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Performance Information Unit

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# Stop and Search

## Quarter 2 2020/21

### 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

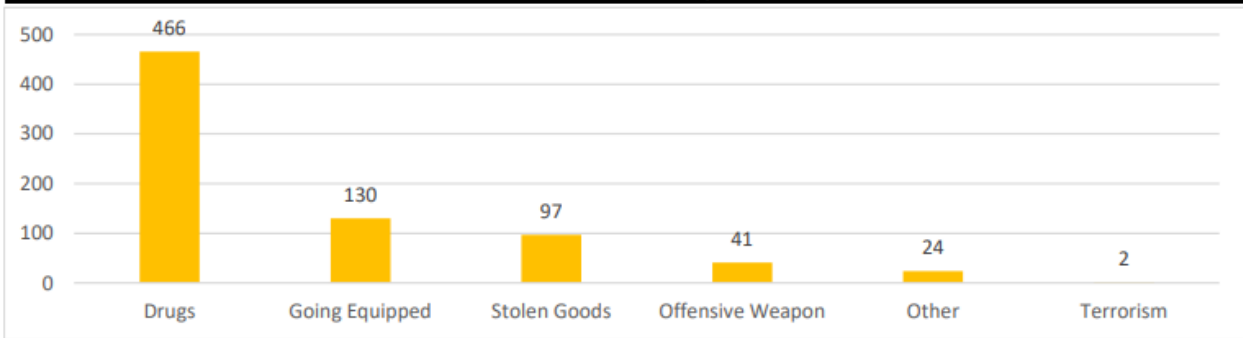
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<b>Compiled by:</b>	PIU
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Performance Analysis Manger
<b>Directorate:</b>	I&I
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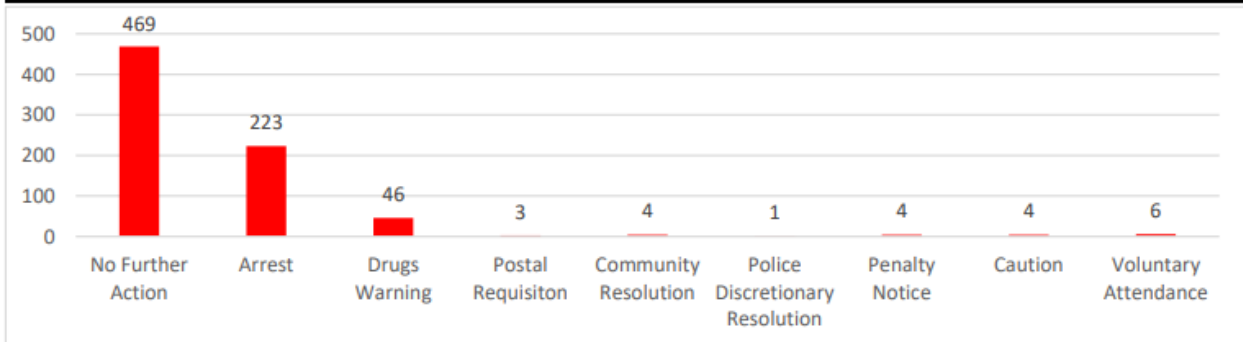
## Stop and Search Summary Q2 2020/21 (1st July - 30th September 2020)



### Reason for Stop

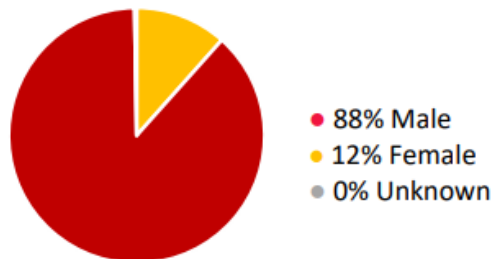
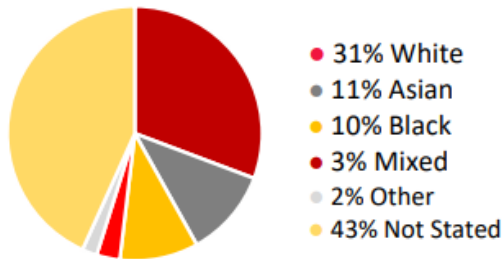


### Outcome of Stop



### Subject Self Defined Ethnicity

### Subject Gender

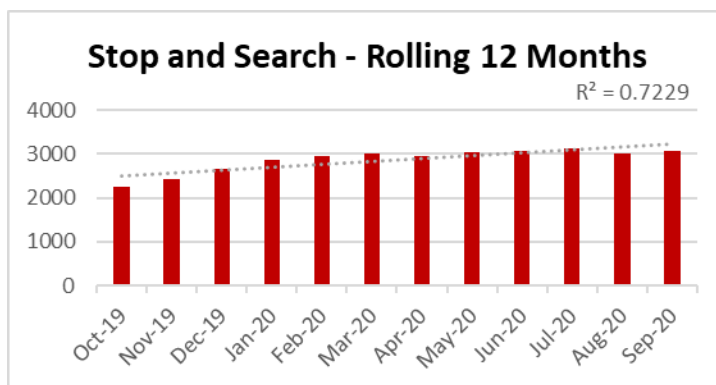
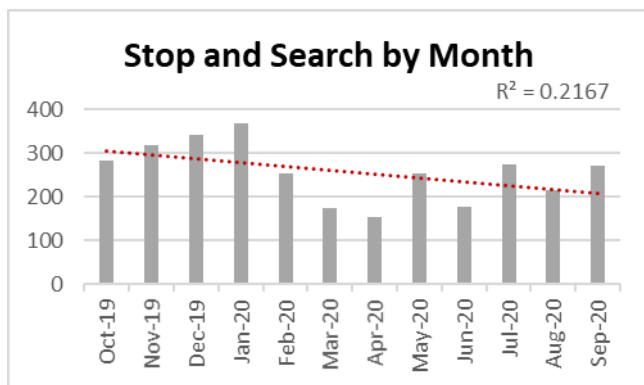


