
Performance Information Unit



Use of Force

Quarter 3 2020/21

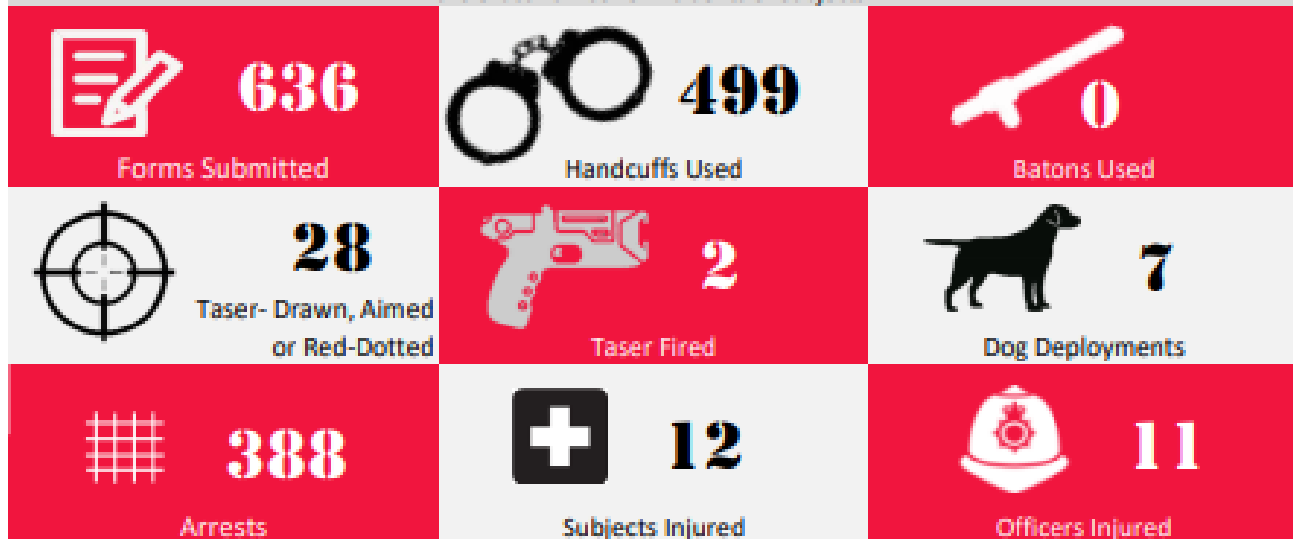
1st October – 31st December 2020

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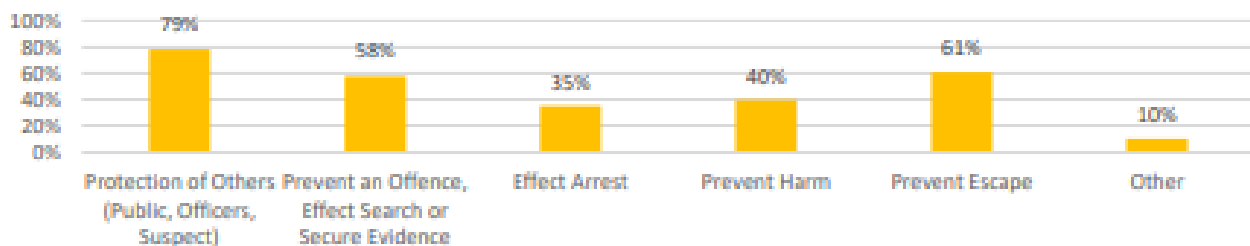
Use of Force Summary

Q3 2020/21 (1st October - 31st December 2020)

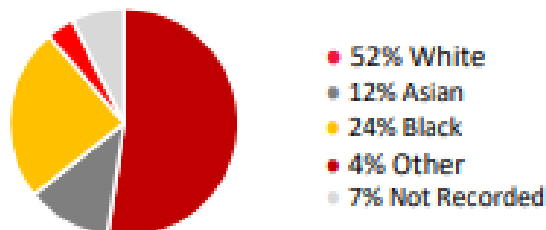
This summary provides an insight into the number of submitted use of force forms. More than one form can be submitted for an incident if multiple officers are involved. Each form can also include multiple reasons for the use of force and/or multiple tactics. Details of the subject on the forms submitted will be duplicated due to these repetitions. Therefore the below are an indication of the content of the forms themselves and are not a reflection of the exact number of incidents or subjects.



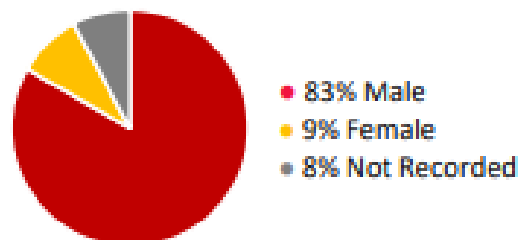
Reason for Use of Force (% of all forms)



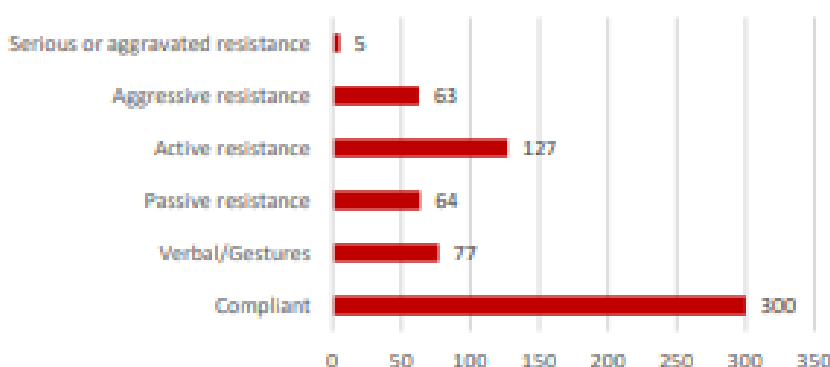
Subject Ethnicity



Subject Gender



Conduct of Subject



16%

of forms involved subjects believed to have mental health issues

2%

of forms involved juveniles

Use of Force – Quarter 3 2020/21

1.1 Introduction

This report provides an insight into the number of submitted use of force (UoF) forms. Each officer involved in a UoF incident is required to submit a form detailing their involvement. Each form can also include multiple reasons for the use of force and/or multiple tactics. Details of the subject on the forms submitted will be duplicated due to these repetitions. The following figures are therefore an indication of the content of the forms themselves and are not a reflection of the exact number of incidents or subjects.

