

LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE

FROM: Stuart Fraser

TO: Leah Johnson
Ch.Insp. Jim Heggs

DEPARTMENT: Criminal Justice.

DATE: 21st January 2025

Subject: Disproportionality in use of Voluntary Interviews (updated to utilise Census 2021 data)

1. Purpose of the Report

The purpose of this report is to investigate whether there are any variations in the manner that Voluntary Interviews are used according to the ethnicity of the suspect.

2. Findings

During the period 1st September 2023 to 31st August 2024, 16,501 individuals were dealt with within one of the Custody Suites within Leicestershire (some on more than one occasion). Over the same time period Niche recorded that 3,808 persons were dealt with by means of a Voluntary Interview, the details of 2,446 which are recorded on Pronto. Whilst this only represents 64% of the total VAs the use of Pronto is increasing significantly month on month.

The demographics of those arrested opposed to VAd have been examined according to Ethnicity.

The table below summarises the comparison.

	Census 2021 Pop	Period = 12m to Aug 2024				
		Arrested	VAs	% in Popln.	% Arrested	% VAs
All Arrivals	1,121,985	16,501	2,446			
White	812,992	10,826	1,601	72.5%	69.6%	74.4%
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	30,185	606	68	2.7%	3.9%	3.2%
Asian/Asian British	212,478	2,196	331	18.9%	14.1%	15.4%
Black/African/Carib bean/Black British	37,231	1,480	123	3.3%	9.5%	5.7%
Other ethnic group	29,099	455	28	2.6%	2.9%	1.3%

The next table shows the likelihood of persons of BME being arrested / VA compared to those of White ethnicity.

	Compared to Persons of White ethnicity	
	Arrested	VAs
White	Base	Base
Mixed/multiple ethnic groups	1.5 x	1.1 x
Asian/Asian British	0.8 x	0.8 x
Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	3.0 x	1.7 x
Other ethnic group	1.2 x	0.5 x

Whilst the summary would suggest that there are numerical differences in how suspects are being dealt with in terms of whether they are arrested or interviewed voluntarily.

However, the differences are within the bounds of statistical error and hence the data does not provide any evidence that there are genuine differences as opposed to being merely “statistical noise”.

3. Conclusion

Notwithstanding numerical variations, it would appear that there is no statistical evidence that people of different ethnicity are being treated differently in terms of the use of Voluntary Interviews rather than Arrests.