



Use of Force

Quarter 4 2020/21

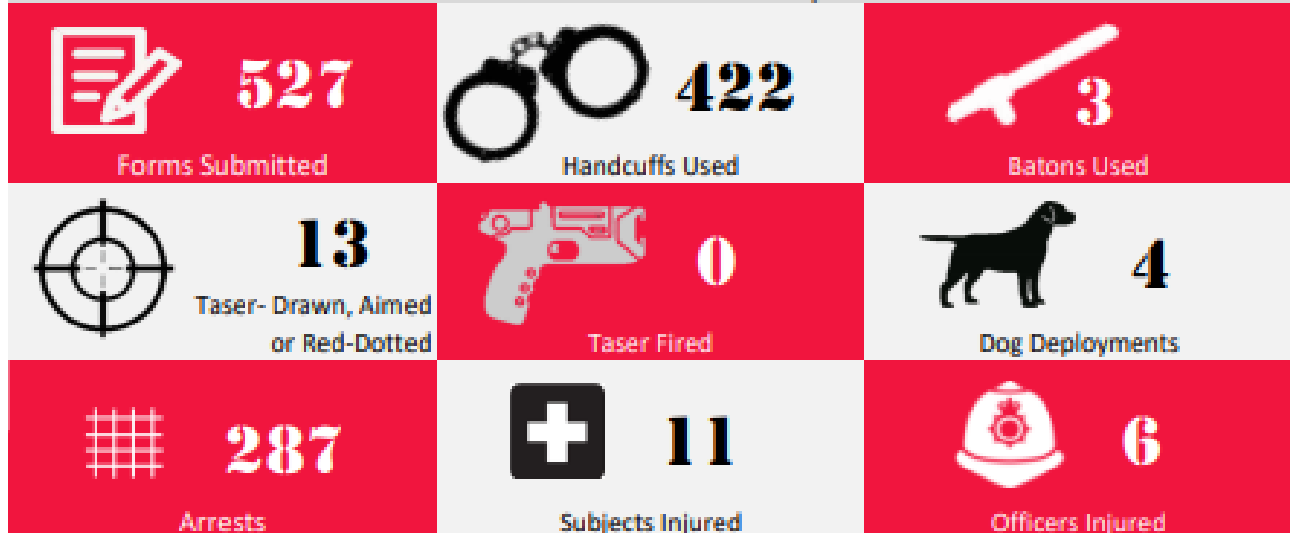
1st January – 31st March 2021

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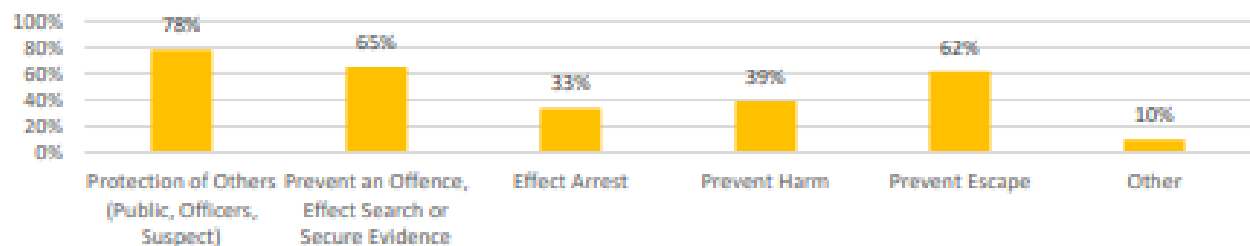
Use of Force Summary

Q4 2020/21 (1st January - 31st March 2021)

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)

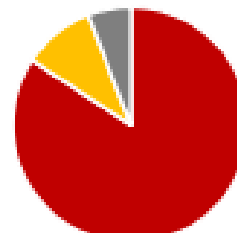


Subject Ethnicity



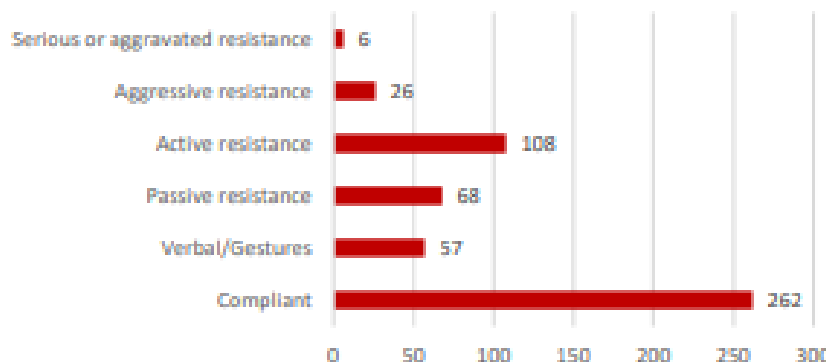
- 44% White
- 15% Asian
- 31% Black
- 2% Other
- 7% Not Recorded

Subject Gender



- 84% Male
- 10% Female
- 6% Not Recorded

Conduct of Subject



16%

of forms involved subjects believed to have mental health issues

5%

of forms involved juveniles

Use of Force – Quarter 4 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 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.