UoF reporting within the City of London follows national guidelines requiring the reporting of the use of any of the following tactics; handcuffing, unarmed skills, use of police dogs, drawing or use of a baton, drawing or use of irritant spray, limb / body restraints, spit guards, shields, conductive energy device (C.E.D currently TASER), AEP (attenuating energy projectile), firearms and other improvised techniques. An additional tactic available in the City is the use of horses.

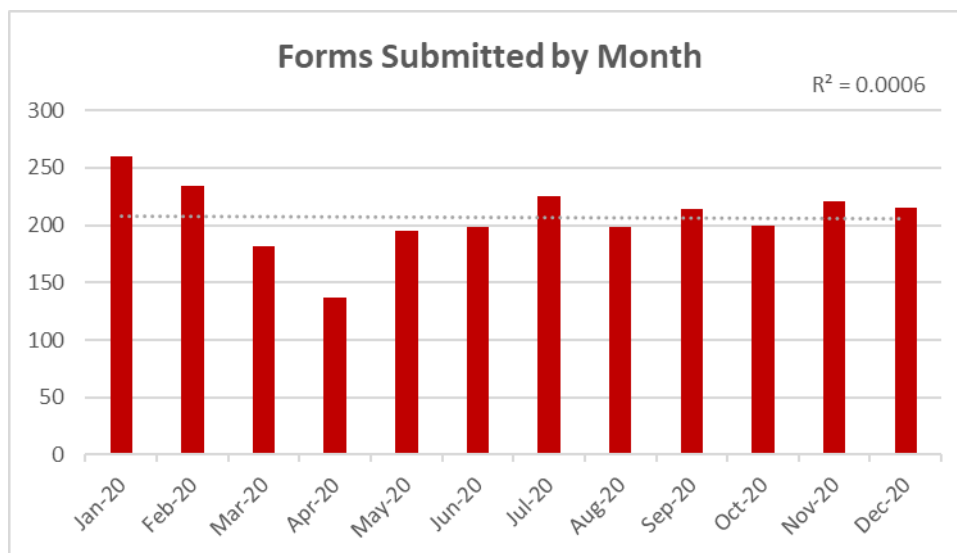
When choosing the appropriate tactical option officers are required to use the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve their legitimate aim.

1.2 Key Findings

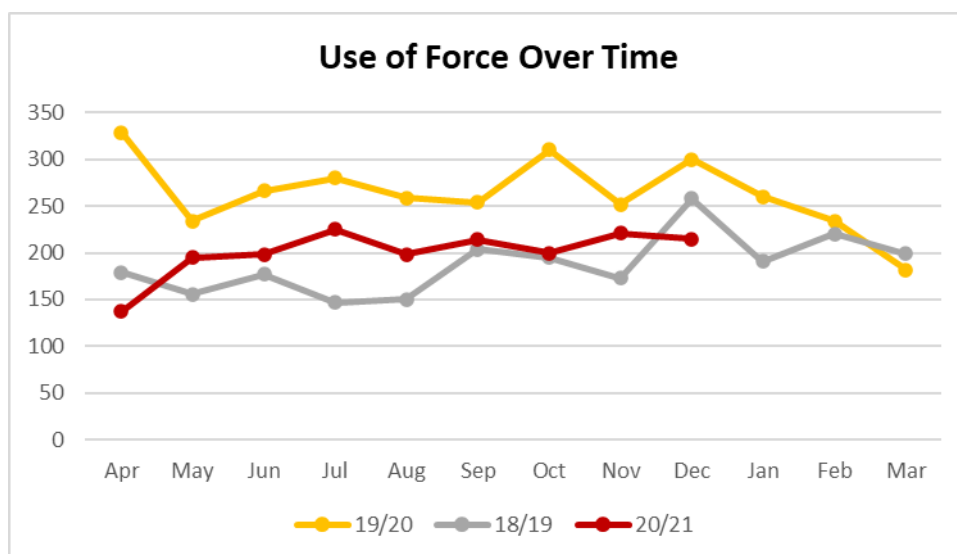
- Submission of Use of Force forms remains very similar to last quarter averaging 212 forms a month. We didn't see the usual spike of form submission in December.
- Looking at patterns of form submission over time we can see that although levels have remained similar over the last couple of months they generally remain higher than 2018/19 but lower than increased levels seen in 19/20
- The most common impact factor reported on forms this quarter was drugs (42%, n=267) which remains at a similar level to last quarter, the only reported impact factor to change this quarter was alcohol which has fallen 6 percentage points from 32% to 28% likely because of licensed premises being limited or closed.
- Taser was drawn 28 times this quarter and fired twice at the same incident.
- There was an increase in the number of incidents where officers drew their taser but took no further action this quarter.
- Fourteen officers were spat at during the quarter, an increase from last quarter and of particular concern due to risks relating to Coronavirus.
- Disproportionality levels have decreased slightly from last quarter and remain consistent with average levels across the last two years.
- There are indications that taser is being disproportionately used against black individuals and this needs to be explored further.

1.3 Q3 Overview

The average number of Use of Force (UoF) forms per month over the last quarter is 212, remaining at a similar level to last quarter. July saw the highest number of forms submitted since February. Despite the tightening of restrictions in December we didn't see as steep a decrease as experienced in March – it may be that this comes in January. Previous to this quarter we were seeing a decreasing trend but with levels being fairly steady over the last six months we have reached something of a plateau.



