.56	2.36	17.29	3.46	5.05	1.77	1.63	11.92	2.39	3.48
Chelmsford	2.9	3.79	3.21	22.9	13.11	7.81	1.31	1.11	7.90	4.52	2.69
Colchester	2.96	2.43	2.33	19.86	6.99	6.14	0.82	0.79	6.71	2.36	2.07
Maldon	1.57	3.27	7.25	49.08	32.26	11.51	2.08	4.62	31.26	20.55	7.33
Tendring	2.99	2.29	4.71	45.93	26.32	9.9	0.77	1.58	15.36	8.80	3.31
Uttlesford	0.85	0	3.71	8.99	9.43	3.4	0.00	4.36	10.58	11.09	4.00
LPA South	3.14	3.19	3.53	19.64	16.37	8.56	1.02	1.12	6.25	5.21	2.73
Basildon	4.02	3.69	2.9	20.42	21.39	9.55	0.92	0.72	5.08	5.32	2.38
Castle Point	1.38	0.87	3.72	4.37	4.98	2.9	0.63	2.70	3.17	3.61	2.10
Rochford	1.06	0	5.21	4.03	6.94	2.85	0.00	4.92	3.80	6.55	2.69
Southend	4.22	4.12	3.76	23.01	17.26	9.25	0.98	0.89	5.45	4.09	2.19
LPA West	2.65	3.01	3.95	8.51	12.5	5.97	1.14	1.49	3.21	4.72	2.25
Brentwood	1.67	2.94	3.01	20.83	0	5.96	1.76	1.80	12.47	0.00	3.57
Epping	1.04	1.15	1.05	12.13	8.22	3.75	1.11	1.01	11.66	7.90	3.61
Harlow	4.94	7.48	5.81	15.79	22.62	10.22	1.51	1.18	3.20	4.58	2.07
Thurrock	3.23	2.22	6	5.41	15.89	5.46	0.69	1.86	1.67	4.92	1.69
Force	2.68	3.08	3.6	14.31	13.07	7.17	1.15	1.34	5.34	4.88	2.68

A clearer method to show the ethnic disproportionality for Use of Force is looking at the number of Forms per 1000 population in Essex. From this it is possible to see that individuals from Ethnic Minorities are just over two and a half times more likely to have force used upon them than White individuals. This rises to over five times more likely for Black or Black British individuals based solely on ONS residence data. Since no

subject address data is included in the Use of Force form, no comparison can be made between Essex residents and non-residents.

There is no readily available data to compare Essex with similar forces on a regular basis.

Effecting Arrest was the most used reason entered for officers using force, followed by Preventing Harm, Protecting Oneself and Protecting Other Officers. Please note, that more than one reason can be entered when justifying a Use of Force.

Reason for Force	Q2 2022/23	%age Reasons	%age Forms
Effect Arrest	3031	28.21%	51.27%
Prevent Harm	2807	26.12%	47.48%
Protect Self	2770	25.78%	46.85%
Protect Other Officers	2639	24.56%	44.64%
Prevent Escape	2510	23.36%	42.46%
Protect Subject	1515	14.10%	25.63%
Prevent Offence	1423	13.24%	24.07%
Protect Public	1185	11.03%	20.04%
Effect Search	791	7.36%	13.38%
Remove Handcuffs	463	4.31%	7.83%
Secure Evidence	440	4.09%	7.44%
Other	328	3.05%	5.55%
Method Of Entry	1	0.01%	0.02%

Combining the reasons that encompass preventing harm as a whole[2], we can say that 54.0% of reasons are to prevent harm.

Impact Factor	Q2 2022/23	%age all Factors	%age Forms
Alcohol	2354	18.31%	50.22%
Mental Health	2294	17.84%	48.94%
Size/Gender/Build	2099	16.32%	44.78%
Drugs	1661	12.92%	35.44%
Prior Knowledge	1651	12.84%	35.23%
Other Factor	1290	10.03%	27.52%
Weapon	681	5.30%	14.53%
Crowd	518	4.03%	11.05%
Acute Behavioural Disorder	310	2.41%	6.61%

Each Use of Force form can have multiple impact factors, the table above shows the proportion of each impact factor in the total number of forms for the last quarter. Alcohol is the highest impact factor, appearing on 50.2% of forms.

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[2] Protect Self, Prevent Harm, Protect Other Officers, Protect Subject and Protect Public

Qtr	Staff - injury level		Qtr	Subject - nature of injury	
	Minor	Severe		Minor	Severe
Q1 2020/21	218	5	Q1 2020/21	288	3
Q2 2020/21	290	5	Q2 2020/21	307	6
Q3 2020/21	178	5	Q3 2020/21	249	5
Q4 2020/21	207	1	Q4 2020/21	236	5
Q1 2021/22	240	6	Q1 2021/22	338	8
Q2 2021/22	245	4	Q2 2021/22	294	6
Q3 2021/22	205	2	Q3 2021/22	302	5
Q4 2021/22	183	4	Q4 2021/22	221	4
Q1 2022/23	194	2	Q1 2022/23	269	2
Q2 2022/23	93	4	Q2 2022/23	320	2