# Stop and Search – Quarter 2 20/21

## 1.1 Key Findings

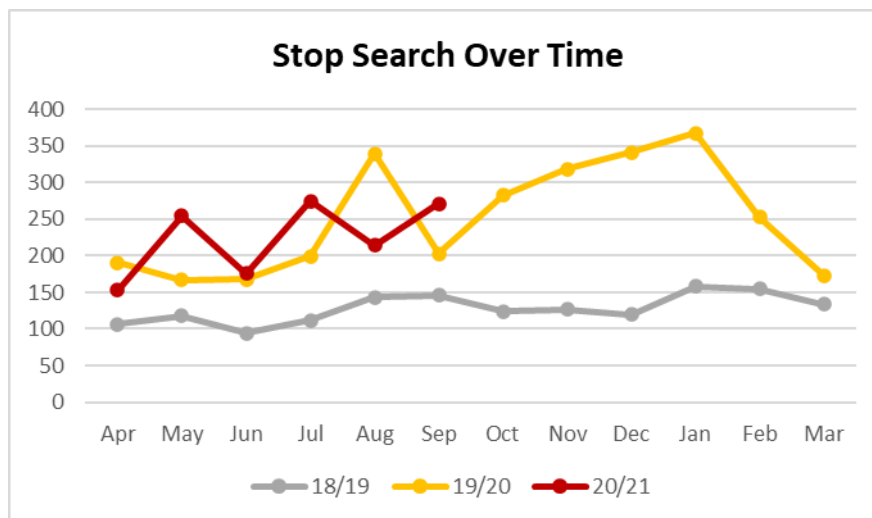
- There has been an increase in the number of searches carried out this quarter (+30%, n=+176) although levels are still lower than they were pre-Coronavirus.
- On average 253 stops were carried out each month this quarter, just below the average for the last 12 months of 256 stops a month.
- When looking at the last couple of years levels for this quarter remain above where they were in 2018 and at somewhat similar levels to 2019. Without Notting Hill Carnival we did not see a spike in August this year.
- Searching for drugs continues to be the main reason stops are made. There was one stop relating to Khat possession this quarter which resulted in a no further action outcome.
- Most stops took place on Friday or Saturday, the peak times this quarter were Thursday and Friday between 15:00-17:00.
- The number of stops taking place on Metropolitan Police ground has returned to a more expected level of 17% (n=131).
- The most common locations of all stops were Bishopsgate, Middlesex Street, Cheapside and Blackfriars Bridge. Notable premises were the NCP Aldersgate car park and Tesco Metro on Bishopsgate.
- The group most commonly stopped and searched in terms of perceived and self-defined ethnicity is white individuals.
- Levels of disproportionality have decreased slightly across this quarter from 1.9 to 1.6 for Black individuals and from 1.3 to 1.2 for Asian individuals, the level for other ethnicities has remained the same.
- Most people stopped are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old.
- There were 52 stops of under 18s this quarter with most stops related to drugs. The youngest person stopped was a 13 year-old white male in relation to potential drugs offences. The arrest rate for juvenile stops this quarter is 13%.
- There were 21 full strip searches this quarter, objects were found in more than half of them and 13 arrests were made.
- The find rate this quarter is 34% and the arrest rate is 29%.
- The overall positive outcome rate is 38%.

## 1.2 Monthly Breakdown



There has been an increase in the number of searches carried out this quarter after numbers reached their lowest point last quarter. The rolling 12 month graph however indicates that levels are on the whole still showing an increasing trend, depending on what happens in the coming months this may begin to show a decrease or plateau to a steady level.

On average over the last 12 months there have been 256 stops a month with this quarter averaging 253 a month, levels were at their lowest all year in April when people were abiding by lockdown rules and mostly staying home. While levels have been higher than last quarter in the last three months they have not reached pre Coronavirus levels probably because activity in the City has not returned to what was previously normal with many companies continuing to have their staff work from home.

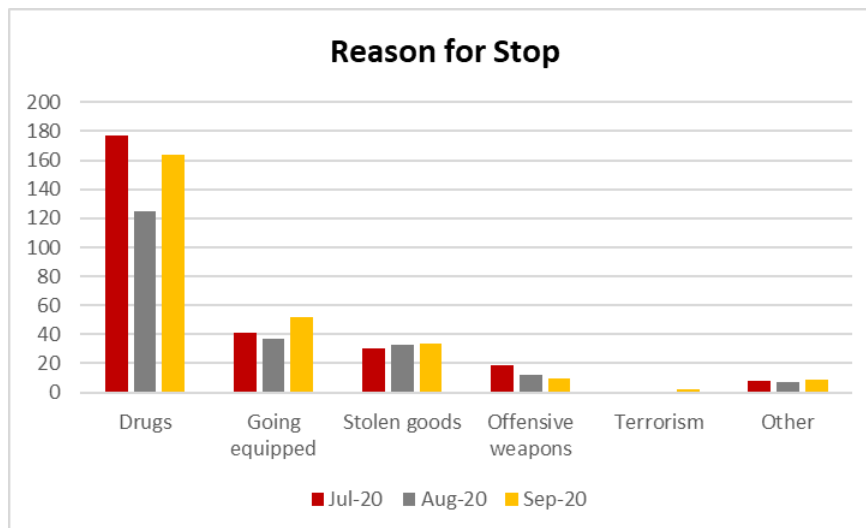


When looking at the last couple of years levels for this quarter remain above where they were in 2018 and at somewhat similar levels to 2019. Without Notting Hill Carnival we did not see the same spike in August as last year, there is no discernible seasonal trends displayed on the graph so it is hard to predict what the coming months may hold.

