



Leicestershire
Police
Protecting our communities

Stop & Search Annual Report 2023/2024

Period	April 2023 to March 2024
Force Lead	ACC 1160 Adam Streets
Prepared by	8882 Gina Lines - Threat Assessment Unit Chief Insp. 4345 Audrey Danvers
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Introduction

The purpose of this annual public report is to provide a transparent and reflective insight into the use of stop and search across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland throughout the reporting year 2023/24 (April 1st 2023 – March 31st 2024). Alongside this the report outlines future proposals of how Leicestershire Police will endeavour to ensure stop and search is used in ways to maximise positive outcomes, whilst maintaining community support.

Stop and search is used to allow officers to investigate their suspicions about an individual without having to arrest them. It plays a significant part in ensuring that any use of police powers to arrest people is made proportionately.

Although the use of stop and search has declined over recent years stop and search still remains a hugely important police power for protecting the public. We do not underestimate the impact stop and search has on communities and individuals. We know that to maintain public confidence in its use, the power must be used in a fair and effective manner.

We believe a stop and search is most likely to be fair and effective when;

1. The search is justified, lawful and stands up to public scrutiny.
2. The officer has a genuine and objectively reasonable suspicion they will find a prohibited article or item for use in crime.
3. The person understands why they have been searched and feels they have been treated with respect.
4. The search was necessary and was the most proportionate method the police officer could use to establish whether the person has such an item.

Whilst stop and search is a vital tactic in combating crime, disrupting offenders, and gathering intelligence, we welcome scrutiny and will continue working with our communities and stakeholders to improve the quality of interactions to ensure stop and search continues to help us protect the public.

Summary

In line with the national profile, Leicestershire Police has continued to see an upward incline in calls for police services through both telephony and online contacts. Although officer numbers have seen an uplift, the continued demands on police resources has impacted our use of stop and search.

During 2023/24, Leicestershire Police officers conducted a total of 5731 stop and searches, down 11% from 6448 the previous year (although going back to 2021/22 levels). 14% of all stop and searches were for weapons and 62% for drugs. In comparison, the previous year's stop and searches for weapons were 16% and 61% for drugs. The average number of searches per month in 2023/24 was 478, a decrease from the previous year's figure of 537.

In 2023/24 there were 932 arrests made as a direct result of the use of stop and search powers, this includes 517 arrests after a stop and search for drugs and 193 arrests for possessing weapons. The combined arrest and positive outcome rate for stop and search use in 2023/24 was 29%, which is a decrease from 30% the previous year.

NB The positive outcome rate is the number of stop and searches that lead to an arrest or another outcome, for example a cannabis warning or a report for summons.

This positive outcome rate has steadily increased since 2015 when it was around 19% and has sat around the low-30% for the past few years. 21% of all searches resulted in finding the object searched for, 6% something other than what was searched for and 73% nothing was found.

The increased positive outcome rate is perhaps reflective of a number of measures the force has introduced over a number of years. For example, all new student officers receive dedicated inputs on stop and search focussing on its use and its impact. As a force we have stipulated that officers should not search someone based on the smell of cannabis alone and as a force we do not use key performance indicators for stop and search. As such officers are not pressured into undertaking searches. Supporting them to refrain from completing searches where they are not satisfied that they will find an item.

We recognise the impact of stop and searches on community confidence and specifically the black community. We have also raised officer awareness that the impact of the search does not end with the interaction.

Section 1 – Overview of Stop Search

Legitimacy

An ethical approach

Stop and search is an intrusive policing tool and if not used with care, the damage that any perceived unfairness inflicts on community relations may eclipse any improvement in public safety. We pride ourselves on maintaining our high standards of legitimacy and effectiveness.

National statistics show the use of stop and search throughout England and Wales had been in decline since 2011 but, since 2018 has been in reverse. The force has placed a significant focus on reinvigorating the use of appropriate, ethical and proportionate stop and searches in recent years but with this comes our commitment to ensuring the legitimacy of what we do. The following sub sections highlight the safeguards we have put in place.

Public Focused & Intelligence Led

To ensure stop and search remains a legitimate operational policing tactic its use must reflect community concerns. We continue our community consultation through using 'Neighbourhood Link' (an on-line community messaging and surveying facility enabling the police to broadcast messages as well as survey communities about their concerns) alongside using public surveys, and other engagement methods, to inform our local policing priorities.

Between 2023/24 over 9,000 Neighbourhood Link surveys were completed with the local community. All 9 Neighbourhood Policing Areas received survey responses indicating community concerns for drug use and taking. Drug dealing was cited as an issue in 1816 responses and drug taking for 1585.

As well as considering the local priorities identified by our communities, we also use crime information and intelligence to inform our policing priorities and Force Control Strategy. For 2023/24 this included fighting organised crime, reducing and apprehending those responsible for domestic burglaries and tackling the supply of drugs.

Addressing these priorities required a multi layered approach. One which involved the proportionate use of intelligence-led stop and search.

Internal Scrutiny and Accountability

PILOT- (Police Intervention, Legitimacy and Organisational Transparency) Group – Chaired by an Assistant Chief Constable meets Bi-Monthly and actively seeks to identify information which could suggest any misuse in the use of police powers or discriminatory behaviour. The group consists of a cross section of senior police managers, including Leicestershire Police Academy, Criminal Justice, Neighbourhood Policing alongside equality and diversity practitioners, all providing internal oversight and scrutiny on the use of coercive powers including stop and search, strip search, use of Taser and use of force (UOF).