In the last quarter, Staff have been injured in 1.7% of incidents and Subjects have been injured in 5.7% of incidents. This is a lower proportion of officer injury than usual and a higher proportion of subject injury.
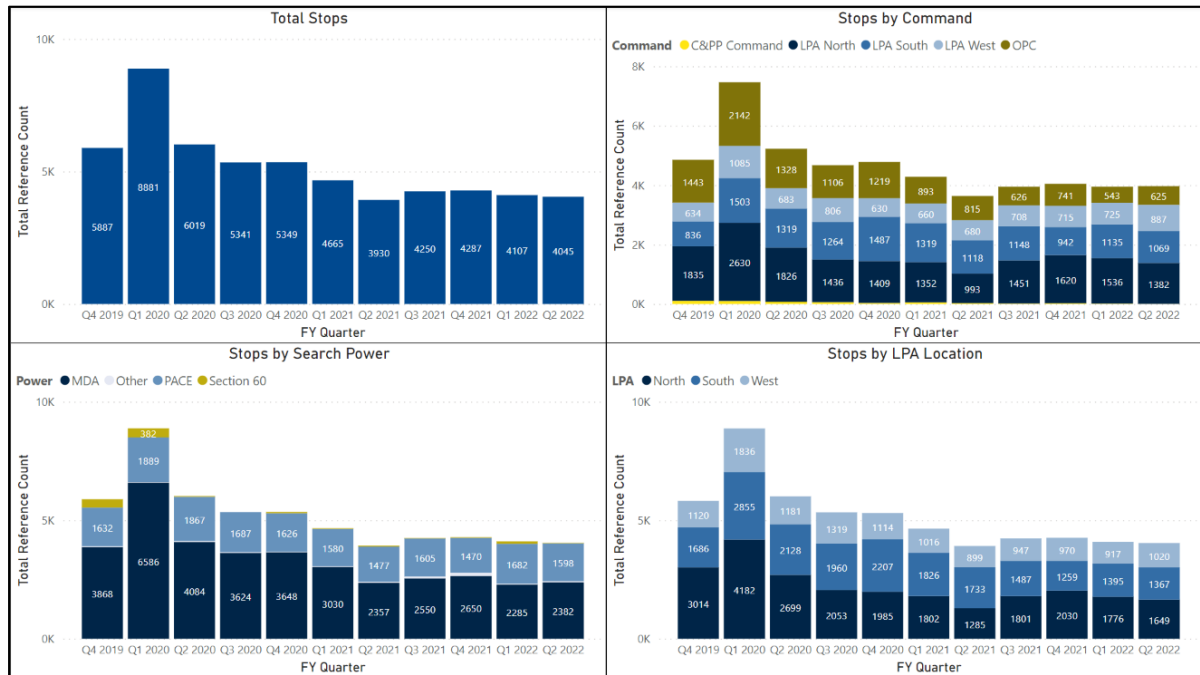
By calculating the number and severity of injuries that have occurred after each tactic type and then dividing that by the total use of each tactic, it is possible to ascertain the likelihood that the use of each tactic will result in either minor or severe injury.

Tactic	Likelihood of Leading to Minor Injury	Likelihood of Leading to Severe Injury
Dog Bite	61.5%	0.0%
AEP drawn	50.0%	0.0%
CS PAVA used	35.8%	0.0%
Dog Deployed	30.8%	0.0%
Taser Aimed	25.0%	0.0%
Baton used	25.0%	0.0%
Taser Fired	21.9%	0.0%
Shield	21.4%	0.0%
Spit guard	15.3%	0.0%
Ground Restraint	13.2%	0.1%
Limb / Body Restraints	11.8%	0.2%
Non-Compliant Handcuffing	11.8%	0.0%
CS PAVA drawn	11.4%	0.0%
Unarmed skills	9.8%	0.1%
Other / improvised	8.9%	0.0%
Baton drawn	7.7%	0.0%
Tactical Communication	7.2%	0.0%
Taser Red-dotted	3.1%	0.0%
Taser Drawn	2.8%	0.0%
Compliant Handcuffing	2.1%	0.0%
Taser Arced	0.0%	0.0%
AEP aimed	0.0%	0.0%
Firearms	0.0%	0.0%
AEP used	0.0%	0.0%

