



## **Stop & Search / Use of Force Data**

### **City of London Police**

**Q3 – 2023/2024**

### **Summary**

City of London Police (CoLP) continue to support Op Benbow<sup>1</sup> and deploy to Palestine Solidarity Campaign / Pro Israel protests within the City and across London. These protests have been incredibly sensitive in their nature and a measured intelligence-based approach has been used. As both the nature of the protests and signage and potential crimes have evolved, so has the need to adjust the approach to policing – these protests are less likely to result in stop search than other large-scale events as most items are already on show and not as likely to be concealed.

Stop/searches are far more prevalent at major events such as Notting Hill Carnival from Q2 when trying to protect and reassure the public in attendance where credible evidence of violence and weaponry may be more likely. This likely accounts for decreases in the overall stop search numbers (including juveniles) due to the lesser use of Section 60 from Q2 to Q3.

Of the 613 stop/searches in the Q3 period, 88 were dip sampled at a rate of 14.4%, experiential learning and feedback is given to officers where appropriate. There are 5 live ongoing formal complaints under investigation and any learning from these will be shared as necessary.

The drop in overall stop/search coupled with the discovery of the same number of items from Q2 to Q3 has increased the success of positive outcomes from 34% to 43%. This also accounted for a period that saw disproportionality decrease in both Black and Asian categories from 2.5 to 2 and 0.9 to 0.7 respectively. (National rates 2023 - Black ethnicity – 4.85, meaning a person of Black ethnicity is nearly five times more likely to be stopped and searched than a white person, Asian ethnicity – 1.58 times more likely to stop searched).

The University of East London bid continues to be developed and will provide academic and meaningful analysis of CoLP actions, once vetting and logistical issues have been overcome the project can begin formally. It is hoped this will begin in Q1 of 24/25.

Amazon Web Services (AWS) hosted an event on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> February that saw CoLP and the MPS work with youth groups from across London. Aim of the session is to

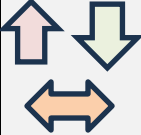






---

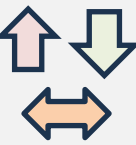







<sup>1</sup> Op Benbow- Cross Border mutual aid Operations with MPS

build trust and confidence in policing. Youth groups reviewed Stop Search and highlighted ways the interaction between police and youth groups could be improved. Learning and input from these sessions will be utilised when relaunching internal scrutiny groups within CoLP to maximise learning and increase confidence within these key groups. This will be expanded to include all those groups that may be deemed vulnerable.

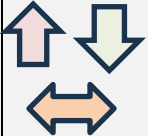



## Stop and Search and Use of Force Data

- **Key changes** – see comments below
- **Disproportionality** – see comments below
- **Outcomes** – See below

Indicator	Value (number)	Change on previous quarter (number and % if appropriate)	Trend 	Comment (if appropriate)
Stop search	613	-111 15.3%		Significant reduction in total stop/search but policing was centred around public order as well as acquisitive crime during the Christmas Operations
Arrest from stop search	176	3 1.73%		Minor increase, not a significant effect on this data set
Searches under s.60	2	-42 95.5%		Significant reduction as many Section 60 searches cover events such as a large CoLP contingent at Notting Hill Carnival, this has knock on effects on juvenile stop/search figures
Juveniles searched	60	-7 10.4%		
Black disproportionality	2	-0.5 20%		
Asian disproportionality	0.7	-0.2 22.2%		

Indicator	Value (number)	Change on previous quarter (number and % if appropriate)	Trend 	Comment (if appropriate)
Total items found	244	0		No change in the items found in this quarter but overall stops are down thus increasing the apparent efficiency of stop search
Strip searches <sup>2</sup> total	2	1 50%		No significant change in this data
Strip search-More thorough	8	-8 50%		Although this shows a 50% reduction, these are relatively small numbers. No clear reason for this reduction.
Juvenile strip searches total	0	0		N/A
Juvenile Strip search-More thorough	0	0		None – see above
Juvenile Strip Search -Intimate parts exposed	0	0		None – See above
Use of force	668	-56 8%		Small decrease in the Use of force in this period. No single determining factor
Juvenile use of force	16	-14 47%		Again, although a significant percentage change, these are relatively low numbers and the summer holidays may impact on stopping of juveniles

<sup>2</sup> See Appendix A for description of types of strip search

Indicator	Value (number)	Change on previous quarter (number and % if appropriate)	Trend 	Comment (if appropriate)
Uses of force arrests	230	-386 40%		Due to a technical Power BI issue, there are 58 awaiting supervisors assessment from December 2023 which may also contain arrest detail. This is being rectified and will be looked at in the next update if appropriate.
Uses of taser	5	-34		There is currently no clear reason for this reduction in Q3. Anecdotally, it may be owing to CoLP currently having less Firearms officers which has led to this reduction.
Taser discharges	0	0		
Live complaints relating to stop/search	0	5		These are complaints that arise from stops and stop/search. Again, no gravity measure to each complaint but immediate trends or issues would be addressed if appropriate
Live complaints relating to use of force	3	5		Minor rise in ongoing complaints – as with stops and stop/search, no significant issues noted or requiring immediate remedy

## Key wider issues, risks, and mitigations

- The MPS Stop/Search Charter is being explored and may lead to a change in terminology and process with “strip” searches having a new process. The MPS call this a ‘more thorough search where intimate parts’ are exposed (MTIP) search, an extract from the guidance is: *This is where you take the person who you are stopping and searching to a private place, usually but not always a police station and remove their underwear because you suspect an illegal item is being hidden there. Do not confuse MTIP searches with ‘strip searches’ which are different and take place in the custody suite after arrest and in custody. The ‘intimate parts’ are genitals, buttocks & female breasts.*
- This comes with guidance and checklists to ensure all officers know their responsibilities and CoLP will look to integrate with our systems and to ensure we have scrutiny and correct governance.

## Appendix A

### Information on Strip Search policy and SOP

Stop/search legislation affords power to require the removal of different levels of clothing. For searches conducted on the street, only ‘JOG’ items (jacket, outer-garment, gloves) maybe removed. If more than ‘JOG’ items are removed, then the search constitutes a ‘strip search’ and must be recorded as such. There are two levels of strip search. A ‘more thorough search’ which can involve the removal of more than JOG items but not require the removal of underwear. A more thorough search must be conducted out of public view (this can include inside a police vehicle). If underwear is removed, this constitutes an ‘intimate parts exposed’ search. Such a search may only be conducted in a police station.

Force policy is that a supervisor must be consulted and agree with the search (under legislation they are only required to be informed). Juveniles may be strip searched, but although there are no additional legislative bars which must be cleared to conduct such a search, in practise for it to be proportionate the grounds for such a search must be significant and robust, and recorded as such. When a juvenile is subject to any degree of strip search an appropriate adult should be present unless there is an overwhelming reason to conduct the search in their absence (for example, suspecting that the subject is concealing a weapon with the intention to hurt themselves or another person).