The PILOT group reviews stop and search data from the most recent period and the last 12 months, analysing trends and disproportionality seeking organisational learning opportunities. Where necessary incorporating these into force policy or procedures. Officers highlighted as high users of stop and search powers have their search records examined by the tactical stop and search group with results fed back into the meeting.

Tactical Level Meeting – Overseen by a Chief Inspector, supports the PILOT group with nominated representatives from around the force responsible for:

- Dip sampling 5% of all stop and search records and officers Body Worn Video
- The recruitment, administration and development of stop and search coaches
- Arranging, publicising and hosting reasonable grounds panels across the force area
- Training and development
- Scoping national best practice and scanning

Chief Officers and Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) scrutiny- The force has scrutiny through the OPCC via the Crime Commissioner's Ethics, Integrity and Complaints Committee. In May 2023 the Ethics Committee reviewed an internal report on the strip search of children within Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland following the national report on the strip searching of children by Dame Rachel de Souza (Strip search of children in England and Wales – analysis by the Children's commissioner for England).

The Chief Constable also chairs the force Diversity, Inclusion and Fairness Board. This examines a wealth of different areas including proportionality and force engagement activity both internally and externally across a range of areas including community scrutiny, and internal staff recruitment, retention and progression.

Supervisor Scrutiny - All stop and search records are reviewed by a supervisor prior to filing. This affords an opportunity to ensure the search is completed based on objective reasonable suspicion and not on any personal factors or characteristics. Supervisors also have access to the BWV recorded during the search.

Where supervisors identify either good practice or practice in need of improvement, these are flagged to the force tactical lead for stop and search for further review or recognition. The outcomes feed into the wider learning for the organisation.

Internal Audits - The force has a dedicated team of auditors who scrutinise force processes ensuring compliance with both force and national procedures and guidelines. Scrutiny around stop and search, forms an integral part of the rolling programme of inspection. In October 2023, the team reported a review of 150 stop and search records, including reviewing the BWV. They found searches based on smell of cannabis alone had decreased but crime recording compliance was only at 90% (the force has embarked on an internal programme to improve officer Crime Data Integrity compliance).

Transparency and External Governance

Body Worn Video - The use of body worn video cameras helps provide both public reassurance and transparency in addition to capturing evidence. Leicestershire Police has personally issued Body-worn video cameras (BWV) to all frontline officers and staff and have mandated that recording is activated whenever stop and search powers are used. Of all stop and searches 95.5% were recorded on BWV. Of the 4.5 % not recorded reasons included faulty camera, camera out of power, no camera available, and officer discretion.

There is a further expectation that it is used when coercive powers are used or when attending incidents likely to involve confrontation. In 2023 Leicestershire Police activated the use of the 30 second pre-record facility on the BWV. This captures the 30 seconds immediately prior to the recording facility being activated. Thereby capturing more of the encounter. We continue further developing the use of and scrutiny of BWV to ensure officers record the entirety of their interactions with members of the public where policing powers may be used.

Leicestershire police dip sample and review the footage from such incidents both internally and externally for example showing randomly selected footage to the external community Coercive Powers Scrutiny Group and the Police Powers Scrutiny Panel. This external scrutiny has been further enhanced with a package of supporting material including the stop and search including the grounds and overview of the incident. After reviewing the material, the group provide feedback for individual and organisational learning.

Coercive Powers Scrutiny Group - In addition to our internal scrutiny described above, analysis of stop and search use is shared with the external Coercive Powers Scrutiny Group (CPSG). The CPSG meets bi-monthly and is chaired by the Chief Executive Officer of The Race Equality Centre (TREC) with invited attendees from the community, legal advocates, and Leicestershire Police.

The group seek to better understand how we are using our powers, to provide us with an independent perspective and when necessary challenge us regarding usage, whilst identifying ways to increase community confidence. At each meeting the group are supplied with data about the use of stop and search and use of force powers. They review randomly selected unedited BWV footage of stop and search encounters, along with contextual documentation including the reason for the search, the grounds given by the officers and the outcome of the search.

Although the group play a key role in stop and search scrutiny, it must be recognised that they play a much wider role in the development of our force stop and search processes including training. In March 2024 the group attended Police Headquarters, where they observed first-hand the delivery of Personal Protection Safety Training (PPST). This training includes stop and search based scenarios. They engaged with the officers and trainers, asking questions to gain a better understanding of how officers are being trained to undertake stop and search. Following the attendance, they reported their observations at the bi-monthly meeting. These were fed back and discussed at the PILOT group meeting.

Police Powers Scrutiny Panel - This is a community panel who review body worn video of the use of police coercive powers. This includes stop and searches. They are presented with randomly chosen searches, along with a package detailing the grounds and any relevant antecedents (such as the incident report) providing contextualisation for the search. The panel consists of community members of black heritage who review the footage, offering feedback for both individual and organisational learning.

Community Reasonable Grounds Panels - The force has hosted external stop and search reasonable grounds panels in different locations around the force area, which were open to the public to attend and review the grounds used in stop and search encounters. These sought to further enhance public transparency by showing the public, not only the grounds for the searches, but the actual BWV footage of the search (some information is redacted for data protection reasons). This enabled the public to review how we conduct the search and the interaction with the person searched.

Lay Observation - We operate a 'Lay Observers' scheme' whereby independent observers are offered the opportunity to accompany officers during police operations and observe police use of stop and search powers. We are actively seeking to increase the number and diversity of our observers to ensure they reflect the communities that we serve and have openly invited our partners and community members to become involved.