As can be expected, Dog Bite and CS used are highly likely to have caused injury in the last quarter. A Taser being fired has a 21.9% chance of resulting in a minor injury. AEP drawn lead to two minor injuries, however this is because both were followed by a Dog bite.
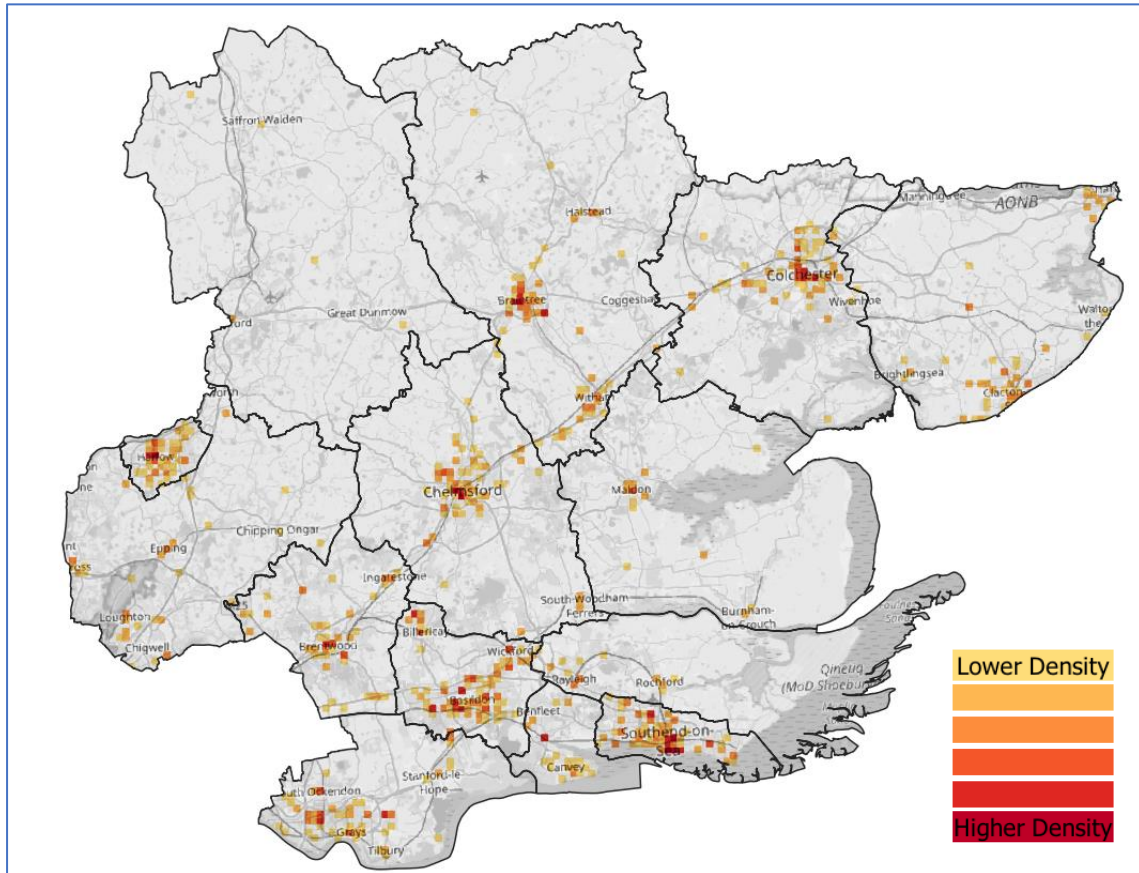
Stop and Search

There were 4,045 stops recorded in Quarter 2 of 2022/23. This is a decrease of 1.5% (62 records) on the previous quarter and a 2.9% increase (115 records) on the equivalent quarter last year. It seems likely that the volume of stops will continue at similar levels without an outside influence, such as a large operation or further pandemic restrictions, to drive volumes up or down.

98.4% (3,980) of stops in the last quarter were PACE and Misuse of Drugs Stops. There were 19 Section 60 Stops in Q2.

LPA	District Name	2020/21				2021/22				2022/23	
		Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	1148	576	567	517	491	321	460	593	524	443
	Colchester	1972	1167	815	671	581	428	520	388	368	395
	Tendring	538	514	322	442	429	233	276	349	325	279
	Uttlesford / Braintree	524	442	349	355	301	303	545	700	559	532
South	Basildon	1423	1132	1033	1223	969	684	832	772	691	603
	Castle Point/Rochford	368	263	451	272	264	203	171	181	178	140
	Southend	1064	733	476	711	593	846	484	306	526	624
West	Brentwood / Epping	733	514	642	532	467	302	370	329	299	379
	Harlow	643	359	360	228	259	267	274	358	300	290
	Thurrock	460	308	317	355	290	330	303	283	318	351
	Stansted Airport	8	11	9	43	21	13	15	28	19	9

LPA	District Name	2020/21				2021/22				2022/23	
		Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1	Qtr 2
North	Chelmsford / Maldon	12.9%	9.6%	10.6%	9.7%	10.5%	8.2%	10.8%	13.8%	12.8%	11.0%
	Colchester	22.2%	19.4%	15.3%	12.5%	12.5%	10.9%	12.2%	9.1%	9.0%	9.8%
	Tendring	6.1%	8.5%	6.0%	8.3%	9.2%	5.9%	6.5%	8.1%	7.9%	6.9%
	Uttlesford / Braintree	5.9%	7.3%	6.5%	6.6%	6.5%	7.7%	12.8%	16.3%	13.6%	13.2%
South	Basildon	16.0%	18.8%	19.3%	22.9%	20.8%	17.4%	19.6%	18.0%	16.8%	14.9%
	Castle Point/Rochford	4.1%	4.4%	8.4%	5.1%	5.7%	5.2%	4.0%	4.2%	4.3%	3.5%
	Southend	12.0%	12.2%	8.9%	13.3%	12.7%	21.5%	11.4%	7.1%	12.8%	15.4%
West	Brentwood / Epping	8.3%	8.5%	12.0%	9.9%	10.0%	7.7%	8.7%	7.7%	7.3%	9.4%
	Harlow	7.2%	6.0%	6.7%	4.3%	5.6%	6.8%	6.4%	8.4%	7.3%	7.2%
	Thurrock	5.2%	5.1%	5.9%	6.6%	6.2%	8.4%	7.1%	6.6%	7.7%	8.7%
	Stansted Airport	0.1%	0.2%	0.2%	0.8%	0.5%	0.3%	0.4%	0.7%	0.5%	0.2%

North LPA had most stops in the last quarter. Southend has the highest volume of records this quarter with 624 followed by Basildon with 603.