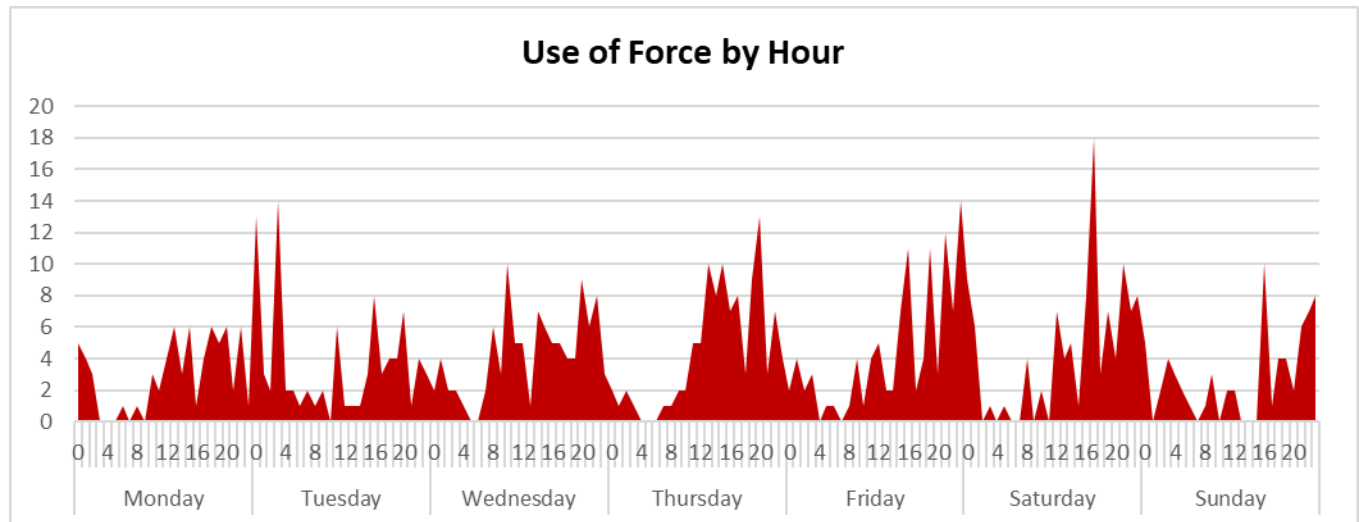
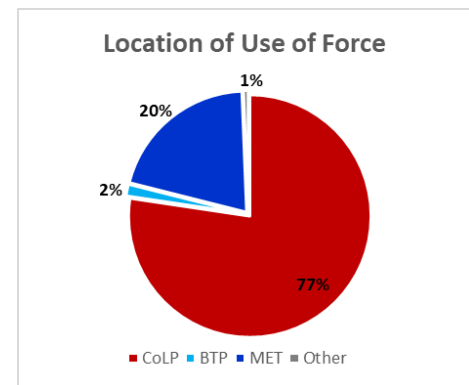
Looking at patterns of form submission over time we can see that although levels have remained similar over the last couple of months they generally remain higher than 2018/19 but lower than increased levels seen in 19/20. In previous years we have seen form submission spike in December which did not happen this year perhaps suggesting that local restrictions did have an impact after all.



Of the 636 forms submitted this quarter 492 (77%) occurred on City of London ground with a further 140 (22%) taking place in the wider metropolitan London area or BTP London transport hubs.

In the last three months 13 forms submitted related to public order events, mostly relating to Anti-Lockdown protests in Central London in early November.

The most common time for UoF incidents this quarter was between 16:00-17:59 followed by 19:00-20:59. In terms of days Saturday is most common followed by Thursday and Friday. Saturday afternoon is the peak that emerges this quarter looking at both day and time.

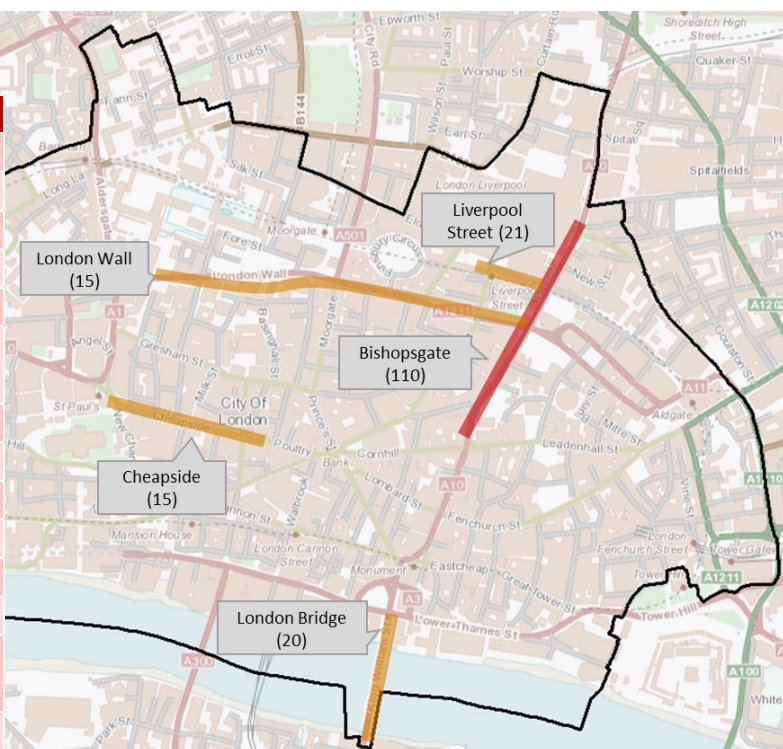


During this quarter there were 12 forms that reported that the subject received a minor injury as a result of the Use of Force. Eleven officers received injuries, all injuries were minor. Nine officers believed their injuries were the result of the subject intentionally trying to assault them.