S.60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 - S.60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is the 'blanket' power to stop and search any person in a defined area to prevent serious violence or find weapons which are being carried. There have been amendments to S.60 nationally, which would allow an officer of Inspector rank or above to authorise s.60. for both planned and spontaneous use. However, we have implemented protocols around using s.60 which stipulate that for spontaneous use an Inspector may authorise using the power. However, for any pre-planned use, it must be authorised by a Chief Officer (Assistant Chief Constable or above). This power was not used during this reporting period.

Publication of Data - Leicestershire Police publish data and statistical information in relation to stop and search on the Police.uk website. A direct link to this site can be found by accessing the stop and search pages on our website: www.Leics.police.uk

All officers use mobile data terminals to record stop and search electronically (PRONTO), this has greatly improved the efficiency and speed at which the Force can examine and publish stop and search data. It also provides a quicker and more convenient method for people searched to obtain an electronic copy of the record.

Complaints - In 2023/24 there were 24 public complaints relating to stop and search, received by our professional standards department. This is an increase from 13 the prior reporting year. The outcomes were service was deemed acceptable in 15 cases, not acceptable in 4. In the remaining 5, it was either no further action required, not determined if the service was acceptable, or the matter was de-recorded. There is one investigation that is currently sub-judice.

A summary of the complaints and their outcomes are broken down by reported ethnicity.

Black

There were 4 complaints made by persons who self-defined as Black.

- The complainant alleged he was not provided with any written record as to why he was stopped; Outcome - The service provided was Not Acceptable.
- The complainant did not think the search of the boot of his vehicle was lawful; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- The complainant contended he was subject to a stop and search under the guise of the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 based upon false information; and that previous interactions and convictions are not reasonable means to conduct a stop and search; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- That the searching officer damaged the back seats of the complainant's car during a previous stop and search by breaking a hinge off; Outcome - The service provided was Not Acceptable.

Asian

There was 1 complaint by a person who self-defined as Asian

- That neither of the officers provided the complainant with their names, the reason why they were searching him or his rights; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.

White

There were 11 complaints made by persons who self-defined as White

- That Officers failed in their duty of care by not contacting the complainant to advise her of the incident and that her son had been injured; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- That the complainant's van was unlawfully searched; Outcome - The service provided was Not Acceptable.
- That the complainant was stopped by the police in June 2023, and July 2023. The complainant believed they were being victimised and her mental health deteriorated as a result; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- The complainant believed the searches were carried out incorrectly as there was no appropriate adult present; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- That there were no grounds to stop and search the complainant's son; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- That the complainant was pulled over by an unmarked police car, who claimed the complainant had no insurance, when in fact she did; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- The complainant contended that the report detailing the reasons for her son being stop and searched were false; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- The officer pulled the complainant over in her vehicle for no good reason and asserted that this was an abuse of his power; Outcome - Not determined if the service was acceptable.
- A complaint about the searching of a young male. Outcome – This is currently sub-judice.
- That the complainant's brother (12 years) was stopped by Officers as they believed that he fit the description of a young male that had committed a crime. The complainant asserted that the way the officer's treated her brother and handled the matter was appalling; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- The complainant was pulled over by Police on the for speeding, which he asserts he wasn't; Outcome - Not determined if the service was acceptable.

Unknown

There were 8 complaints made by persons who did not declare their ethnicity.

- The complainant contended that the stop and search of their son for drugs was unjust, as his son would not have anything to do with drugs during the holy month and when he is fasting; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- That inappropriate and disproportionate force was used to the complainant's daughter's car; Outcome – No further action required.
- That the officer searching the complainant didn't make their intentions clear to her. The complainant was not told she was to be subject of a strip search. The officer did not provide the complainant with a copy of the search record; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- That the complainant was searched in public and humiliated in front of a group of more than 6 people; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- The officer's grounds for stopping and searching the complainant's vehicle were not consistent with his Body Worn Video footage; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- That the officers searched the complainant when there were no grounds under PACE to do so and did not provide him with a copy of the search form or advise where he could obtain one; Outcome - The service provided was Acceptable.
- That the Officer told a member of the public that they were not allowed to leave but did not explain under what section they were being detained under; Outcome - The complaint was de-recorded.
- That, Officers conducted a stop and search of the complainant's son. Outcome - No further action required.

Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) - In April 2022 the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) produced a report titled National Stop and Search, Learning Report. It reviewed the use of stop and search making a total of 18 recommendations for police forces, the Home Office, the College of Policing and the National Police Chief's Council (NPCC). These included a number of recommendations around using BWV, unconscious bias and stereotyping, and communication and de-escalation tactics. Since the report Leicestershire Police has enacted a number of the recommendations. This has continued into this reporting year.

We continue to follow the recommendations around the smell of cannabis – as a force we continue to follow College of Policing guidance stipulating that it is not best practice for officers to complete searches based solely on the smell of cannabis.

A further recommendation related to training on communication and de-escalation skills. Our Police Personal Safety Training (PPST) programme has been revised. In January 2024 the courses were extended from 2 to 3 days to accommodate the additional training. They focus on training scenarios which look at communication alongside physical protection skills. The training includes stop and search based scenarios.

The report recommended that BWV is used to capture the entire search including the lead up to and conclusion. As a force all front line officers have personal issue BWV, and in 2023 Leicestershire Police activated the 30 second pre-record facility whereby the 30 seconds prior to the activation of the recording facility is captured.