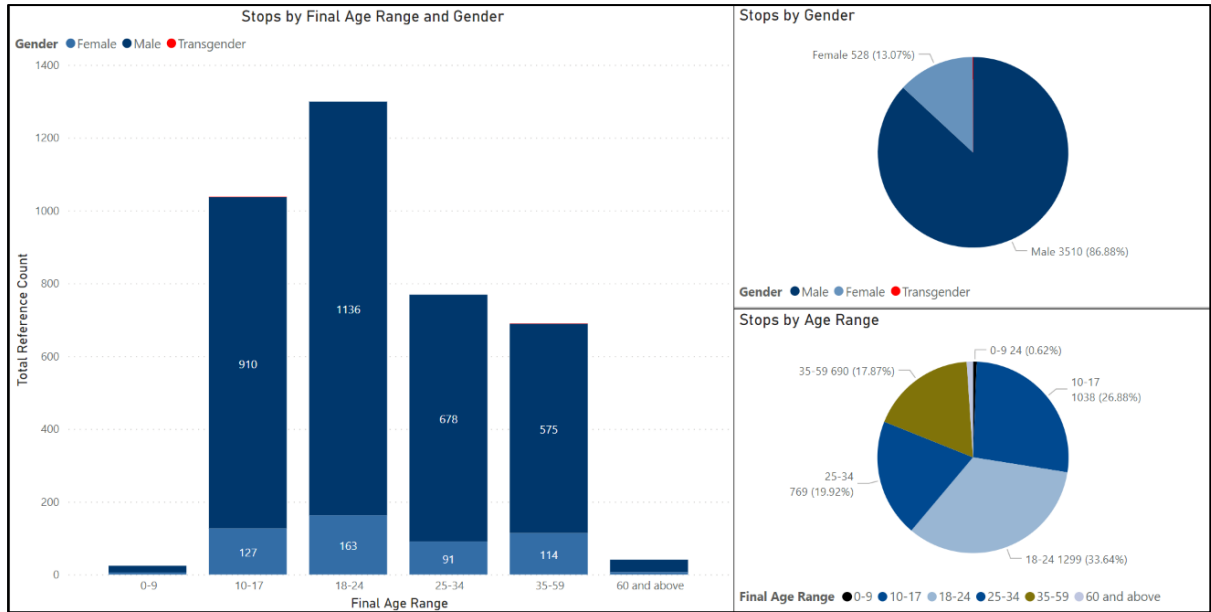The majority of stops occurred in the main population centres of the county.

In the last quarter, there were two Section 60 authorisations in Essex.

A Sec. 60 in Southend was put in place on 4th August in Chalkwell. This resulted in 19 Sec. 60 stops all of which resulted in no further action.

A Sec. 60 was put in place on 13th August in Leigh-on-Sea. This resulted in no Stops.

82.5% of all stops last quarter were carried out by officers attached to the LPA Commands and a further 15.5% were carried out by officers from Operational Policing Command (OPC).
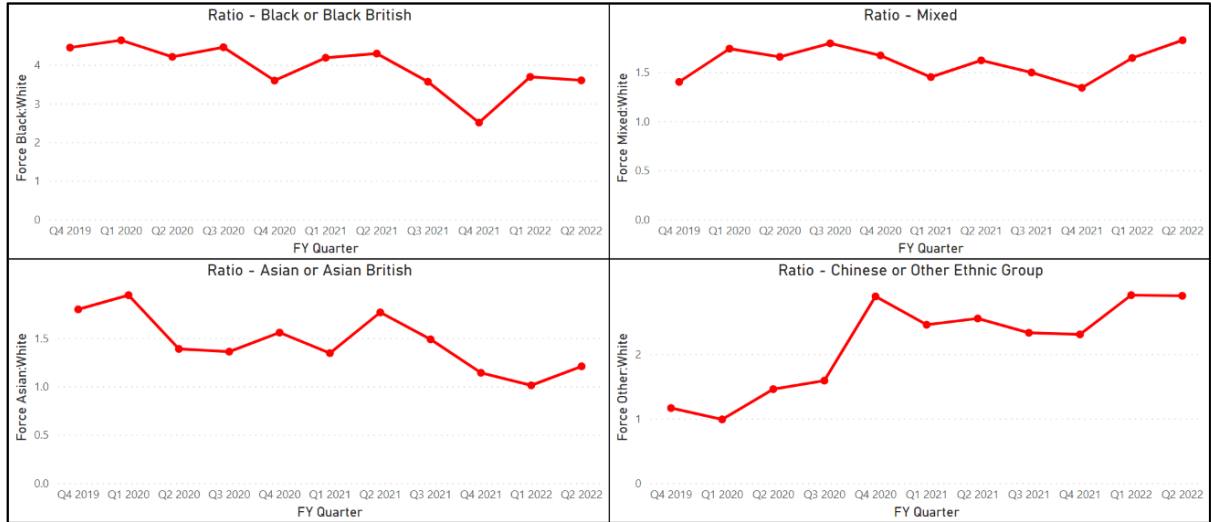
During Quarter 2 of 2022/23 and where there is age and gender data, 86.9% of subjects stopped were male with 18 – 24 being the most prevalent age group for both male and female subjects. The Modal age for male subjects is 18 and female subjects is 17.