Just over a third of forms had an incident number completed (36%, n= 228), when custody numbers are included this increases to 73% (n=466) maintaining the improvements seen last quarter.

2.1 Location

Incident Location	Instances
Street / Highway	486
Custody	59
Retail Premises	39
Other	31
Dwelling	22
Police Vehicle (with handling cage)	19
Open Ground	16
Licensed Premises	16
Mental Health Setting	13
Police Station	12
Hospital	10
Public transport	9
Police Vehicle (without handling cage)	8
Ambulance	3
Sports/Event Stadia	0



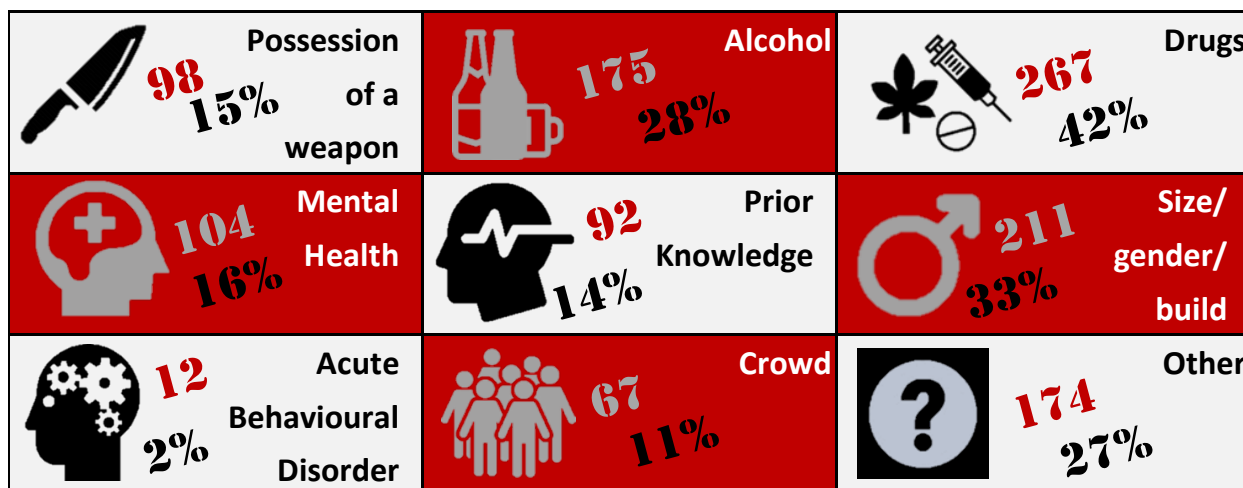
The map above highlights the top five areas associated with Use of Force forms within the City this quarter and the table details the most common types of location. Each form can list multiple location types.

As usual the locality where most use of force takes place is the street/highway and Bishopsgate is the key street location within the City.

All forms had a recorded street location this quarter.

Repeat street locations are mostly to the east of the City this quarter. Incidents relating to licensed and retail premises remain low as many have not reopened within the City.

2.2 Impact Factors



Like location types, multiple impact factors can be recorded on each form – a subject could for example be under the influence of alcohol, of a large size/build and amongst a crowd of others.

The most common impact factor for use of force this quarter is drugs which was recorded on 42% of all forms, this has fallen 1 percentage point from last quarter but remains higher than levels we were seeing before lockdown. Other categories that have seen significant change this quarter are alcohol which has decreased from 34% to 28% and size/gender/build has increased slightly from 31% to 33% both higher than seen before lockdown.

Looking at how impact factors correlate with subject behaviour the main factors leading to increased resistive behaviour are alcohol and crowds (81% and 84%, compared to 53% for all forms). Resistance in general is higher this quarter than last increasing from 40% of forms to 53%.

35% of mental health impacted forms resulted in the subject being detained under the mental health act or hospitalised (n=36).

Taser was used most often on those forms where possession of a weapon was an impact factor (n=19) or where the subject's size, gender and build were a factor (n=12).

2.3 Reason for Use of Force

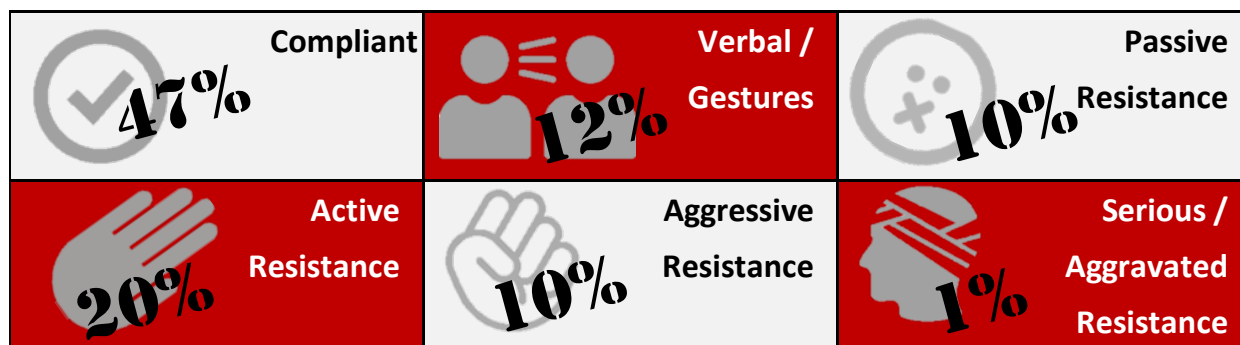


As with other factors there can be multiple reasons given for use of force so figures will not add up to 100%.

The primary reason given for UoF is the protection of others, 79% of forms (n=500), this may be the public, other officers or the subject themselves. This has remained consistent with previous quarters.