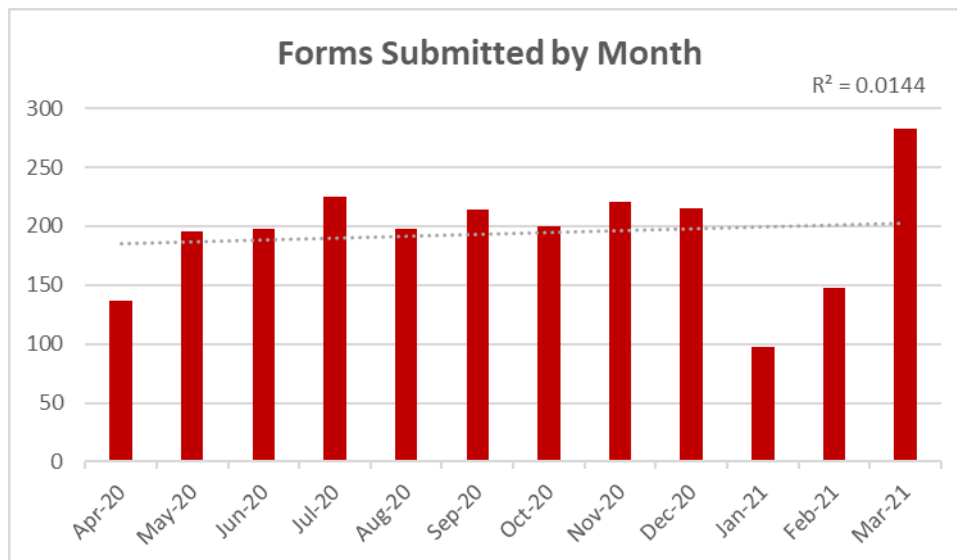
When choosing the appropriate tactical option officers are required to use the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve their legitimate aim.

1.2 Key Findings

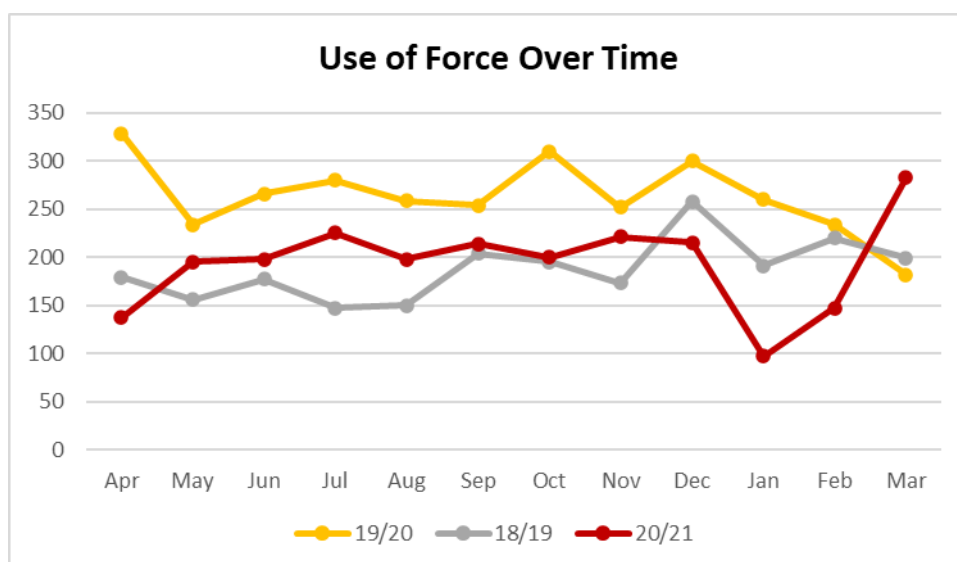
- Submission of Use of Force forms has dropped slightly this quarter with levels being particularly low in January but increasing in March as lockdown restrictions eased. The average number of forms submitted each month this quarter was 175.
- Looking at patterns of form submission over time we can see that this year they have generally remained higher than 2018/19 but lower than increased levels seen in 19/20, the number of forms submitted in March 2021 was the highest since December 2019.
- The most common impact factor reported on forms was drugs (47%, n=248) which remains at a similar level to last quarter, the only reported impact factor to change significantly this quarter was alcohol which has fallen 9 percentage points from 28% to 19% likely because of licensed premises being limited or closed, this has been a steady and consistent decrease since the first lockdown period.
- Taser was drawn 13 times this quarter with no firings.
- Seventeen officers were spat at during the quarter, a continued increase from last quarter and of particular concern due to risks relating to Coronavirus.
- Disproportionality levels have increased slightly from last quarter but remain close to average levels across the last two years.
- There are indications that taser is being disproportionality used against black individuals and this is being explored further, however the ratio fluctuates greatly quarter on quarter due to small numbers so will be monitored further to establish a reliable baseline.

1.3 Q4 Overview

The average number of Use of Force (UoF) forms per month this quarter is 175, a drop from last quarter due to numbers in January being particularly low likely impacted by lockdown and lower than during the previous lockdown. However, we did see a surge in March reaching the highest monthly number of submissions since December 2019, this increase and return to pre pandemic levels is likely to continue as restrictions ease further in the coming months.