	Stops per 1000 population						Ratio to White				
	White	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities	Mixed	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Chinese or Other Ethnic Group	Total Ethnic Minorities
LPA North	1.44	3.48	1.74	7.05	3.78	3.40	2.42	1.21	4.90	2.63	2.36
Chelmsford/Maldon	1.17	4.95	1.30	5.16	8.48	3.54	4.23	1.11	4.41	7.25	3.03
Colchester	1.37	2.87	0.96	8.33	1.40	2.87	2.09	0.70	6.08	1.02	2.09
Tendring	1.54	0.00	1.35	10.44	8.77	3.05	0.00	0.88	6.78	5.69	1.98
Uttlesford/Braintree	1.71	3.46	4.33	6.50	3.99	4.32	2.02	2.53	3.80	2.33	2.53
LPA South	1.78	2.13	2.38	9.31	6.55	4.45	1.20	1.34	5.23	3.68	2.50
Basildon	2.49	3.44	3.27	9.39	3.57	5.49	1.38	1.31	3.77	1.43	2.20
Castle Point/Rochford	0.68	0.85	1.97	4.23	2.90	2.03	1.25	2.90	6.22	4.26	2.99
Southend	2.19	1.65	1.81	10.66	9.71	4.33	0.75	0.83	4.87	4.43	1.98
LPA West	1.31	2.51	1.42	2.98	3.82	2.37	1.92	1.08	2.27	2.92	1.81
Brentwood/Epping	1.07	3.09	1.18	5.63	0.77	2.51	2.89	1.10	5.26	0.72	2.35
Harlow	1.84	3.52	1.16	5.64	15.84	3.79	1.91	0.63	3.07	8.61	2.06
Thurrock	1.33	1.33	1.90	1.74	2.65	1.75	1.00	1.43	1.31	1.99	1.32
Force	1.51	2.76	1.83	5.45	4.40	3.29	1.83	1.21	3.61	2.91	2.18
Force (Essex Residents)	0.79	0.97	0.73	1.57	1.43	1.08	1.23	0.92	1.99	1.81	1.37
Force (Essex Non-Residents)	0.11	0.78	0.50	1.40	0.95	0.87	7.09	4.55	12.73	8.64	7.91

Looking at the ethnic breakdown of Stop Searches for Q2 2022/23, an individual from an Ethnic Minority is 2.2 times more likely to be stopped than a White individual, this is a deterioration on the last quarter (2.1 times more likely). The above table shows a breakdown of stops per 1000 population and of the ratio of various ethnicities to White across the force. Black to White disproportionality is highest in the North LPA and lowest in the West LPA.

For records in which it is possible to ascertain that the subject is an Essex resident[3], the disproportionality ratios fall by an average of 35.3%. An Essex Resident from an Ethnic Minority is 1.4 time more likely to be stopped than a White Resident compared to 2.2 times for all individuals stopped.
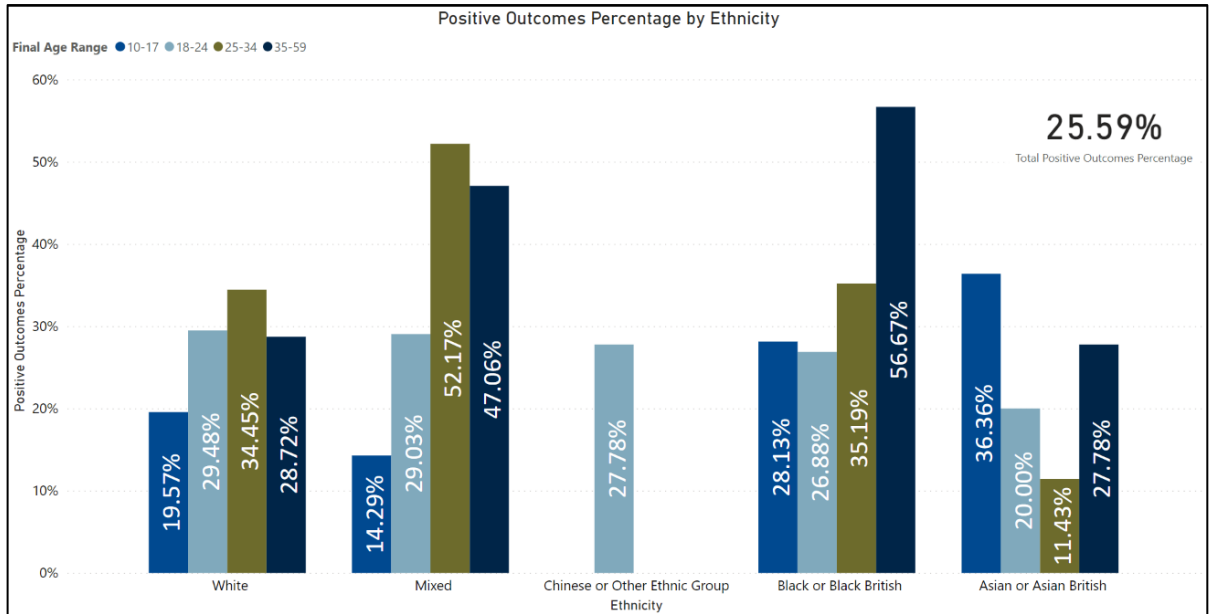

The Ethnicity to White ratio can be tracked over time. The ratios for Black and Asian ethnicities show a downward trend over past two years, the ratio for Mixed ethnicities shows a stable trend.