There has been an increase in the number of forms linked to preventing an offence or securing evidence (from 34% to 58%) which has been the biggest change this quarter, most other areas remain broadly consistent with previous periods.

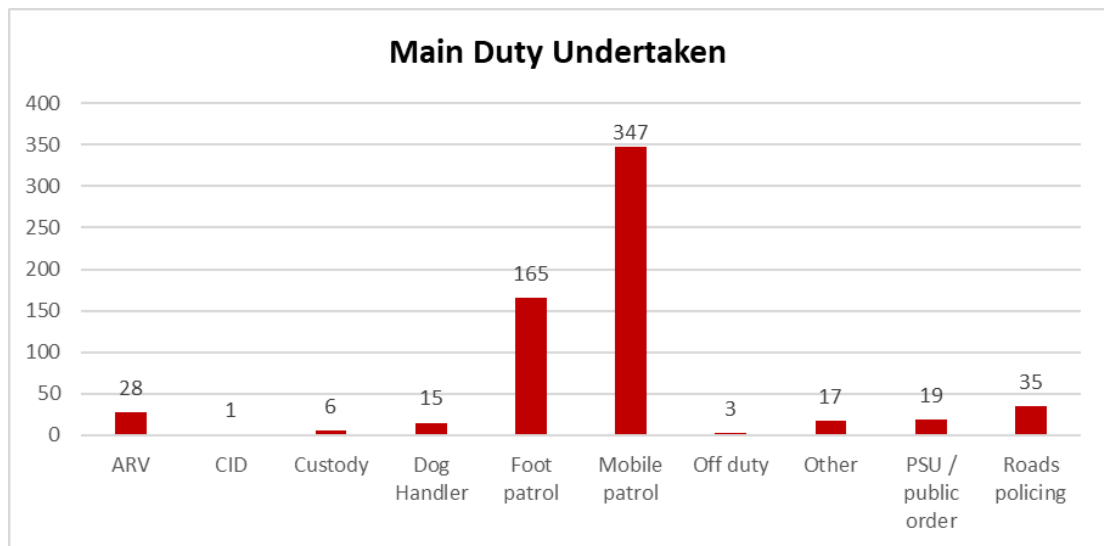
2.4 Conduct of Subject



Subjects were mostly compliant with the use of force- levels of the various types of compliance remain like those reported in previous quarters.

2.5 Officer Details

- **Violence:** Eleven officers received minor injuries with nine believing the injury to have been inflicted intentionally. Two other officers were assaulted but sustained no injuries. Fourteen officers were spat at during the quarter, an increase from last quarter and higher levels of spitting continue possibly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.
- **Weapons:** Four officers were threatened with a weapon; one with a bladed article, one had objects thrown at them and two with other objects. No officers were injured during these incidents. There were a further 95 forms submitted where intelligence suggested a weapon may be present.
- **Main duty:** 55% of officers utilising UoF were on mobile patrol and 26% were on foot patrol, all other areas made up small percentages of reporting. There has been a slight increase of reporting from officers on road policing perhaps due to increases in this activity during lockdown. In 8% (n=49) of submitted forms the officer reporting was single crewed at the time of use of force.



- **Directorate:** UPD represents 97% of all UoF, followed by Crime (2%) with ECD, I&I and Business Support submitting 1% of forms or less.
- **Rank:** Constables (including PC, DC and SC) account for 95% of UoF, Sergeants account for 4% and 1% of forms are submitted by inspector rank or higher. Fourteen forms relate to actions taken by detective constables, sergeants or inspectors.
- **Gender:** Most officers using force are male (86%) compared to female (14%).
- **Age:** Officers ages ranged from 19-56 years with the average age being 32 years and most common being 27 years.
- **Training:** Most officers carrying out use of force had received Personal Safety Training (PST) within the previous 12 months. There were 44 incidences of UoF where the officer's PST occurred over 13 months ago, forces have been granted an extension on this as officers have not been able to undertake face to face training under social distancing rules.

2.6 Tactics Used

	Tactic															
Tactic Order	Tactical communications	Handcuffing (compliant and non-compliant)	Unarmed skills (including pressure points strikes restraints and takedowns)	Ground Restraint	Limb/Body restraints	Baton drawn	Irritant spray PAVA drawn	Irritant spray CS drawn	Spit Guard	Dog deployed	Dog Bite	Taser	Firearms	Horse	Other / improvised	Not Applicable/ Order Unknown
1 st	379	191	23	-	-	1	-	-	2	3	-	16	3	4	1	13
2 nd	15	248	104	-	3	5	1	1	2	4	1	24	-	7	1	219
3 rd	9	44	16	1	9	-	2	-	2	-	-	17	-	2	-	534
4 th	3	12	9	1	2	-	-	-	5	-	-	5	-	-	-	599
5 th	2	5	2	-	5	-	-	-	1	-	-	6	-	-	-	615
6 th	-	2	2	-	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	628
7 th	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	634
8 th	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	635