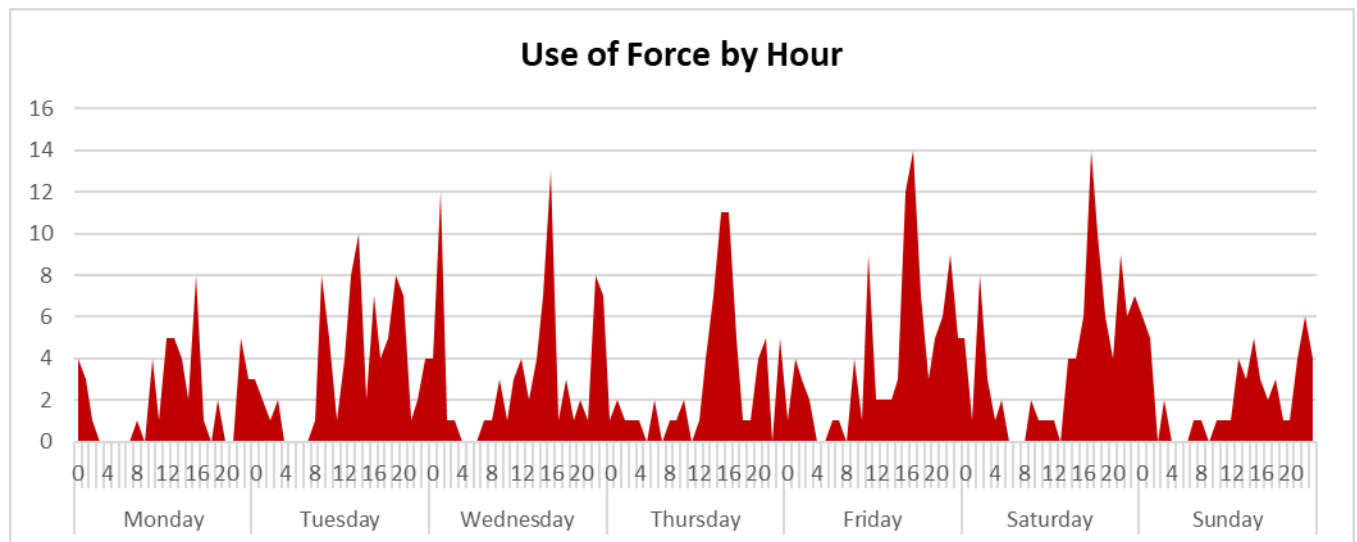
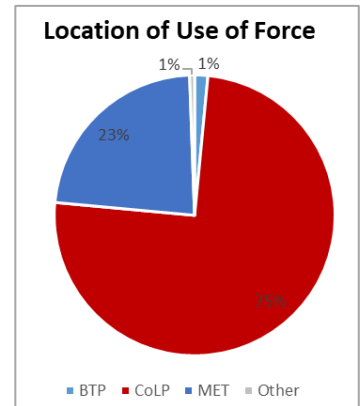
Looking at patterns of form submission over time we can see that for most of 20/21 reports remained at around 200 per month and then fluctuated during the current quarter to encompass both lowest and highest levels of reporting for the year impacted by differing levels of lockdown restrictions. Across the year the average number of reports per month was 193, down from 243 last year and an overall 26% decrease (n=830).



Of the 527 forms submitted this quarter 492 (75%) occurred on City of London ground with a further 129 (24%) taking place in the wider metropolitan London area or BTP London transport hubs.

In the last three months 11 forms submitted related to public order events, all relating to anti lockdown protests held on MPS ground in March.

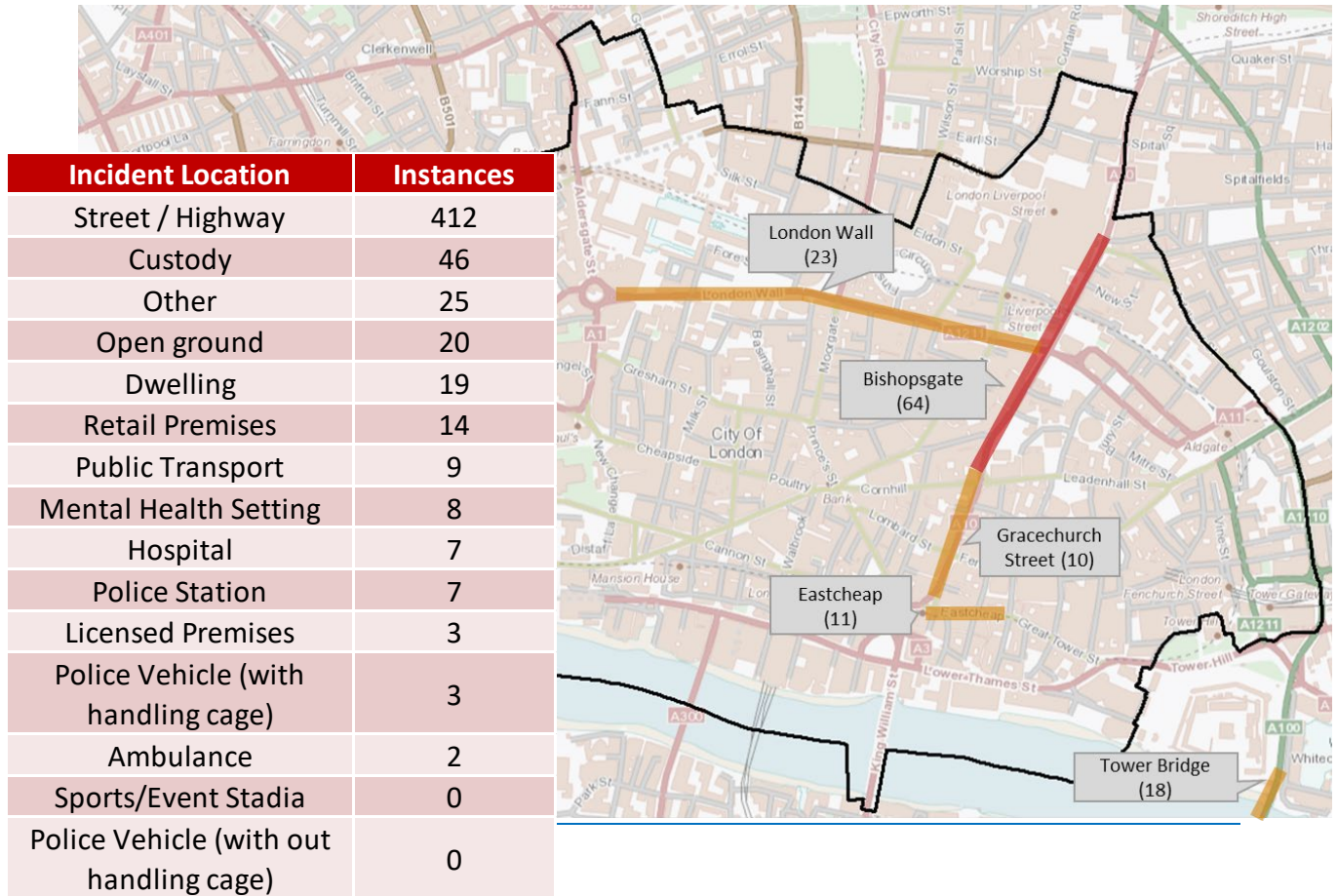
The most common time for UoF incidents this quarter was between 14:00-17:59 followed by 22:00-01:59. In terms of days Friday was most common followed by Saturday. Both Friday and Saturday afternoon are the peak periods that emerge when looking at both day and time.