## 2.1 Reason for Stop

The most common legal basis for searches this quarter was Misuse of Drugs Act (61%, n=466) followed by PACE (38%, n=286). The Firearms Act s47 accounted for less than 1% of stops, three in number. There were no Section 60 stops in this period.

The reasons for the stops this quarter are shown in the below graph;



Drug stops continue to be the most common as observed in previous quarters. Most stops related to cannabis and a smaller number for other controlled drugs (n=314 to n=151 respectively). There was one stop relating to Khat possession this quarter which resulted in a no further action outcome.

Under the offensive weapons category there were 19 searches for a bladed article and 17 for a general offensive weapon. Three of the bladed article stops resulted in an arrest, although these were not related to finding a bladed weapon. There were two firearms stops in July and another two in August all resulted in no further action being taken.

The proportion of Going Equipped and Stolen Goods searches has increased slightly from last quarter from 28% to 30% (n=237) this is likely related to increased opportunity for such crime with a wider range of shops being open for business.

There were two terrorism stops this quarter relating to two separate incidents of individuals filming and taking pictures at key locations no further evidence was found on either individual and they were both released with no further action.

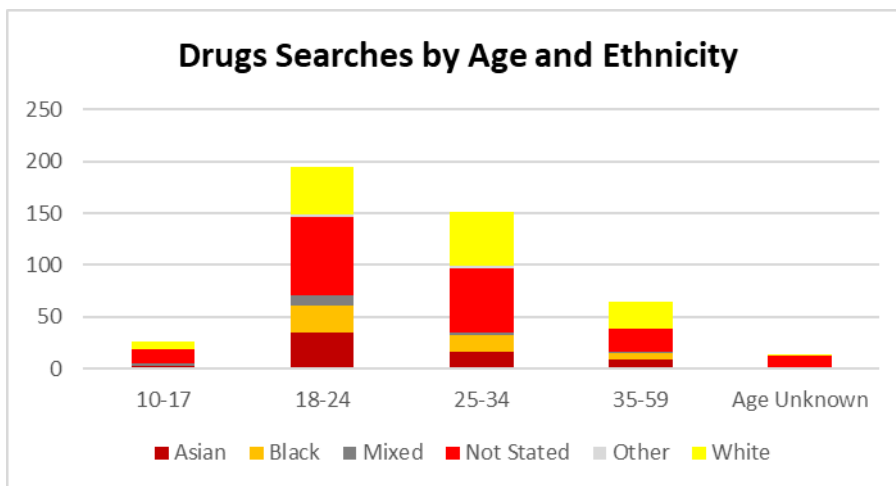
## 2.2 Reason for Stop – Drugs Searches

Drugs searches most commonly took place on Fridays and Saturdays this quarter, with particularly high levels of activity on Saturday afternoons between 15:00 and 18:00. Just over one in five of drug stops carried out this quarter took place on Metropolitan Police ground (22%, n=103).

Breaking the categories of stops down 314 related to Cannabis (67%) and 152 (32%) to other drugs, 151 searches (32%) involved both persons and vehicles.

The find rate for drugs searches for this quarter is 36% with 166 out of 466 searches finding something, in 149 cases this was the object searched for and in 17 a different object. There were 133 arrests made as a result of drugs stops (29%), 44 drugs warnings were issued, 3 cautions, 3 postal requisitions, 4 penalty notices and 6 voluntary attendances. The overall positive outcome rate for drug searches is 41% (n=193).

Common repeat locations for drugs related stops this quarter were Bishopsgate, Middlesex Street and Blackfriars Bridge.



The graph above shows the demographic breakdown of individuals stopped with regards to drugs.

They were mainly male (88%, n=410), did not state their ethnicity (39%, n=184) and between 18 and 24 years old (42%, n=195). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be White (39%, n=71). When perceived ethnicities for those who did not state are added to the self-defined ethnicities the most common ethnic group stopped for drugs is white individuals (44%, n=203).

Aside from these searches there were seventeen further vehicle only searches.

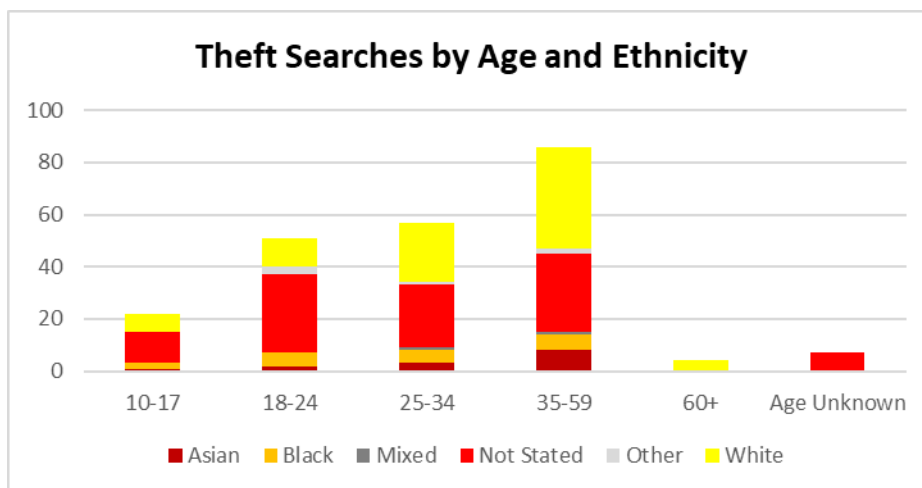
### 2.3 Reason for Stop – Going Equipped and Stolen Goods

Stops relating to going equipped or stolen goods most commonly took place on Wednesdays, peaking on both Wednesday and Thursday afternoons between 14:00-18:00.