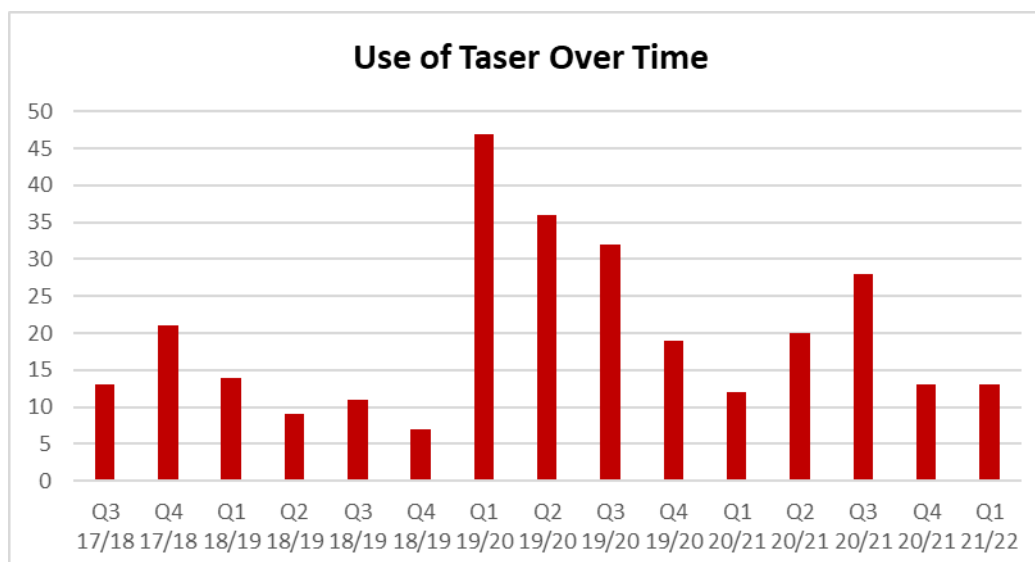
Some tactics were not used at all this quarter – the drawing and use batons, CS Spray or PAVA spray – so have been removed from the table.

There are 13 forms where the order of tactics has not been recorded. In 34% of UoF forms (n=216) only one tactic is utilised, with the maximum number of tactics recorded on any form being 8. Tactics can be repeated across the form for example tactical communications might be used both 1st and 3rd.

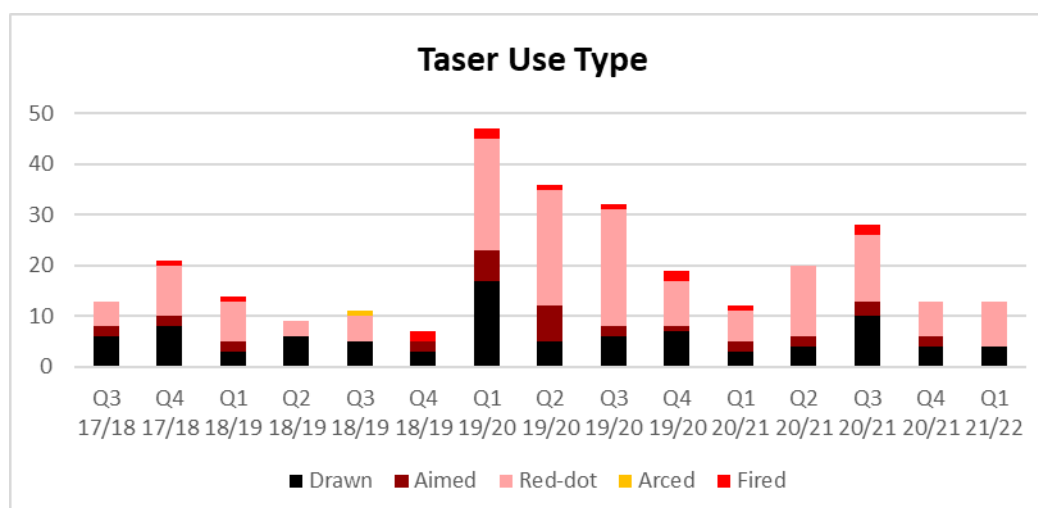
Taser was available at the scene in 68% of forms (n=435). Taser trained officers submitted 287 forms, 248 were carrying at the time of the incident while 39 were not. Taser was drawn 28 times this quarter, most commonly red dotted (13) and otherwise aimed (3) or drawn (13). There were two Taser firings this quarter.

2.7 Taser Usage

On average since recording began on Niche RMS there have been 15 uses of taser recorded each quarter (roughly 5 uses a month). Taser use is recorded on 3% of all forms submitted. The most common highest usage is to red-dot the subject which is the case in 53% of reports (n=157), there have been 13 occasions of firing in the last 3 years. In just under a third of incidents the officer involved never goes further than drawing the taser (30%, n=89).



There was a clear increase in the use of taser in 2019/20 with reports increasing 227% from 41 to 134 between the two years. There was a particular spike in Q1 of 2019/20 when we also saw a spike in all forms being submitted, it was inferred this increase was related to an increase of protest activity in and around the capital in that period. This also coincides with an unprecedented crime increase in the city in 2019/20, particularly in Q1-Q3.



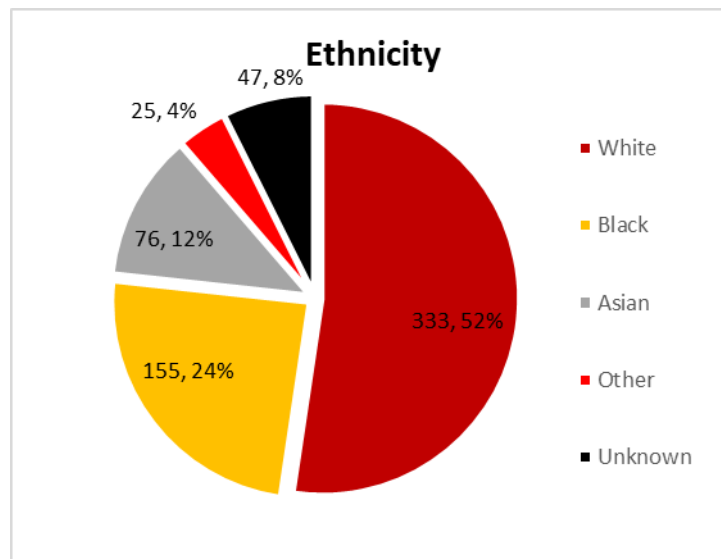
When looking at the ethnic breakdown of taser use over the last 12 months subjects have been predominantly either white or black (36%, n=31 each) with 9% of forms not recording the ethnicity of the subject (n=14). Comparing this to the greater London population suggests that black people are 4.5 times more likely to have taser used against them than their white

counterparts and Asian individuals 1.44 times more likely. However, caution needs to be taken with these numbers due to the small volumes as any change can have a big impact on the proportionality ratio.