During this quarter there were 11 forms that reported that the subject received a minor injury because of the Use of Force, medical assistance was offered on eight occasions and accepted twice. Six officers received injuries; all injuries were minor. Four 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= 188), when custody numbers are included this increases to 71% (n=375) maintaining the improvements seen in previous quarters.

2.1 Location



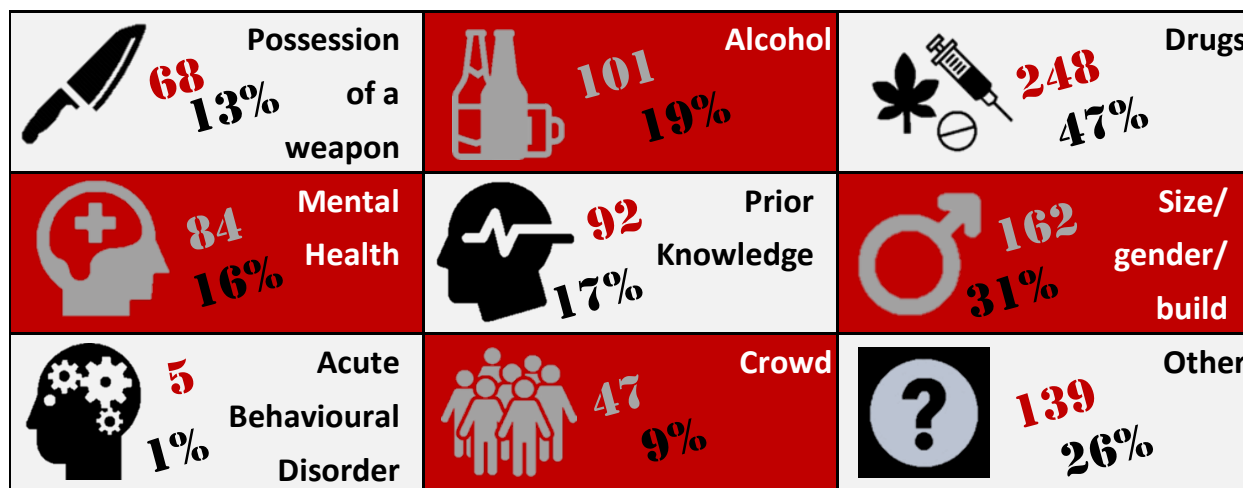
The map above highlights the top five areas associated with Use of Force forms around the City this quarter and the table details the most common types of location. Each form can list multiple location types.

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. Most street locations this quarter have also been clustered around Bishopsgate.

All but one form had a recorded street location.

Incidents relating to licensed and retail premises remain low as many have not reopened within the City. There were no repeat areas or premises in relation to licensed premises, in terms of retail premises most were on either Bishopsgate or Gracechurch Street.

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 47% of all forms, this has increased by 5 percentage points from last quarter and remains higher than levels we were seeing before lockdown. The only other category that has seen significant change this quarter are alcohol which has decreased further from 28% to 19% this has been a steady decrease across all quarters since the first lockdown period.

Looking at how impact factors correlate with subject behaviour the main factors leading to increased resistive behaviour are alcohol, mental health and crowds (79%, 82% and 83%, compared to 50% for all forms). Crowds and mental health are generally the impact factors that link to more active resistance (51% and 49% compared to 27% for all forms).

40% of mental health impacted forms resulted in the subject being detained under the mental health act or hospitalised (n=34).

Taser was used most often on those forms where possession of a weapon was an impact factor (n=7).