We have continued complying with the recommendations relating to community oversight and scrutiny, including BWV scrutiny. This is through the work with the Coercive Powers Scrutiny Group. In 2024 a further community scrutiny panel was formed. It consists primarily of community members of black heritage. The Police Powers Scrutiny Panel reviews unedited BWV of both stop and searches and police use of force feeding back to both the force and community.

They also recommend that officers should not use force (especially handcuffing) as a matter of routine during searches. This links with a further recommendation that disproportionate force must not be used during searches. Leicestershire Police do not support routine handcuffing during searches. This has been reiterated to officers. All force used must be proportionate, justifiable and necessary. A number of stop and searches involve the use of force (this ranges from compliant handcuffing to the use of a TASER). The force has an internal 'Use of Force' review forum who review a random selection of incidents where force has been used, to ensure compliance with best practice and policy.

With regards to the recommendation that supervisors are sufficiently trained and allowed time to review stop and searches. Leicestershire police have included stop and search supervision within our PC to Sergeant training courses. Alongside this, there are further training opportunities available through our scheduled training days.

We continue addressing recommendations relating to challenging inappropriate behaviour that may have led to a search (such as stereotyping) and ensuring that officers should end encounters once any suspicion has been allayed. This will be through officer training alongside scrutiny.

In line with the recommendation that traffic (vehicle) stops made under s.163 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 are recorded, Leicestershire police stipulated that such stops must be recorded. Designing and creating a specific application enabling information recording. The data collected is analysed at the force PILOT group meeting.

Effectiveness

Training - We have invested in training all of our frontline officers and providing practical guidance in line with the College of Policing Authorised Professional Practice (APP) for using powers to stop and search.

All new officers receive dedicated inputs on stop and search through the Leicestershire Team Academy. Further reinforced with ongoing personal briefings by Sergeants and with the support of a number of stop and search coaches around the force.

Training is further supplemented with a feedback loop to officers following the random dip sampling of 5% of all monthly stop searches completed by the Forces tactical lead for stop search or nominated force leads.

January 2024 saw the implementation of a new Personal Protection and Safety Training (PPST) programme within Leicestershire police through Leicestershire Team Academy. This extended the training from 2 to 3 days, with a focus on scenarios. This includes scenarios based on stop and search. This looks at not only the search, but the communication skills used by the officer during the search.

Strip Search - In April 2023 Dame Rachel de Souza published a document entitled 'Strip search of children in England and Wales – analysis by the Children's Commissioner for England'. This review followed the review undertaken by the Metropolitan Police into the strip search of child Q. The Commissioner's review adduced a number of recommendations including recommendations around strengthening national guidelines for strip searching. These included recommendations around Improving practice and compliance in all police forces.

In recognition of the report in May 2023 Leicestershire Police completed a review of its own processes relating to juvenile strip searches. For transparency and scrutiny this was submitted to the Ethics Committee. This outlined the force's position and processes with regards to juvenile strip searches, both those completed either through the custody process or stop and searches.

In line with these recommendations Leicestershire police introduced and reinforced a number of processes surrounding the strip searching of juveniles. These include;

1. A renewed standard operating procedure within custody which mandates the requirement for the authority of an Inspector before carrying out a strip search of a child or vulnerable adult (ahead of any future changes in PACE)
2. A requirement that all juvenile strip searches arising from stop and searches are authorised by an inspector.
3. A requirement to ensure a vulnerability report is submitted by the officer completing the search regarding a child's detention to include the fact they were strip searched and reasons why (this is ahead of any future changes in PACE).
4. Reinforcing the safeguards around the 'urgency exemption' which allow searches without adults being present. Under the strengthened safeguards the officers will now wait for an adult to arrive before the search begins.
5. A stipulation that strip searches of children / juveniles must only take place in the following locations; a police station; the home address of the child, or a medical establishment.
6. The person searching should be the same sex as the person searched, and searches may not be completed in front of anyone else of a different sex (unless requested by the person searched).
7. Seeking to address data accuracy issues through exploring feasibility to mandate fields within the relevant documentation specifically relating to location and presence of appropriate adult.
8. Strip search data will continue being monitored internally through the PILOT meeting and externally through the Coercive Powers Scrutiny Group meetings.