The find rate for theft related searches this quarter is 35% with 65 searches finding the object(s) they were searching for and a further 15 finding other objects.

There were 76 arrests resulting from these stops (33%), when other outcomes are included the positive outcome rate is 37% this includes 4 community resolutions, 1 caution, 2 drugs warnings and 1 police discretionary resolution.

The most common street locations for these searches this quarter were Cheapside, Bishopsgate, and Gracechurch Street. Tesco Metro on Bishopsgate was a top repeat premises.



The graph above shows the demographic breakdown of individuals stopped with regards to going equipped or stolen property.

They were mainly male (81%, n=185), did not state their ethnicity (45%, n=103) and between 35 and 59 years old (38%, n=86). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be white (53%, n=55). Looking at self-defined and perceived ethnicities together shows that white people were most commonly stopped in relation to theft (61%, n=139).

There were no vehicle only searches for theft this quarter.

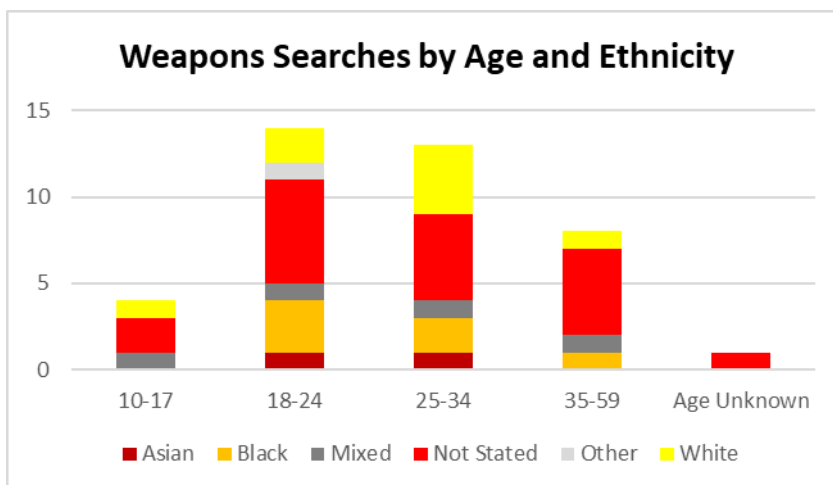
## 2.4 Reason for Stop – Offensive Weapons

Stops relating to weapons (bladed, offensive or firearms) most commonly took place on Saturdays this quarter, with a spike on Monday evening between 22:00-22:59.

The find rate for weapons related searches this quarter is 17% with 4 searches finding the object(s) they were searching for and a further 3 finding other objects. No items were recovered as all subjects were found to have legitimate reasons for possession of objects e.g. builders’ tools.

There were 6 arrests resulting from weapons stops this quarter (15%) and no other positive outcomes.

The most common street locations for these searches this quarter were Bishopsgate and Aldersgate.



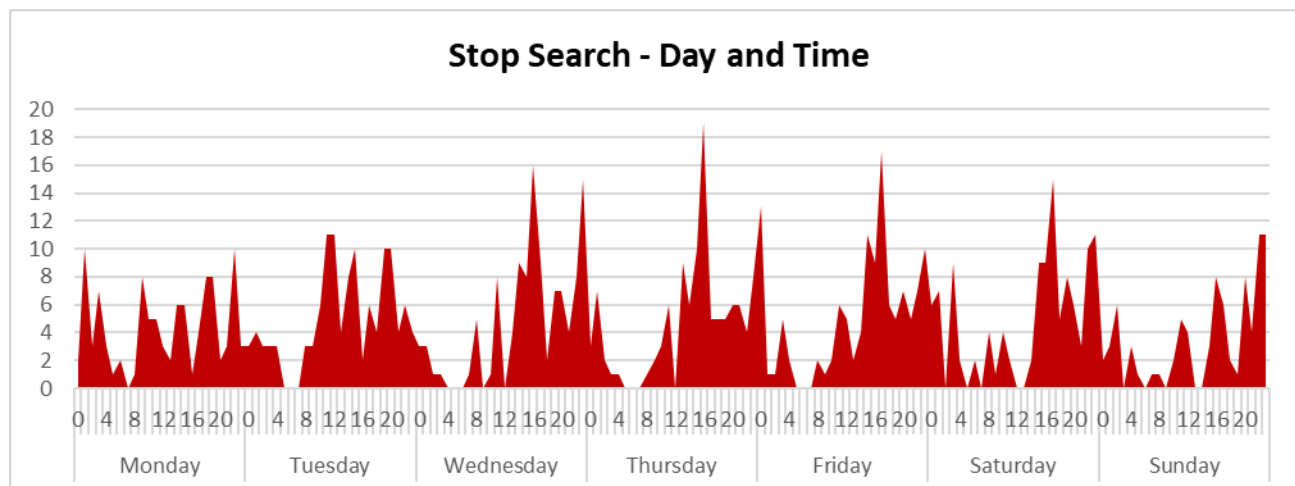
The graph above shows the demographic breakdown of individuals stopped with regards to weapons.

They were all males who mainly did not state their ethnicity (46%, n=19) and between 18 and 24 years old (34%, n=14). For those who did not state their ethnicity they were most often perceived to be Black (53%, n=10), when this is added to self-defined ethnicities people of Black ethnicities were most commonly stopped (39%, n=16).

There was one vehicle only stop in relation to weapons this quarter.