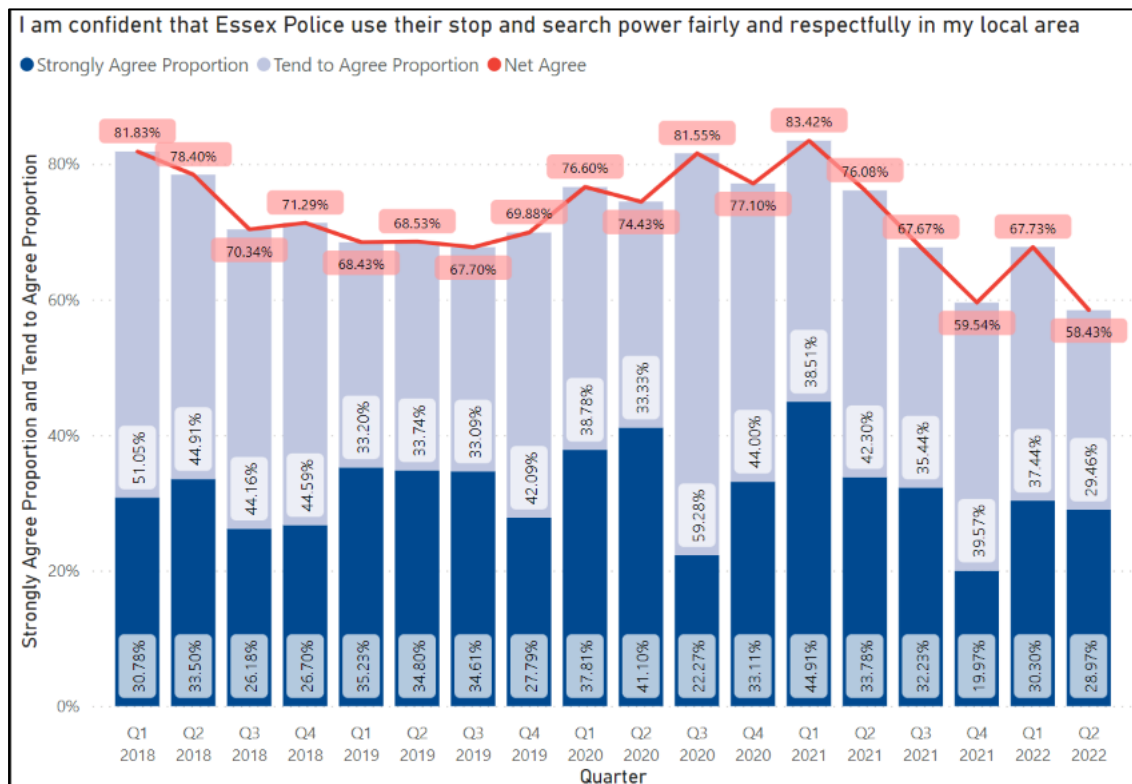| Force	Ethnic Minority:White Ratio White = 1	Force	Black:White Ratio White = 1
Derbyshire	3.67	Sussex	10.24
Sussex	3.23	Derbyshire	7.67
Staffordshire	2.97	Hampshire	7.44
Hertfordshire	2.76	Staffordshire	5.56
Avon & Somerset	2.66	Hertfordshire	5.25
Essex	2.39	Avon & Somerset	5.01
Hampshire	2.22	Leicestershire	4.38
Leicestershire	1.45	Essex	3.95

Data from the Police.uk website can be used to compare Essex Police to its Most Similar Group of forces. This data is based on a six-month period January 2022 – June 2022. Essex has the third lowest Ethnic Minority to White ratio and the lowest Black to White ratio.

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[3] This is done by matching the town of residence or postcode with lists of towns and postcodes in Essex. Whilst the quality of the data is not perfect and subject to input errors, it is unlikely that the error is significant.

Positive Outcomes Percentage by Ethnicity

Final Age Range ● 10-17 ● 18-24 ● 25-34 ● 35-59

25.59%
Total Positive Outcomes Percentage

White: 19.57%, 29.48%, 34.45%, 28.72%
Mixed: 14.29%, 29.03%, 52.17%, 47.06%
Chinese or Other Ethnic Group: 27.78%
Black or Black British: 28.13%, 26.88%, 35.19%, 56.67%
Asian or Asian British: 36.36%, 20.00%, 11.43%, 27.78%

Whilst there is no country-wide definition as to what counts as a Positive outcome for Stop Search, Police.uk uses all outcomes apart from "A no further action disposal[4]." The above chart shows data for Q2 broken down by ethnicity and age group.

For Q2 2022/23, 25.6% of Essex outcomes were positive which is slightly lower than the previous quarter (26.9%). The Most Similar Group of Forces average positive outcome rate is 28.7%. During the last quarter Positive outcomes on individuals from Ethnic Minorities were 0.9 percentage point higher than for White individuals.