Section 2 - Stop search data

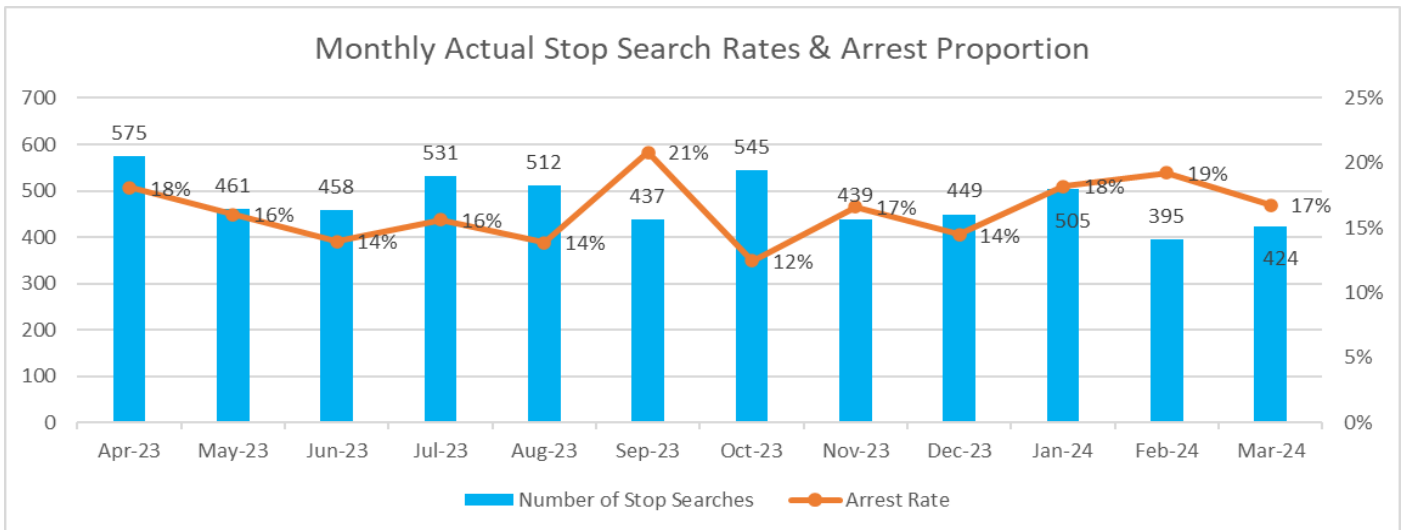
Overview

The following sections set out more detailed analysis of the use of stop and search during 2023/24:

During 2023/24, Leicestershire Police officers conducted 5731 stop and searches, (down 11%) with 14% of searches completed for weapons and 62% for drugs. The combined arrest and positive outcome rate for stop and search use was 29%, a decrease from 30% the previous year.

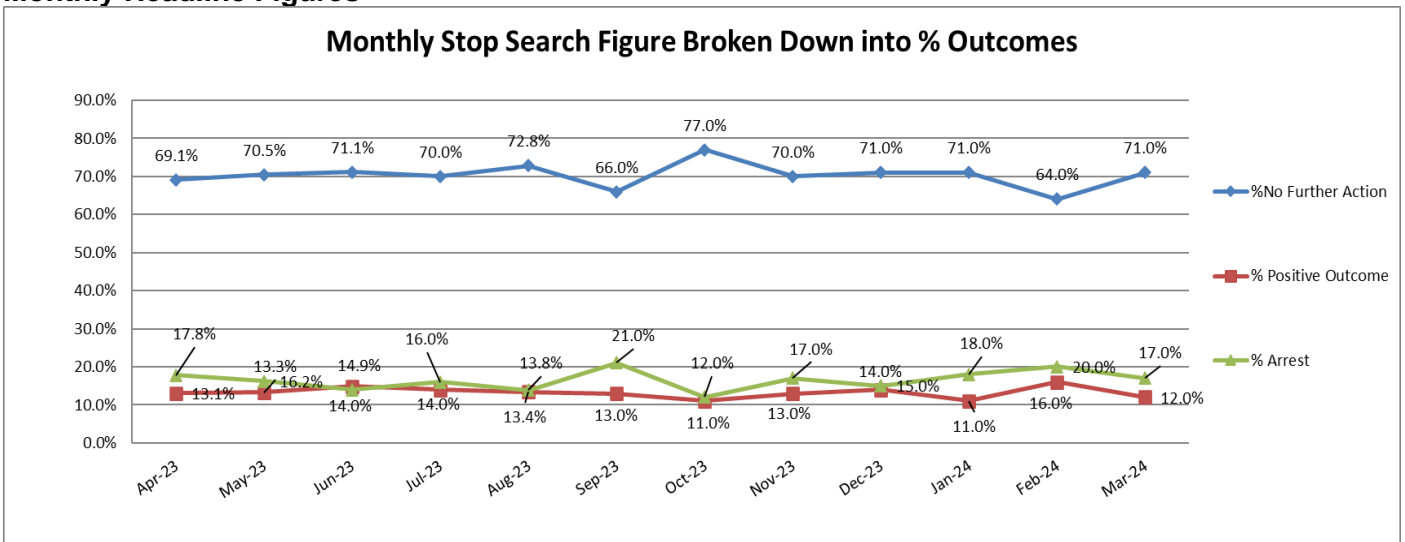
Stop and Search and Stop and Search Arrests

The chart below shows the number of stop and searches carried out since April 2023. The average number of searches per month in 2023/24 was 478 which is a decrease from the previous year's figure of 537. It takes the total number of stop and searches carried out each month (blue bars) and overlays the percentage of those that resulted in an arrest (orange line). This is important as it allows us to understand how effectively we are employing stop and search as a tactic.



The proportion of searches for controlled drugs has fluctuated around the 60% rate while those for offensive weapons have fluctuated between 15-20% since the beginning of the reporting year. In 2023/24 there were 932 arrests made as a direct result of the use of stop and search powers; this includes 517 arrests after a stop and search for drugs and 193 arrests for possessing weapons.

Monthly Headline Figures



Legitimacy Report

The headline figures above cover the 12-month period and shows the actual number of stop and searches broken down by the number of arrests, other positive outcomes and no further action taken.

What this table shows is that despite the decrease in monthly search averages between 2022/23 and 2023/24, the rate of positive outcomes has remained fairly consistent at circa 30%.

Understanding the Volume of Drugs Searches

By the end of the year 2023/24, searches conducted under s.23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act accounted for 62% of all stop search activity.

Proportionality

Proportionality refers to the representation of a racial or ethnic group compared to its percentage in the population. This figure is calculated by using the ethnicity proportions of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) populations from the 2021 Census.