## 2.5 Time and Location of Stop

Most stops took place on Friday or Saturday, the peak times this quarter were Thursday and Friday between 15:00-17:00. Levels are noticeably lower between 04:00-11:00 most days and Sunday and Monday are the quietest days overall.



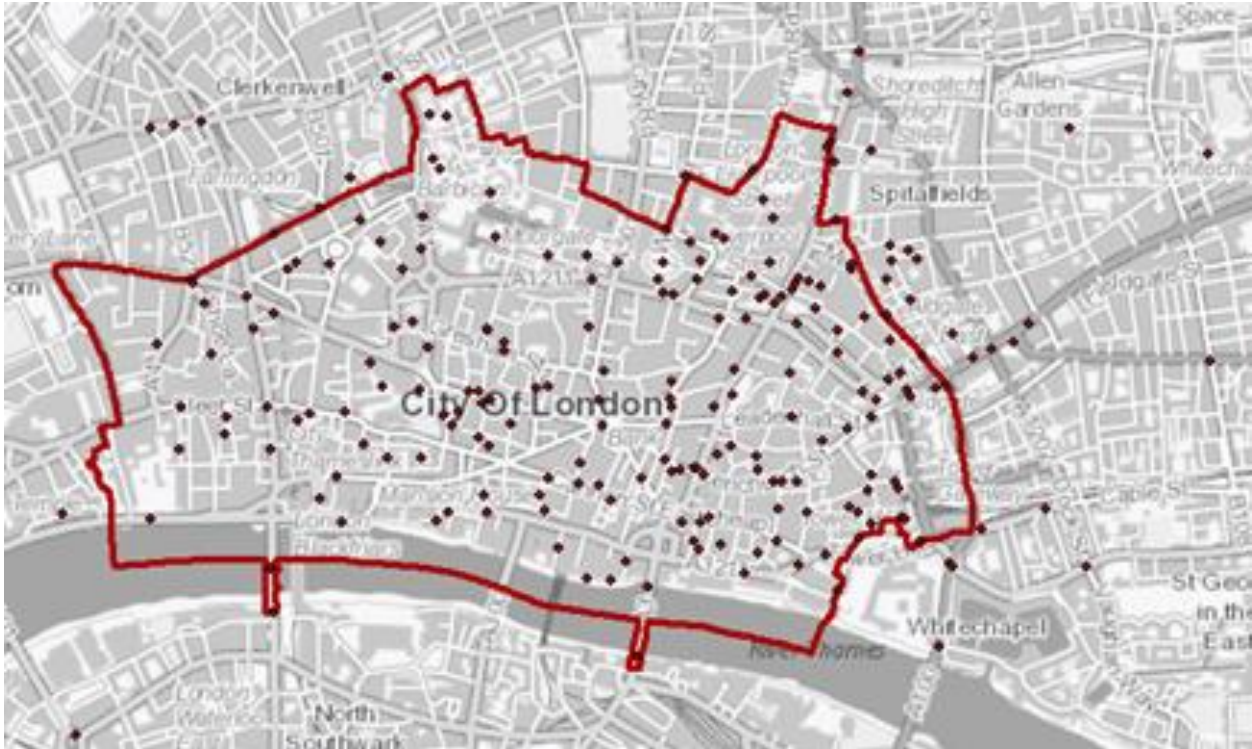
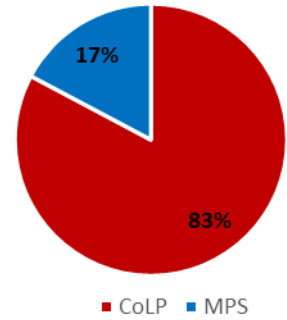


For the current period a 17% of stops took place on Metropolitan Police ground (n=131) which is a more expected level after rising to 40% last quarter.

The most common locations of all stops were Bishopsgate, Middlesex Street, Cheapside and Blackfriars Bridge. All the top 10 locations this quarter are street records apart from the NCP car park at Aldersgate.

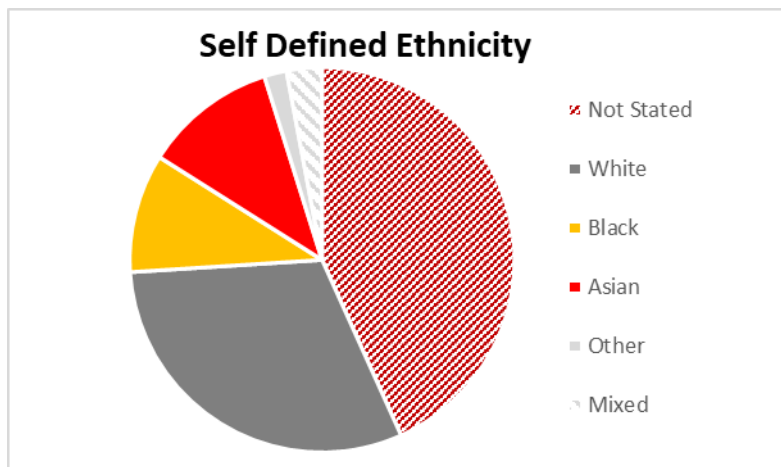
Locations of stops in and around the City can be seen depicted on the map below;