2.3 Reason for Use of Force

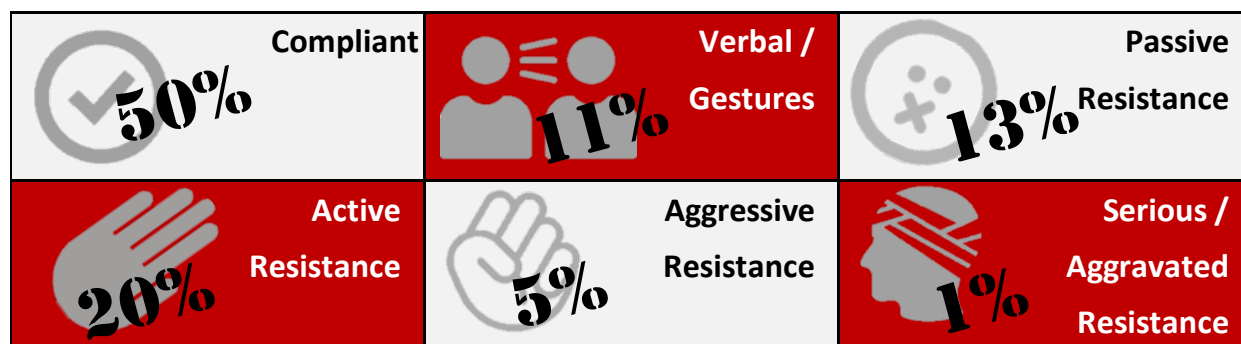


As with other factors there can be multiple reasons given for use of force so figures will not add up to 100%.

The primary reason given for UoF is the protection of others, 78% of forms (n=4412), 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 58% to 65%) which has been the biggest change this quarter, this continues from a similar increase last quarter. Most other areas remain broadly consistent with previous periods.

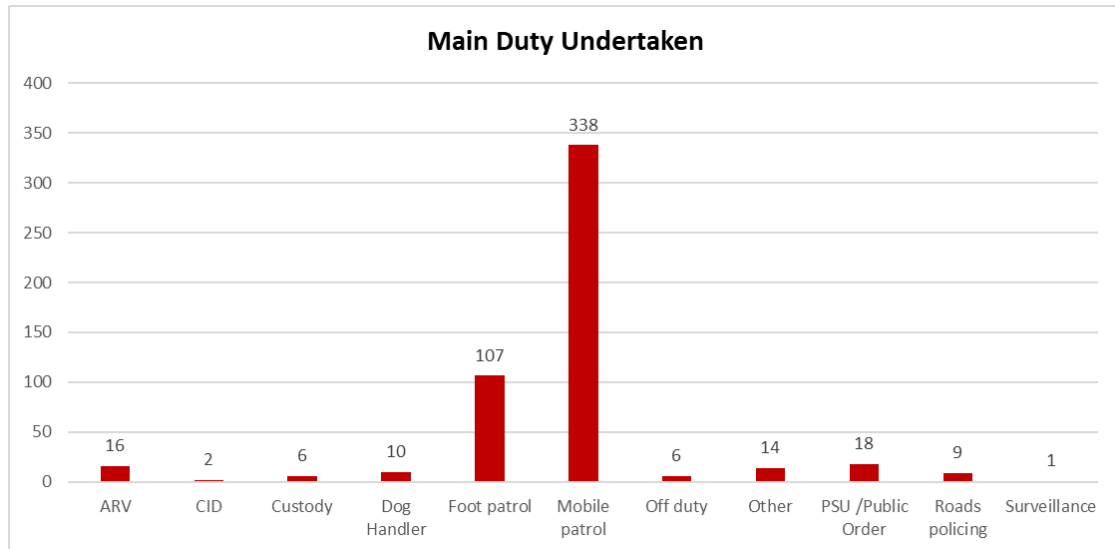
2.4 Conduct of Subject



Subjects were mostly compliant with the use of force- levels of the various types of compliance remain like those reported in previous quarters apart from aggressive resistance dropping 5 percentage points this quarter from 10% to 5%.

2.5 Officer Details

- **Violence:** Six officers received minor injuries with four believing the injury to have been inflicted intentionally. Eleven other officers were assaulted but sustained no injuries. Seventeen officers were spat at during the quarter, an increase from last quarter as higher levels of spitting continue possibly impacted by the Coronavirus pandemic.
- **Weapons:** Twelve officers were threatened with a weapon; four with a bladed article, four had objects thrown at them, one with a firearm and three with other objects. One officer was injured as a result of these incidents. There were a further 72 forms submitted where intelligence suggested a weapon may be present.
- **Main duty:** 64% of officers utilising UoF were on mobile patrol and 20% were on foot patrol, all other areas made up small percentages of reporting. In 10% (n=55) of submitted forms the officer reporting was single crewed at the time of use of force.



- **Directorate:** UPD represents 96% 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. Seven forms relate to actions taken by detective constables, sergeants or inspectors.
- **Gender:** Most officers using force are male (88%) compared to female (12%).
- **Age:** Officers ages ranged from 19-57 years with the average age being 31 years and most common being 28 years.
- **Training:** Most officers carrying out use of force had received Personal Safety Training (PST) within the previous 12 months. There were 24 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	Baton used	Irritant spray PAVA drawn	Spit Guard	Dog deployed	Taser	Other / improvised	Not Applicable/ Order Unknown
1 st	308	168	22	4	3	1	-	-	1	1	7	1	11
2 nd	5	222	63	10	7	3	-	1	2	3	6	7	198
3 rd	4	31	17	6	3	-	2	2	4	-	-	4	454
4 th	-	4	4	2	4	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	511
5 th	2	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	521
6 th	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	524
7 th	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	525