When we look at the behaviour of the subjects in taser incidents this quarter they were most likely to be offering active or aggressive resistance to the officers involved and all but 2 were arrested.

3.1 Subject Ethnicity

Similar to other aspects of Use of Force forms if more than one officer is involved in an incident the subjects details will be duplicated – these figures show the information from the forms and give an indication of individuals involved but will not be exact.



Some unknown forms (n=13) were forms where subject details were not recorded these are all Public Order related and the information is not required in these instances.

3.2 Disproportionality

Due to the relatively small resident population compared to the large transient population in the City disproportionality is difficult to calculate. Therefore, the resident population of the whole London region (including the City) from the 2011 Census have been used. Based on this information people within black ethnic groups are 2.1 times more likely than the white population to have force used against them. People from other or Asian ethnic groups were less likely than white people to have force used against them this quarter.

BLACK

2.09

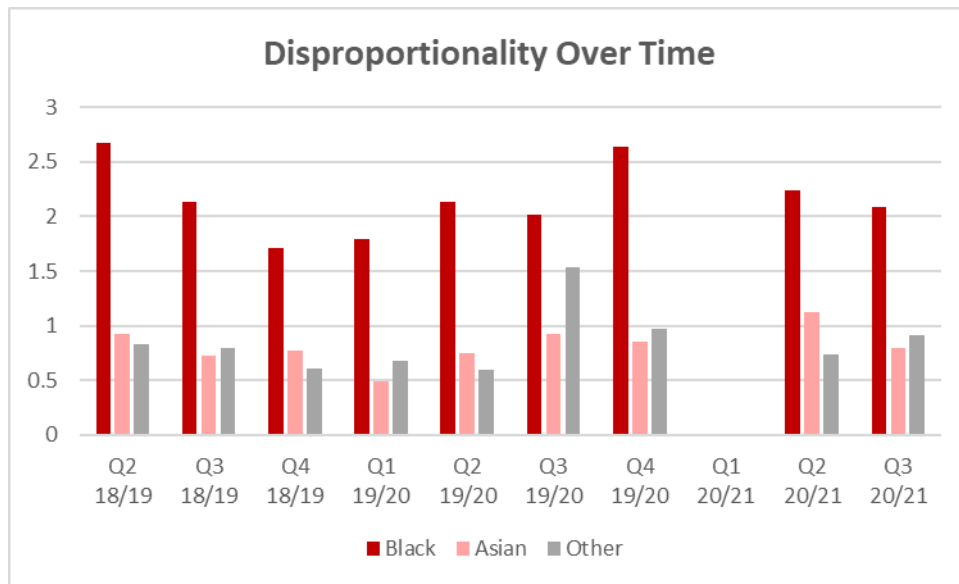
ASIAN

0.8

OTHER

0.91

If we look at disproportionality levels over the last two years the average levels are very similar to what has been found this quarter; 2.1 for black individuals, 0.81 for Asian individuals and 0.86 for other ethnicities. Q1 20/21 disproportionality data was not calculated due to an issue with data extraction that quarter but for the last two quarters levels have been decreasing from where they were at the end of 2019/20.



3.3 Subject Ethnicity Breakdown

- Points highlighted in **RED** indicate an over representation of more than 5% based on comparing white subjects and the overall cohort.
- Points highlighted in **YELLOW** indicate under representation of more than 5% based on comparing black subjects and the overall cohort.

3.3.1 White

There are a total of 333 white subjects recorded on forms; 82% were male, 12% female and 6% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 204 (61%) were arrested, the same as the rate for the whole cohort.
- **Injury:** Of the 12 subjects who received an injury 9 were white.

Impact Factors

- 113 (34%) link to alcohol, higher than the whole cohort of 28%.
- 126 (38%) link to drugs, slightly lower than the whole cohort rate of 42%.
- 68 (20%) have mental health concerns, higher than the whole cohort at 16%.
- 110 (33%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, the same as the overall percentage.
- 51 (15%) involve possession of a weapon, again the same as the overall percentage

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 78% were handcuffed, the same as the whole cohort.

- **Taser:** 8 out of 28 uses involved white subjects.
- **Baton:** All 6 baton drawings involved white subjects.
- **Dog Deployed:** 4 out of 7 dog deployments involved white subjects
- **Limb/body restraints:** 16 out of 20 occasions were against white subjects.
- **Spit guard:** 12 out 14 occasions involved white subjects.

3.3.2 Black

There are a total of 155 black subjects recorded on forms; 88% were male, 7% female and 5% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 108 (70%) were arrested, higher than the overall percentage (61%).
- **Injury:** Of the 12 subjects who received an injury 1 was black.

Impact Factors

- 32 (21%) link to alcohol, lower than the whole cohort of 28%.
- 65 (42%) link to drugs, the same as the overall percentage.
- 19 (12%) have mental health concerns, lower than the whole cohort at 16%.
- 57 (37%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, slightly higher than overall 31%.
- 34 (22%) involve possession of a weapon, higher than the whole cohort of 15%.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 78% were handcuffed, the same as the whole cohort.
- **Taser:** Use recorded 11 times against black subjects.
- **Dog deployed:** Three dog deployments and the one dog bite this quarter involved black subjects.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 2 of the 20 occasions were against black subjects.
- **Spit Guards:** Use recorded once involving a black subject.

3.3.3 Asian

There are a total of 76 Asian subjects recorded on forms; 97% were male and 3% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 45 (59%) were arrested, slightly lower than the overall rate of 61%.
- **Injury:** Of the 12 subjects who received an injury 2 were Asian.

Impact Factors

- 5 (7%) link to alcohol, much lower than the whole cohort of 28%.
- 52 (68%) link to drugs, significantly higher than the whole cohort at 42%.
- 4 (5%) have mental health concerns, lower than the whole cohort at 16%.