Force Area of Stop



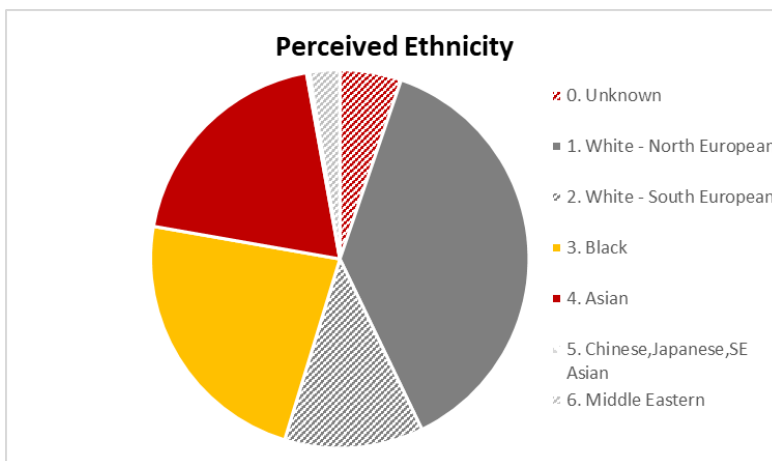
### 3.1 Ethnicity

The group most commonly stopped and searched in terms of perceived ethnicity is White – North European individuals (37%, n=279), this is similar for self-defined ethnicity with white individuals accounting for 30% of searches (n=228).



In terms of self-defined ethnicity the largest group is those who did not wish to state their ethnicity (42%, n=321). When compared to their perceived ethnicity the majority of these individuals were perceived to be white (42%, n=135) or black (27%, n=86). The majority of people who chose not to state their ethnicity are between 18 and 24 years of age (36%, n=114).

The biggest discrepancy between self-defined and perceived ethnicity is seen with white individuals with 63% of people stopped perceived to be white but only 39% defining themselves as such. The gap for black individuals is 16%, 29% were perceived to be black but only 13% defined themselves as such. These gaps are mainly due to these individuals choosing not to state their own ethnicity on the stop and search form.



Comparisons across the two recorded ethnicities are however somewhat difficult as categories do not match exactly. For example a number of individuals perceived as black (n=12) or white (n=3) self-defined as mixed ethnicity but this is not an option the officer can select for perceived ethnicity.

### 3.2 Disproportionality

#### 3.2.1 What is disproportionality?

When the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) published their Stop and Think report in 2010 looking in to the use of stop search by UK police forces they used two measures to assess fairness in terms of ethnicity; a disproportionality ratio and a count of excess stops.

Since then disproportionality has become a key measure for forces when examining the use of stop and search. The ratio looks at how much more likely black and Asian people are to be searched than white people based on their prevalence in the local population. Calculating the figure in this way allows for comparisons between forces of different sizes and ethnic diversity.

### 3.2.2 Disproportionality and the City

Due to the relatively small resident population compared to the large transient one in the City it is not easy to address questions of disproportionality. Traditionally this is calculated using the resident population of an area and the officer perceived ethnicity. In the current period however there were only five people stopped who gave their address as being within City grounds.

Another option available is to use the workday population which includes all people who gave a fixed work place in the City and those residents who are at home during the day however given that 63% (n=475) of stops occur outside of a typical working day (Monday-Friday 08:00-18:00) this is also unlikely to give an accurate representation of the available street population. Particularly during the current climate of coronavirus with many people working from home this is likely not to be relevant.

When we look at the residential addresses of people stopped this quarter 64% live in the greater London area, 8% are of no fixed abode, 21% are from other areas and 7% did not give their address.

Based on this disproportionality has been calculated using the residential population figures for the whole London region.

In terms of population data the most recent finalised census data is from 2011 so that has been used here. The most recent midyear estimates for 2018 were also checked but did not offer much difference in terms of results.

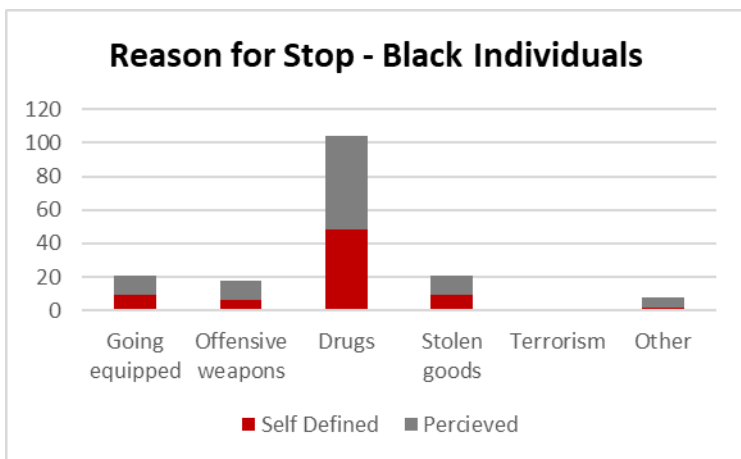
Levels of disproportionality have decreased slightly across this quarter from 1.9 to 1.6 for Black individuals and from 1.3 to 1.2 for Asian individuals, the level for other ethnicities has remained the same.



Across the same period the figures for the Metropolitan Police are 4.5 for Black individuals and 1.6 for Asian individuals.

### 3.3 Breakdown by Ethnicity – Black (Self Defined and Perceived)

There were 74 individuals stopped this quarter who self-defined their ethnicity as black, nearly all of whom were perceived to be black by officers. A further 99 people were perceived as black and either did not state their ethnicity (86) or self-defined as coming from mixed (12) or other ethnic group (1).