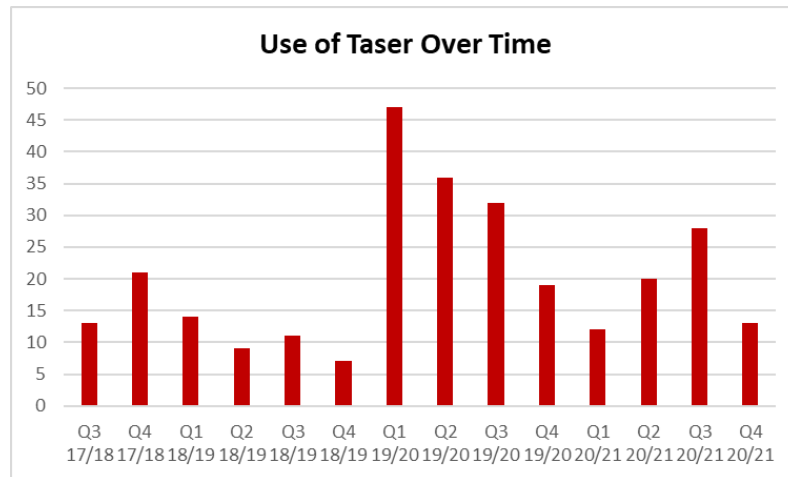
Some tactics were not used at all this quarter – such as CS Spray and Firearms – so have been removed from the table.

There are 11 forms where the order of tactics has not been recorded. In 35% of UoF forms (n=187) only one tactic is utilised, with the maximum number of tactics recorded on any form being 7. Tactics can be repeated across the form for example tactical communications might be used both 1st and 3rd.

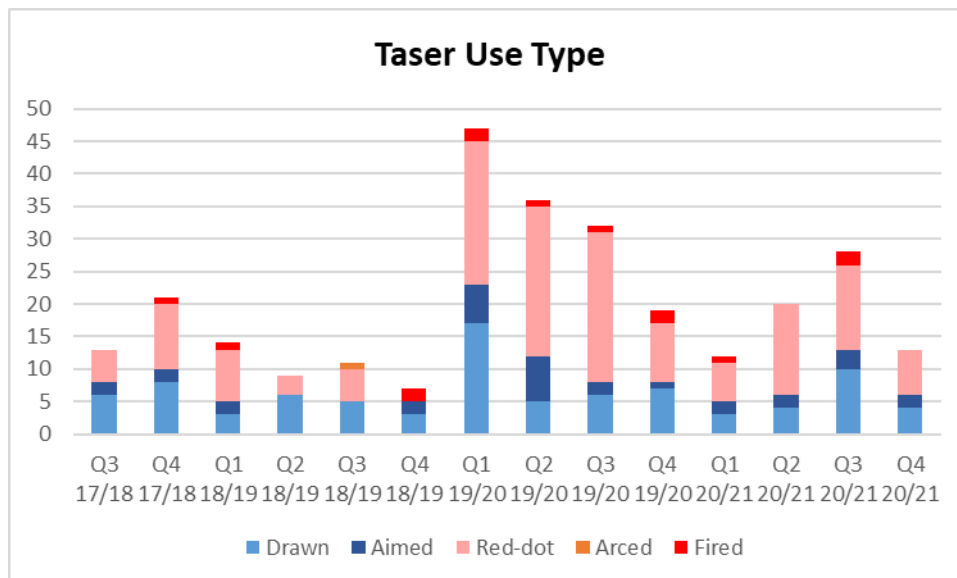
Taser was available at the scene in 72% of forms (n=381). Taser trained officers submitted 230 forms, 196 were carrying at the time of the incident while 34 were not. Taser was drawn 13 times this quarter, most commonly red dotted (7) and otherwise aimed (2) or drawn (4). There were no Taser firings this quarter.

2.7 Taser Usage

On average since recording began on Pronto there have been 20 uses of taser recorded each quarter (roughly 7 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 55% of reports (n=148), 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 (32%, n=85).



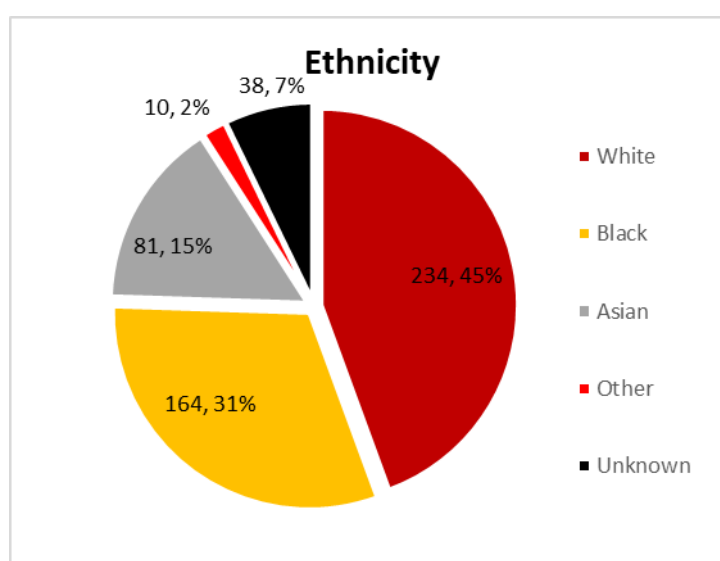
There was a clear increase in the use of taser in 2019/20 with reports increasing 227% from 41 to 134 between the two years. There was a particular spike in Q1 of 2019/20 when we also saw a spike in all forms being submitted, it was inferred this increase was related to an increase of protest activity 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. For 20/21 there has been a 46% decrease in Taser incidents compared to 19/20.