There is no avoiding the fact that both nationally and in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland a disparity does exist between race and stop and search. The reasons for that disparity are complex and can vary depending on local issues and crime trends. It is also important to note that no population base used to determine disparity can ever be entirely accurate, this year the force has been able to use the most up to date information available from the 2021 Census data.

The demographics of the City of Leicester are significantly different to those of Leicestershire and Rutland, with 59% of the population of Leicester identifying as from a Black Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME) community in 2021, compared with just 12% for Leicestershire and 5% in Rutland. This has the effect of the City data influencing the wider force stop and search figures as a result of increased policing activity linked directly to a heavily populated City and associated policing activity.

Section.23 Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) and Proportionality

The tables below illustrates the changes to proportionality rates dependent upon geographic location. Table 1 presents the number of drug searches in the Whole Force area; Table 2 identifies those conducted in Leicester City; and Table 3 shows those in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Whole Force MDA Searches						
Ethnicity	White	Black	Asian	Other	Mixed	Unknown
No. of Searches	2031	574	671	40	125	133
Rate/1000 population	2.5	15.42	3.16	1.37	4.14	
Ratio	1	6.17	1.26	0.55	1.66	
Leicester City MDA Searches						
Ethnicity	White	Black	Asian	Other	Mixed	Unknown
No. of Searches	905	438	465	19	88	76
Rate/1000 population	2.53	15.23	2.95	1.07	6.33	
Ratio	1	2.53	0.49	0.18	1.05	
County MDA Searches						
Ethnicity	White	Black	Asian	Other	Mixed	Unknown
No. of Searches	916	95	146	13	21	43
Rate/1000 population	1.38	11.22	2.66	1.15	1.29	
Ratio	1	8.11	1.92	0.83	0.93	

Here we can see that the much lower population of black ethnicity residents in Leicestershire and Rutland results in a significantly higher level of disparity in the rate per 1000 people. This may be due to non-resident people being stopped and searched on the road networks or there may be other factors, such as entertainment hubs or night-time economy issues. Understanding this disparity is a key objective going forward. When the much larger city BAME population is taken into account, the disparity reduces considerably, demonstrating the impact that different population sizes have on proportionality data.

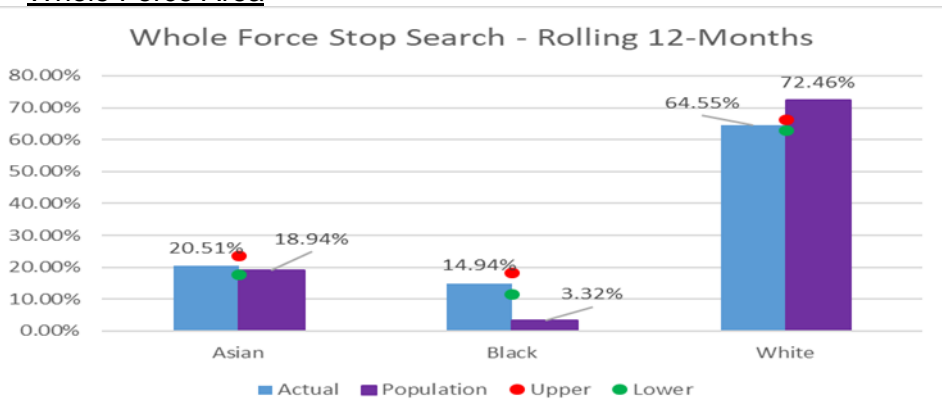
Total Stop and Searches by Ethnicity

During 2023/24, 3437 persons searched were White, and 852 Black. This generated a search disparity of 5.45 for searches and 6.63 for a subsequent arrest. 947 persons were Asian, with a similar level of disparity (1.04 and 1.06) for the initial stop and search and the arrest rate.

Stop and Search by Area

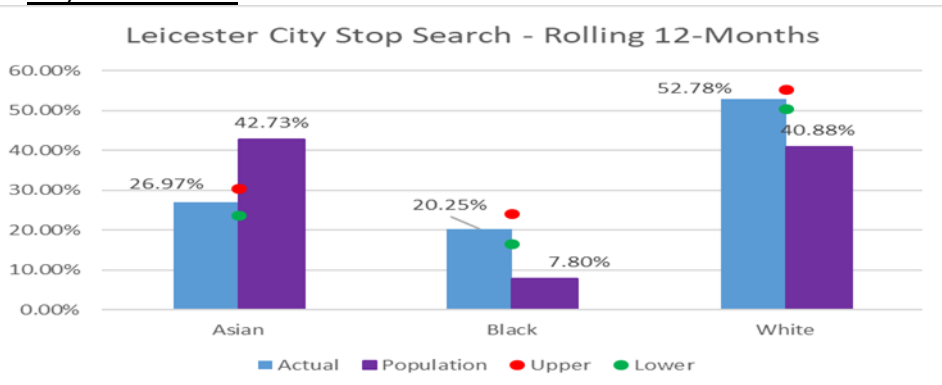
The following charts show the number of Stop and Searches carried out in different parts of the Force area during the 12 months, April 2023 to March 2024, broken down by ethnicity. The chart shows the range (upper and lower points) that the searches for each ethnicity fall between when considering the actual number of searches when compared with the Census 2021 population. For searches to be proportionate to the ethnic make-up of the population, the top of the population (purple) bar needs to fall between the upper and lower range dots.