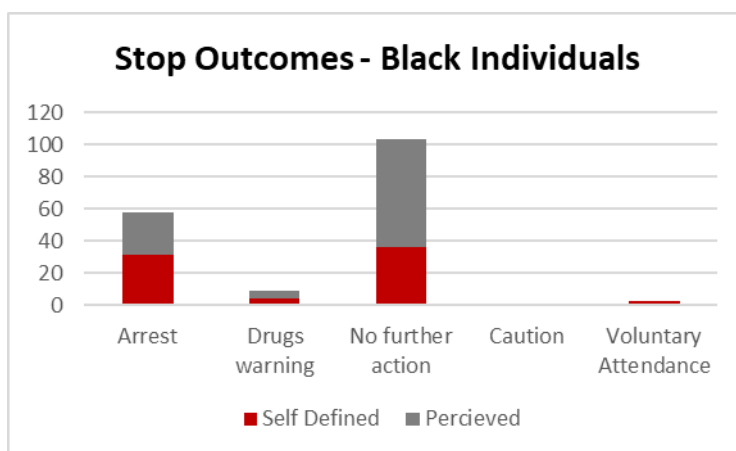


The number of black individuals stopped in relation to stolen goods, going equipped, drugs and offensive weapons all double when perceived ethnicity is included alongside self-defined. The highest volume increase is seen with drugs stops rising from 48 to 104.

Compared the whole stop cohort for the quarter black individuals (self-defined and perceived) were more

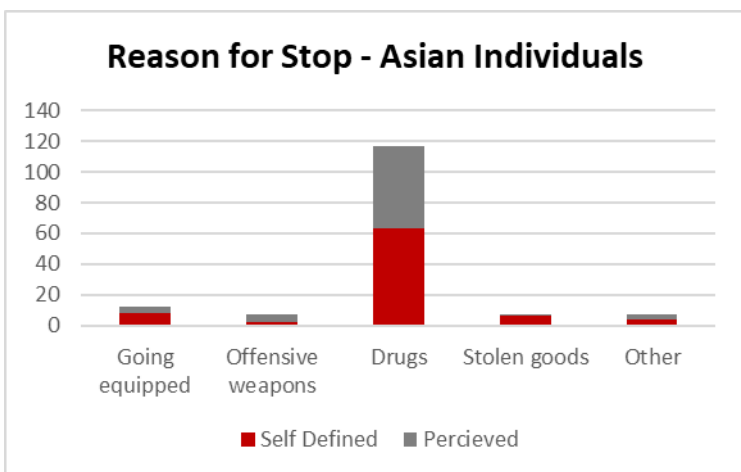
likely to be stopped for offensive weapons (10% compared to 5%) but were stopped at a similar rate to the whole group for all other reasons.

Stop outcomes for both perceived and self-defined black ethnicity show 60% of individuals were no further actioned (n=103) and 34% were arrested (n=58). This is similar to the percentages for all stops; 31% arrested and 62% no further action. There were no community resolutions issued to black individuals this quarter and just one caution and nine drugs warnings.



### 3.4 Breakdown by Ethnicity – Asian (Self Defined and Perceived)

There were 83 individuals stopped this quarter who self-defined their ethnicity as Asian, most of whom were also perceived as Asian by officers. A further 67 people were perceived as Asian but 60 did not state their ethnicity or self-defined as coming from mixed (3) or other ethnic group (4).

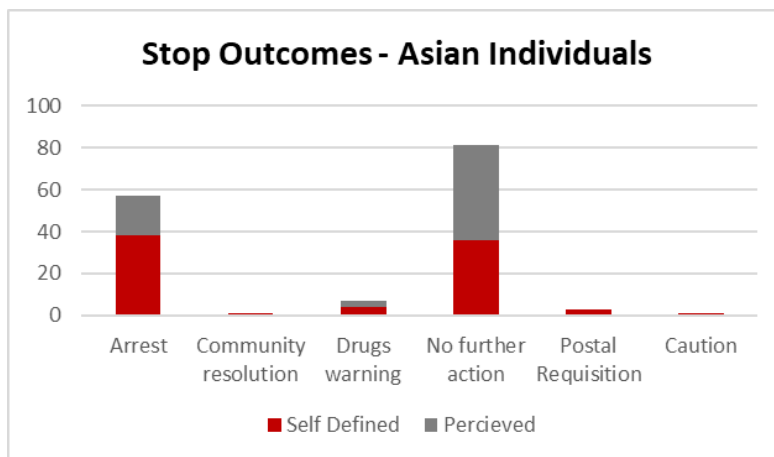


The majority of stops involving Asian individuals relate to drugs (78%, n=117) with numbers of stops in other categories being very low. The inclusion of perceived ethnicity significantly increases the number of stops for weapons and drugs.

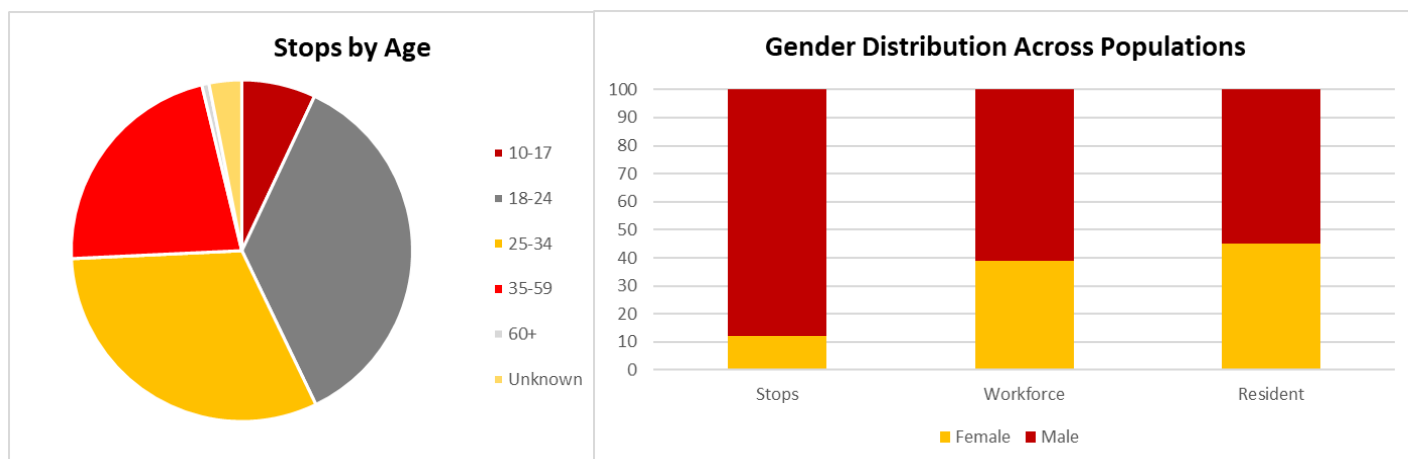
Asian individuals are more likely to be stopped in relation to drugs (78% compared to 61%) than the overall cohort but less likely to be stopped

for going equipped or stolen goods (13% compared to 30%).