When looking at the ethnic breakdown of taser use over the last 12 months subjects have been predominantly white (34%, n=25) or black (33%, n=24) with 18% of forms not recording the ethnicity of the subject (n=13). Comparing this to the greater London population suggests that black people are 4.31 times more likely to have taser used against them than their white counterparts and Asian individuals 1.27 times more likely. Because the volumes here are low these numbers fluctuate greatly from quarter to quarter, they will be monitored through the next couple of quarters to try and establish a reliable baseline figure.

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.



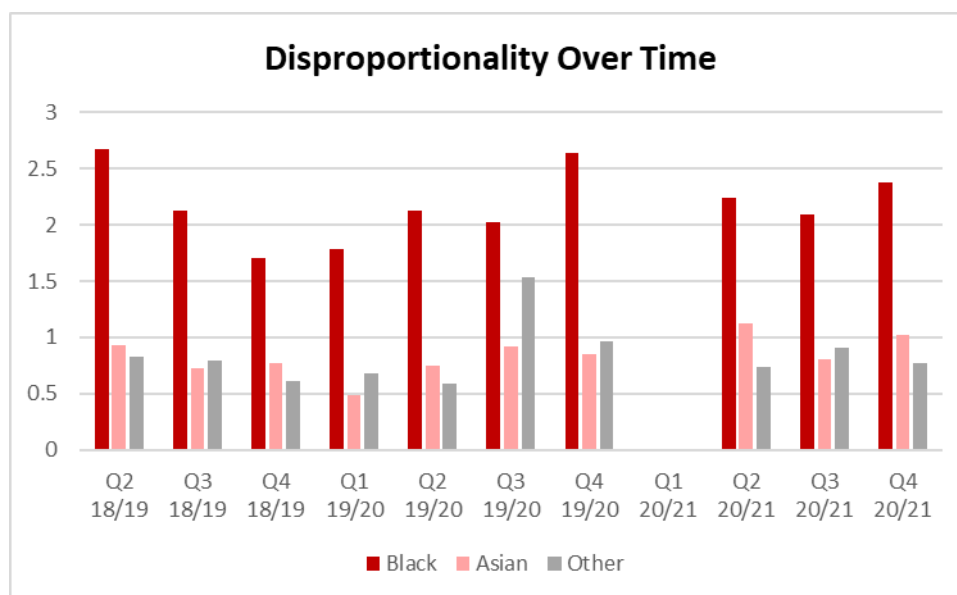
Most forms (45%) involve subjects that are white, this includes North and South European, followed by black (31%), Asian (15%) and other (including Middle Eastern) at 2%. 7% of forms record an unknown ethnicity.

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 2.4 times more likely than the white population to have force used against them. People from other or Asian ethnic groups were as likely or less likely than white people to have force used against them this quarter.

BLACK**2.38****ASIAN****1.0****OTHER****0.77**

If we look at disproportionality levels over the last two years the average levels are very similar to what has been found this quarter; 2.2 for black individuals, 0.84 for Asian individuals and 0.84 for other ethnicities. Q1 20/21 disproportionality data was not calculated due to an issue with data extraction that quarter, we have seen slight increases in both Black and Asian disproportionality this quarter, but they are still relatively close to the average levels.



- 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 234 white subjects recorded on forms; 87% were male, 9% female and 5% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 126 (54%) were arrested, the same as the rate for the whole cohort.
- **Injury:** Of the 11 subjects who received an injury 5 were white.

Impact Factors

- 64 (27%) link to alcohol, higher than the whole cohort of 19%.
- 101 (43%) link to drugs, slightly lower than the whole cohort rate of 47%.
- 44 (19%) have mental health concerns, higher than the whole cohort at 16%.

- 67 (29%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, lower than the overall rate of 31%.
- 38 (16%) involve possession of a weapon, slightly higher than 13% for all forms.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 79% were handcuffed, just below 80% for the whole cohort.
- **Taser:** 7 out of 13 uses involved white subjects.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 7 out of 17 occasions were against white subjects.
- **Spit guard:** 4 out 8 occasions involved white subjects.

3.3.2 Black

There are a total of 165 black subjects recorded on forms; 82% were male, 15% female and 3% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 94 (57%) were arrested, slightly higher than the overall percentage (54%).
- **Injury:** Of the 11 subjects who received an injury 2 were black.

Impact Factors

- 17 (10%) link to alcohol, lower than the whole cohort of 19%.
- 76 (46%) link to drugs, just below the the overall percentage of 47%.
- 28 (17%) have mental health concerns, slightly higher than the whole cohort at 16%.
- 54 (33%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, slightly higher than overall 31%.
- 19 (12%) involve possession of a weapon, just below the whole cohort of 13%.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 82% were handcuffed, higher than the overall rate of 80%
- **Taser:** Use recorded 3 times against black subjects.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 8 of the 17 occasions were against black subjects.
- **Spit Guards:** Use recorded four times involving black subjects.

3.3.3 Asian

There are a total of 81 Asian subjects recorded on forms; 97% were male, 1% female and 1% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 44 (54%) were arrested, the same as the overall rate.
- **Injury:** Of the 11 subjects who received an injury 4 were Asian.