I am confident that Essex Police use their stop and search power fairly and respectfully in my local area

● Strongly Agree Proportion ● Tend to Agree Proportion ● Net Agree

Quarter	Net Agree	Tend to Agree	Strongly Agree
Q1 2018	81.83%	51.05%	30.78%
Q2 2018	78.40%	44.91%	33.50%
Q3 2018	70.34%	44.16%	26.18%
Q4 2018	71.29%	44.59%	26.70%
Q1 2019	68.43%	33.20%	35.23%
Q2 2019	68.53%	33.74%	34.80%
Q3 2019	67.70%	33.09%	34.61%
Q4 2019	69.88%	42.09%	27.79%
Q1 2020	76.60%	38.78%	37.81%
Q2 2020	74.43%	33.33%	41.10%
Q3 2020	81.55%	59.28%	22.27%
Q4 2020	77.10%	44.00%	33.11%
Q1 2021	83.42%	38.51%	44.91%
Q2 2021	76.08%	42.30%	33.78%
Q3 2021	67.67%	35.44%	32.23%
Q4 2021	59.54%	39.57%	19.97%
Q1 2022	67.73%	37.44%	30.30%
Q2 2022	58.43%	29.46%	28.97%

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[4] This now includes the outcomes "Other", "Verbal Warning" and "Article found - detailed outcome unavailable"

Data from SMSR shows another sharp drop in confidence that Essex Police use Stop and Search fairly. The net agreement proportion of 58.4% in Q2 is significantly lower than the previous quarter 67.7% and below the 76.1% of the same quarter last year. Results for respondents from Ethnic Minorities shows a small rise to 56.0% agreement (from 52.6% last quarter). The proportion of Ethnic Minority respondents who actively disagree with the statement remained stable at 15.0%.

In the last quarter, there were 39 searches that involved the removal of more than just outer garments or the exposure of the intimate parts of the subject – colloquially known as Strip Searches. This is seven fewer than the previous quarter.

Outcome	Female	Male							Grand Total
	35-59	0-9	10-17	18-24	25-34	35-59	60+	Unknown	
Arrest	1		1	2		7			11
Community resolution				5					5
No further action	2	1	1	4	5	3	1	2	19
Other action					2				2
Summons	1								1
Verbal warning / words of advice				1					1
Grand Total	4	1	2	12	7	10	1	2	39

The above table shows these searches broken down by gender, age and outcome. The positive outcome rate for these searches was 43.6%. There were three searches carried out on an individual under the age of 18, these were all under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

The Independent Stop and Search BWV Panel consists of a diverse group of committed IAGs members from around the county and has been meeting bi-monthly since July 2021. The Panel review non-redacted BWV footage of Essex Police officers stop and search interactions, scoring them against a Procedural Justice framework so that the effectiveness and fairness of search activity can be monitored. The feedback from the Panel is shared with individual officers and organisational learning is captured through the Learning the Lessons Board via the Stop and Search Tactical Board. Any concerns regarding the conduct of the officers involved is assessed by the respective Appropriate Authority (Departmental Superintendent) to ensure a consistent approach between reflective practice and misconduct.

6.0   Implications (Issues)

Although the disproportionality between White and Ethnic Minorities that are subject to stop and search is a concern, the gap has narrowed over the past 12 months despite a rise this quarter. It is important that Essex Police understands and can articulate the reasons behind this data.

6.1   Links to Police and Crime Plan Priorities

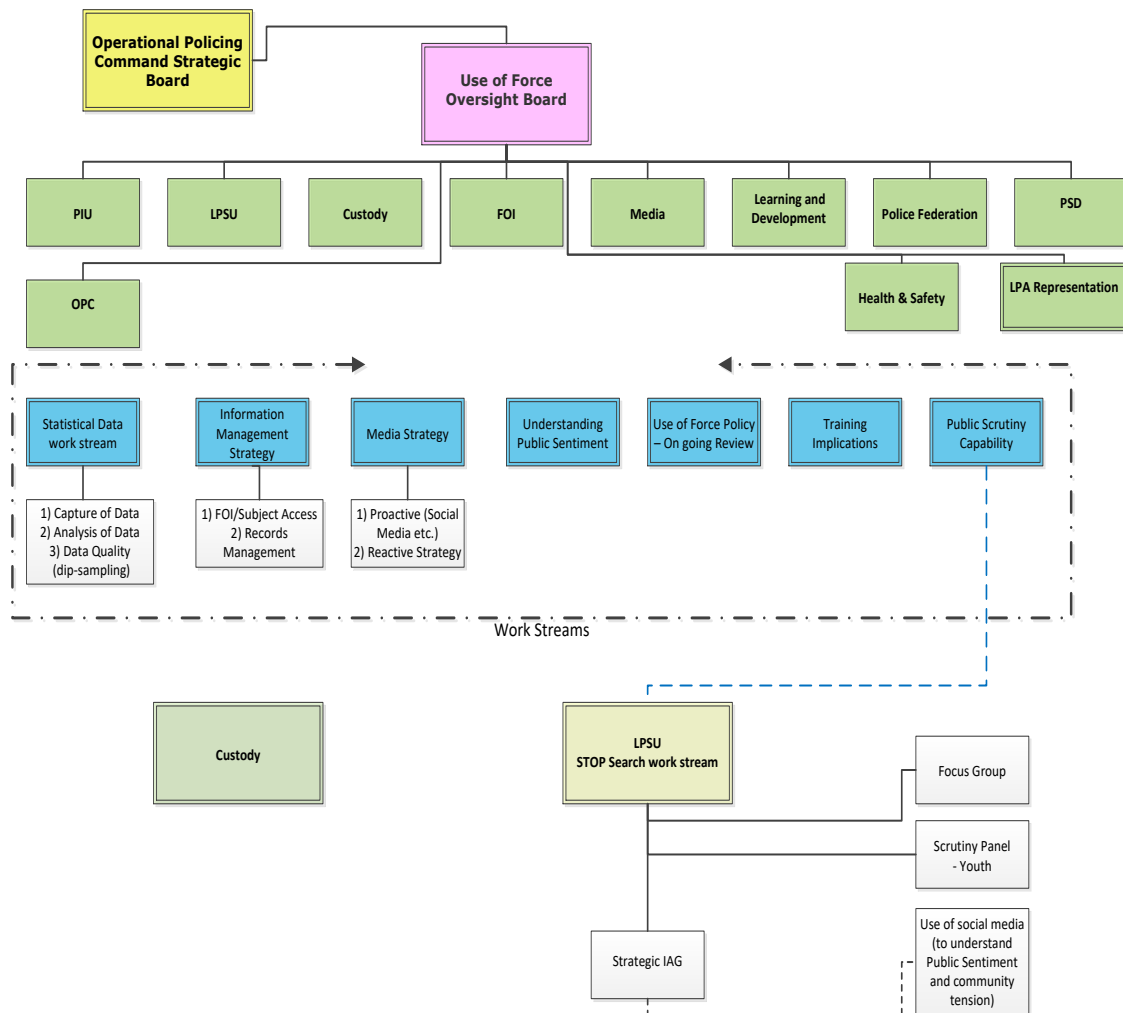The use of force is a cross-cutting issue that impacts on many areas in the Police and Crime Plan.