- 24 (32%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, just below 33% for the whole cohort.
- 5 (7%) involved possession of a weapon, lower than the overall rate of 15%.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 92% were handcuffed, significantly higher than the whole cohort at 78%.
- **Taser:** Use recorded twice times against Asian subjects.

3.3.4 Summary

- White individuals were more likely to be impacted by alcohol than other ethnic groups and were the group most likely to have the batons, body restraints or spit guards used against them.
- Incidents involving black individuals were most likely to be impacted by the potential possession of weapons and most likely to end in an arrest.
- Use of force incidents involving Asian individuals were most likely to be impacted by drugs and less likely to be impacted by any other factors and they were more likely to be handcuffed than other groups.

3.4 Subject Gender

The subject's gender has been recorded on 92% of forms (n=586) continuing the improvement on previous quarters where this is usually around 80%, for those forms where the gender is known 90% are Male and 10% Female. Overall percentages are shown below;

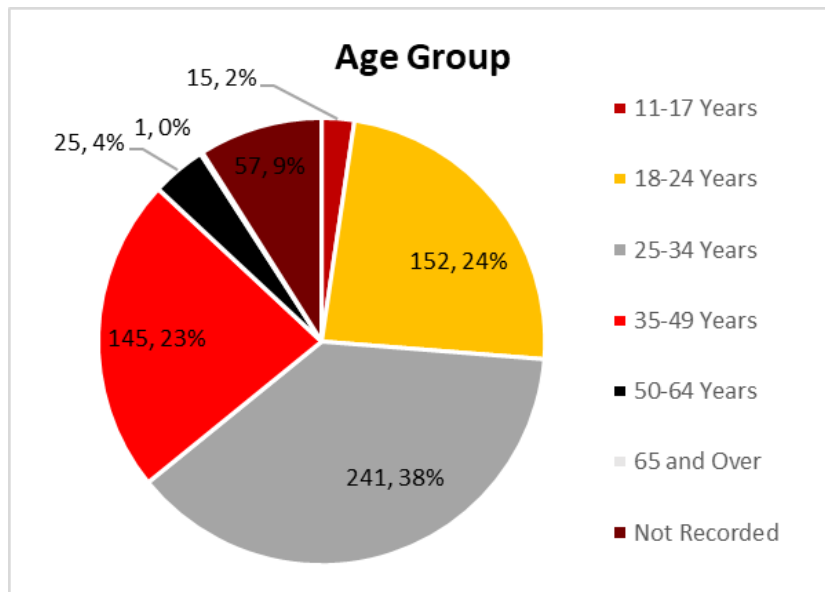


One female had a baton drawn against her this quarter and 3 forms with female subjects record the use of spit guards. On the whole females were less compliant with use of force than men (23% to 52%) and were more likely to offer passive active or aggressive resistance than men.

3.5 Subject Age

The age of subjects is not recorded on a number of forms (9%, n=57), as with gender this is a smaller percentage than in previous quarters and 13 of these forms refer to Public Order where the details are not routinely recorded.

Force is used most frequently against those aged 25-44 years old (38%, n=241) and then 18-24 years old (24%, n=152).

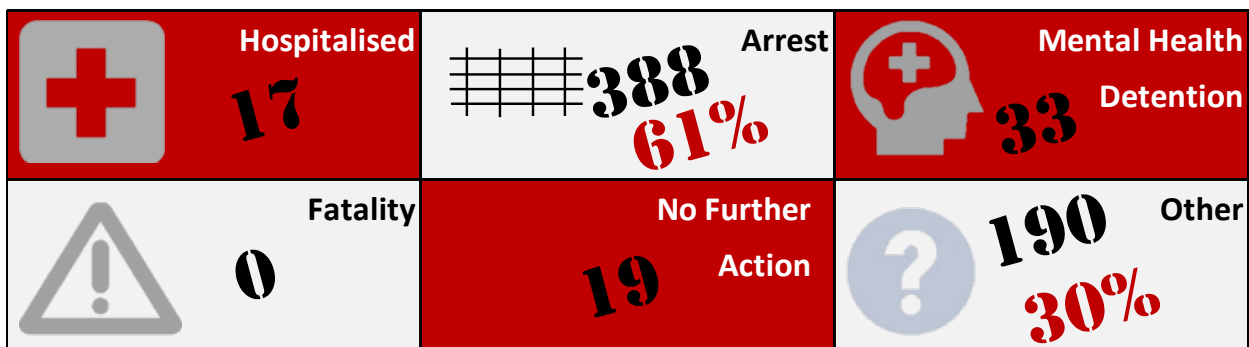


3.5.1 Children (Under 18)

Indicators in **RED** are those greater than the average for the whole cohort, while those in **YELLOW** are lower than average.

- There were 15 forms involving children – all aged between 12 and 17, the majority were 16 or 17 years old (87%, n=13).
- **All juveniles involved in use of force were male.**
- The most commonly stated impact factors were **other** (53%, n=8) and then **possession of weapons** (40%, n=6). Children were less likely than the overall cohort to be impacted by **mental health** (7% compared to 19%) or **drugs** (14% compared to 43%) and no forms involving juveniles reported an impact factor of **alcohol**.
- There were two incidents involving taser used against juveniles this quarter, both times it was drawn but not aimed or fired, both subjects were suspected of possessing weapons and offered active resistance.
- **93% handcuffed; 40% arrested.**

3.6 Outcomes



This quarter there are 17 forms showing hospitalisation as an outcome yet none of these subjects received an injury as a result of the use of force, eight were however detained under the mental health act.

This quarter is the first with the new outcome field of No Further Action replacing a previous option of Made Off/Escaped – numbers here will be monitored over the coming quarters to establish what is a ‘normal’ level and see if it starts to bring down the number of forms recorded with an Other outcome.