Whole Force Area



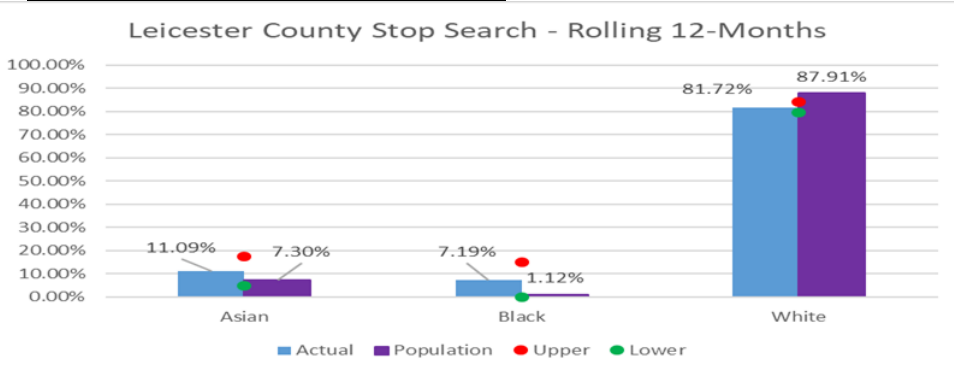
For the whole force area, Asian subject searches were broadly representative when compared to the Asian population in LLR; Black subjects were over-represented when compared with the Black population and White subjects were under-represented in searches during the 12-month period.

City of Leicester



For searches conducted in the City of Leicester, Asian subjects were under-represented in searches when compared to the Asian Leicester City population; Black subjects were over-represented when compared with the Black population in Leicester City; and White subject searches in the City were over-represented during the 12-month rolling period.

Leicestershire and Rutland (County)



For searches in the county, Asian subjects were within proportions for the County Asian population; Black subjects were bordering on being within proportionate limits for the Black population in the County (although the small number of searches makes this statistically less accurate) and White subject searches in the County were under-represented during the 12-month period.

Outcome Rates by Power and Ethnicity

In 2017 His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Service stipulated that forces should monitor and analyse comprehensive stop and search data to understand reasons for disparities. The below seeks to show different ‘outcome’ rates mapped against ethnicities and the different types of searches.

The following tables present this data, which could be interpreted in many ways; a high arrest rate could be seen as effective policing or that officers have a lower threshold for arrest of members of that community. Consequently, greater focus is placed on the combined arrest and positive outcome rate.

WHITE	Alcohol seized	Arrested	Drugs Warning	Local Resolution	No Further Action	Police discretionary resolution	Street Caution	Summons	Unknown	Voluntary attendance	Grand Total
01 Police & Criminal Evidence Act 1984s1					1	5					6
Firearms Act 1968 (s47)		2			2	20				1	25
Hist - Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23)		175	2	204	1033			2	6		1463
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23 (Possession))		38	2	69	241	6				1	365
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23 (PWITS))		53		15	150		1	1			225
PACE 1984 (s1)	1	269	1	73	975	2		5		1	1341
PACE 1984 (s4)						1					1
Search power not listed						4					4
Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (s19)						5					6
Grand Total	1	537	5	364	2434	20	4	12	2	57	3436
Outcome Rate	0.03%	15.63%	0.15%	10.59%	70.84%	0.58%	0.12%	0.35%	0.06%	1.66%	100.00%

BLACK	Arrested	Drugs Warning	Local Resolution	No Further Action	Penalty Notice	Police discretionary resolution	Summons	Unknown	Voluntary attendance	Grand Total
Criminal Justice Act 1988 (s139B)					2					2
Firearms Act 1968 (s47)	1				3		1			5
Hist - Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23)	82		37	285	1	3	3		3	414
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23 (Possession))	9		14	75				1		99
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23 (PWITS))	15		2	52				1		70
PACE 1984 (s1)	53	1	16	181						251
Psychoactive Subs Act 2016 (s36(2))	3		1	6						10
Terrorism Act 2000 (s43)				1						1
Grand Total	163	1	70	605	1	4	3	2	3	852
Outcome Rate	40.4%	0.4%	8.2%	74.0%	0.4%	0.5%	0.4%	0.2%	0.4%	100.0%

ASIAN	Arrested	Drugs Warning	Local Resolution	No Further Action	Police discretionary resolution	Street Caution	Summons	Unknown	Voluntary attendance	Grand Total
Firearms Act 1968 (s47)				1						1
Hist - Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23)	73	1	82	338	1			2		498
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23 (Possession))	11		26	73	1	1		1	1	114
Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (s23 (PWITS))	14		7	36						59
PACE 1984 (s1)	49		17	196	2	1		1		266
Psychoactive Subs Act 2016 (s36(2))	2			6	1					9
Grand Total	149	1	132	650	5	2		3	2	947
Outcome Rate	15.7%	0.1%	13.9%	68.6%	0.5%	0.2%		0.3%	0.2%	100.0%

Summary table of three above

Ethnicity	No. of Searches	Arrest Rate %	Total Arrest & Positive Outcome Rate %	% Searches Conducted for Drugs
All Ethnicities	5730	16	29	63
White	3436	16	29	60
Black	852	19	29	68
Asian	947	16	31	71
Other	66	23	32	61
Mixed	197	25	36	65
Unknown	232	8	17	57