6.2 Demand

The trends in volumes of use of force and stop & search have been described throughout the paper.

6.3 Risks/Mitigation

Use of force is monitored by the 'Use of Force Board' chaired by T/ACC Glen Pavelin. These meetings are held on a quarterly basis. This group is a force-wide focus group facilitated and organised by the Operational Policing Command (OPC) and is intended to provide formal scrutiny and consultative feedback on the use of force and all its associated issues. The Use of Force Board focuses on enabling the force to examine and improve on statistical data-gathering and its analysis, and transparency with the public in order to improve confidence and trust in Essex Police.

Representation within the Use of Force Board comprises a number of disciplines, as detailed in the below structure:

6.4 **Equality and/or Human Rights Implications**

The above analysis indicates an ethnic disparity in both Use of Force and Stop Search. Recently, ONS have released 2019 mid-year estimates, and this is the first version of this report that uses that data.

Subjects from Ethnic Minorities are twice as likely to be stopped that White subjects.

Essex Police has established a Stop and Search / Use of Force Review Panel made up of members of the public representing a number of diverse communities. This Panel reviews Body Worn Video (BWV) footage of Stop and Searches as well as incidents where force is used. Feedback from the Panel is provided to the officers and their line managers.

Each of the Local Policing Areas and Operational Policing Command review BWV footage of their officers carrying out Stop and Searches and / or Use of Force.

6.5 **Health and Safety Implications**

The appropriate use of force and the level of threat faced by operational officers and staff have health and safety implication for those involved including subjects, the police and the public. Any patterns or concerns are discussed and acted upon at the Use of Force Board.

7.0 **Consultation/Engagement**

Nothing to note beyond the fact that the force continues to share and discuss use of force and stop and search data with the various IAGs around the county.

8.0 **Actions for Improvement**

- The Essex Police Refreshed Approach to Stop and Search training has been delivered to all LPT officers across the force during the 2022 FLEX training and this is designed to improve the communication skills of our officers when conducting stop and search; treating people fairly, with respect and ensuring each stop and search interaction is closed in a positive manner.

- Stop and Search policy and procedure is being updated to reflect Authorised Professional Practice (APP) around the use of Exposure of Intimate Part (EIP) searches (strip searches) and the searching of/by Transgender individuals.

- Whilst no formal AFI was given, the recent HMICFRS PEEL inspection suggested how the force could enhance information currently on the Essex Police website and ensure it is an area of focus for Independent Advisory Groups. This work is being progressed under the leadership of ACC Pavelin with regular updates being provided at the Chief Officer Group and quarterly through the PEEL update paper being presented to the Performance and Resource Board starting in February 2023.

9.0   <u>Future Work/Development</u>

- External media campaign to be used to increase the confidence of the public in our use of stop and search powers. This campaign will not only highlight why and how we use our powers but also the work of the Independent BWV Review Panel which provides community scrutiny and feedback on officers stop and search activity. There have been some delays to the progress of this campaign however the campaign strategy has now been written and plans are in place to deliver this quarter.

- The Procedural Justice Framework is delivered to Student Officers as part of the stop and search training however a more bespoke package is being developed as part of a trial project. Procedural Justice is about making fair decisions and treating people with respect which dovetails with our Refreshed Approach to Stop and Search training.

- The Essex Police Professional Standards Department are updating the stop and search section of the Essex Police website to include case study examples where Essex Police have captured learning from complaints relating to stop and search and use of force and used this learning to develop our working practices.