Impact Factors

- 4 (5%) link to alcohol, much lower than the whole cohort of 19%.

- 46 (57%) link to drugs, significantly higher than the whole cohort at 47%.
- 5 (6%) have mental health concerns, lower than the whole cohort at 16%.
- 21 (26%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, lower than 31% for the whole cohort.
- 6 (7%) involved possession of a weapon, lower than the overall rate of 13%.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 86% were handcuffed, higher than the whole cohort at 80%.
- **Taser:** Use recorded 3 times against Asian subjects.

3.3.4 Summary

- White individuals were more likely to be impacted by alcohol than other ethnic groups.
- Incidents involving black individuals were less likely to be affected by alcohol and slightly more likely to involve the use of limb/body restraints.
- 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 94% of forms (n=496) continuing the improvement seen in recent quarters from previous levels around 80%, for those forms where the gender is known 90% are Male and 10% Female. Overall percentages are shown below;

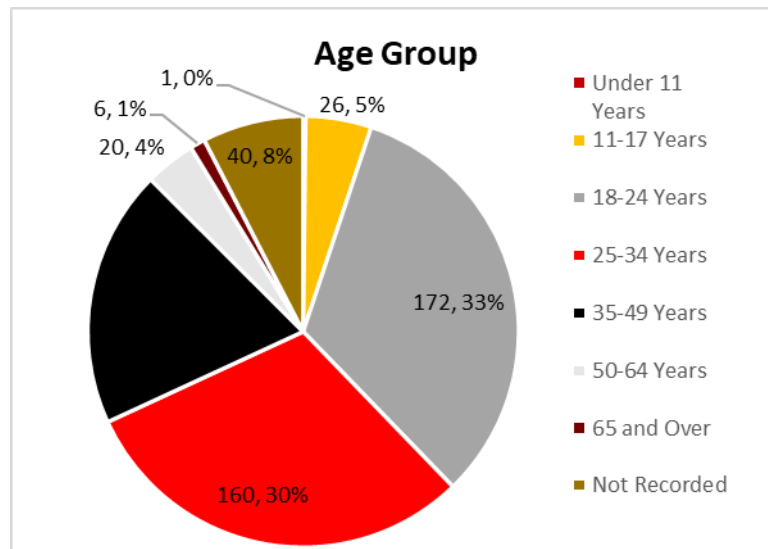


For those forms where gender has been recorded males are significantly overrepresented regarding UoF compared to females. They are 11 times more likely to have force used against them when compared to their prevalence in the wider population.

3.5 Subject Age

The age of subjects is not recorded on several forms (8%, n=40), as with gender this is a smaller percentage than in previous quarters and 11 of these forms refer to Public Order where the details are not routinely recorded.

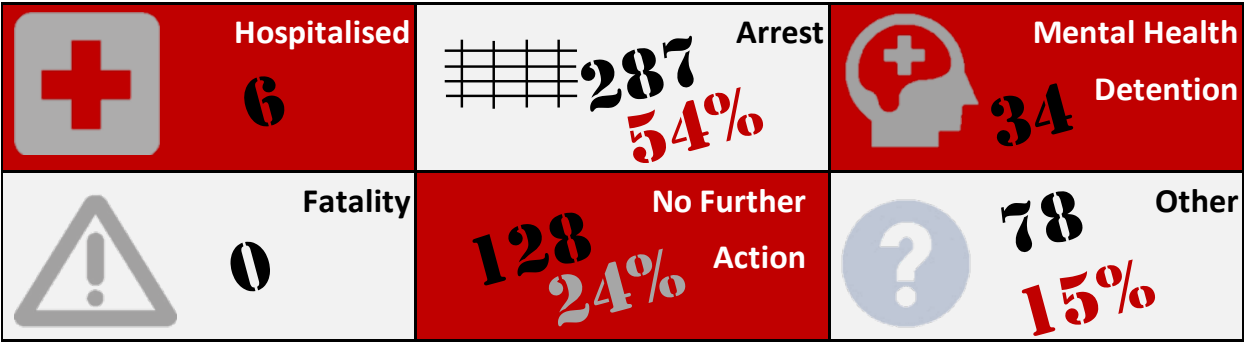
Force is used most frequently against those aged 18-24 years old (33%, n=241) and then 25-34 years old (30%, n=160).³



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

- There were 27 forms involving children – aged between 8 and 17, the majority were 16 or 17 years old (56%, n=15).
- The youngest person involved in a use of force incident is an 8 year old male who was handcuffed in custody after he had been arrested, he was previously known to the officer involved.
- 25 forms involved a male juvenile and two involved females.
- The most commonly stated impact factors were **possession of weapons** (41%, n=11) and then **drugs** (33%, n=9). Children were less likely than the overall cohort to be impacted by **mental health** (4% compared to 16%) or **size/gender/build** (19% compared to 31%) and no forms involving juveniles reported an impact factor of **alcohol**.
- There were four incidents involving taser used against juveniles this quarter, all involving males, it was drawn once, aimed once and red-dotted once. All four males were believed to have weapons based on intelligence and no one was injured in any of these reports.
- 81% handcuffed; **26% arrested**.

3.6 Outcomes



The majority (54%) of UoF result in an arrest of the subject.

Use of the new outcome field of No Further Action has increased this quarter and outcomes classed as other have correspondingly decreased, expect to see this more in coming quarters as the new fields bed in.