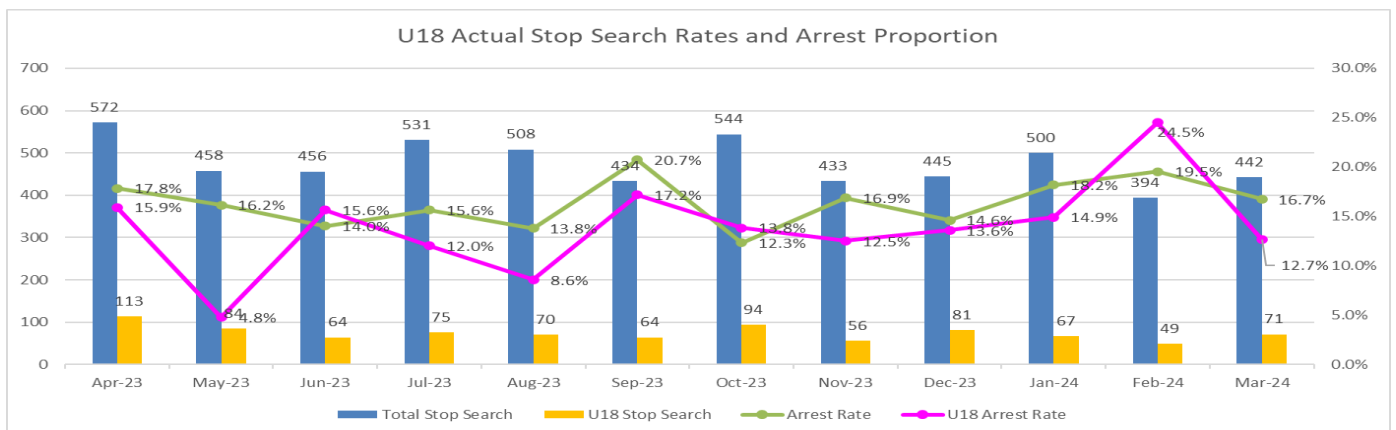
The summary table demonstrates that the total positive outcome and arrest rates for Black and Asian subjects are broadly the same as that for White subjects.

Link between Item searched for and Item found

The headlines from the table below are that for all searches 21% of all searches resulted in finding the object searched for, 6% found something other than what was searched for and for 73% nothing was found. The following table shows the stop search found category by % of subject ethnicity.

	WHITE	BLACK	ASIAN
No - no object(s) found	73.00%	73.00%	72.00%
Yes - object other than that searched for	7.00%	7.00%	4.50%
Yes - the object(s) searched for	20.00%	20.00%	23.50%
	100.00%	100.00%	100.00%

Juvenile Stop and Search



The chart above shows the rate of stop and searches on under 18-year olds in relation to the total stop and search rate. The average monthly rate of under 18 stop and searches was 74, which comprised 15% of all stop and searches. The average arrest rate for all stop and searches was 16.5% and for under 18 was 13.8%.

The under 18 arrest rate over the 12-month period showed that on average more under 18s were arrested for offensive weapons when compared with all stop and searches. This indicates the positive use of stop and search in removing weapons from the communities when carried by younger people.

The proportionality rates for the different ethnicities of under 18s stop and searched were lower than the rates for all stop searches. Specifically, for all persons stop and searched there was a disparity rate of 5.45 for those of a Black ethnicity and 1.04 for those of an Asian ethnicity. The rates for under 18s were 4.2 and 0.6 respectively.

Juvenile Strip Search after a Stop and Search

A strip search is defined as any search conducted by the police that involves the removal of more than the outer layer of clothing (for example the jacket, gloves or an outer layer). It is recognised that such searches may have a traumatic impact on some of those searched. Following the report in 2023 by Dame de Souza

Leicestershire police introduced further safeguards around the strip searching of juveniles following stop and searches, specifically;

1. A requirement that all juvenile strip searches arising from stop and searches are authorised by an inspector or above.
2. A requirement to ensure a vulnerability report is submitted by the officer completing the search regarding a child's detention to include the fact they were strip searched and reasons why.
3. A stipulation that strip searches of children / juveniles must only take place in the following locations; a police station; the home address of the child, or a medical establishment.
4. Strip search data is monitored internally through the PILOT meeting and externally through the Coercive Powers Scrutiny Group meetings.

During 2023/2024 Leicestershire Police completed 137 strip searches under the stop and search powers, of which only one was under the age of 18 (0.7% of all strip searches conducted after a stop search). The individual was a white male believed to be involved with cross-county drug dealing.

Looking to the Future

As a force Leicestershire police, recognise that we must continue our efforts to both understand and address the disproportionality that still exists in stop and search. Both we, and the community recognise the role that both officer discretion and community provided intelligence play in stop and search. We have continued working with our partners in academia through DeMontfort University to better understand how the use of intelligence influences our search profile. We have further internal audit work planned that will further evaluate how we use the intelligence we receive.

We remain committed to working with our communities. The inception of the Policing Powers Scrutiny Panel is evidence of our continued drive to expanding community involvement in transparency and scrutiny. Through Operation Forefront Engage, Leicestershire Police will continue to ensure community engagement is fostered, as we strive to ensure stop and search is used in a way that contributes to building vital community trust and confidence in policing.

Persons to Contact

ACC. Adam Streets, Chief Officer lead for Stop and Search

Email: adam.streets@leics.police.uk

Supt. 429 Paul Allen, Strategic lead for Stop and Search

Email: paul.allen429@leics.police.uk

C/Insp. 4345 Audrey Danvers, Tactical lead for Stop and Search

Email: audrey.danvers@leics.police.uk