Just over half of all stops of Asian individuals resulted in no further action (54%, n=81) this is lower than the overall rate of 62%. The percentage arrested (38%, n=57) is higher the overall arrest rate of 31%. Almost the complete range of outcomes was applied across stops of Asian individuals with the only exception being police discretionary resolutions.



### 3.5 Age and Gender



Most people stopped are between the ages of 18 and 24 years old (36%, n=266), then 25-34 years old (31%, n=233) with few being under 18 (7%, n=52) or over 60 (n=5).

There were 52 stops of under 18s this quarter, 50 males and 2 females. The majority of under 18s stopped were between 15 and 17 (83%, n=43). The youngest person stopped was a 13 year-old white male in relation to potential drugs offences, no objects were found and he was released with no further action.

Most juvenile stops related to drugs (50%, n=26), there were two arrests made from these stops and two voluntary attendance organised after drugs were found. A further five juveniles were arrested as an outcome of theft related searches, the arrest rate for juvenile stops this quarter is 13%.

The no further action (NFA) rate for children was 83% (n=43) which is much higher than that for all stops (62%).

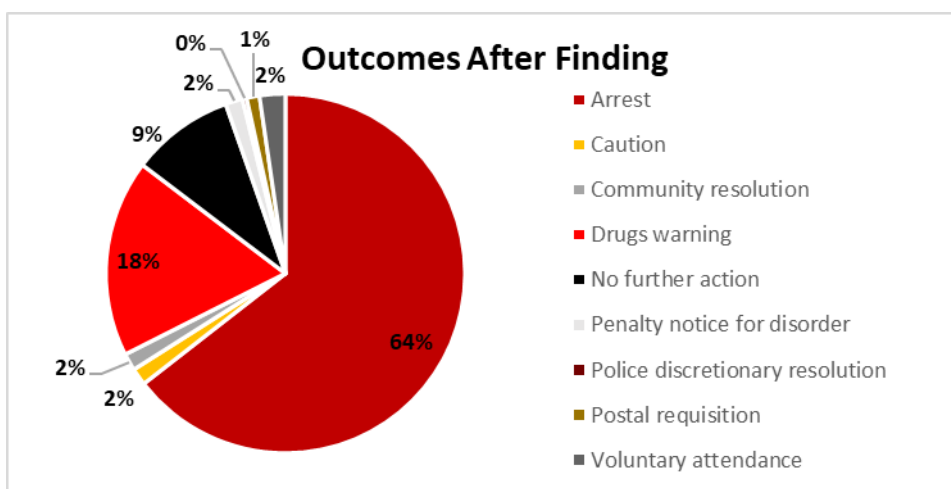
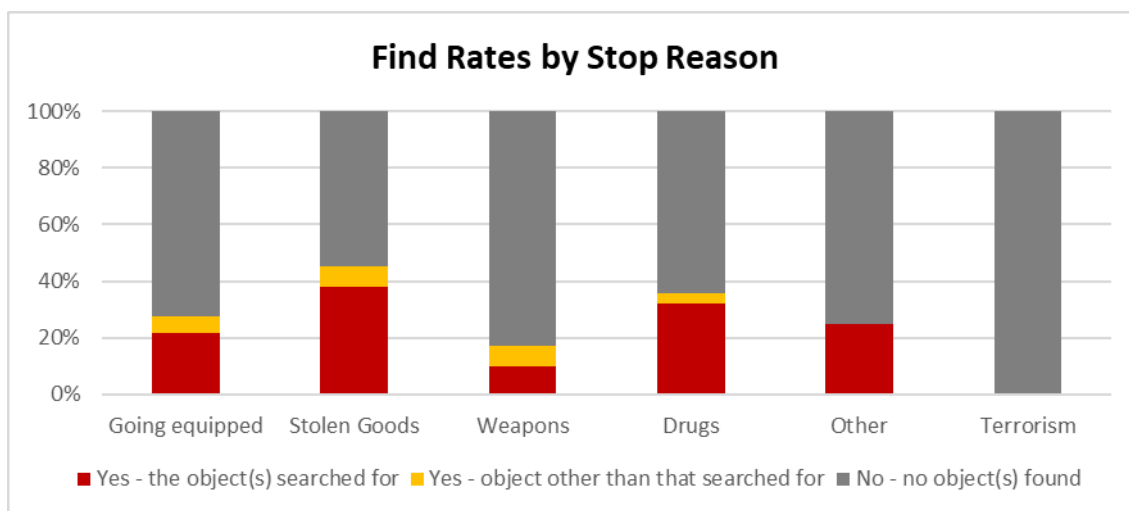
18-34 year olds were most commonly stopped in relation to drugs and those 35 and over were stopped generally for stolen goods or going equipped.

The majority of individuals stopped are male (88%, n=654) with 12% being female (n=86). This distribution is not similar to either the work force profile (61% male and 39% female) or the resident one (55% male and 45% female) with females far less likely to be stopped.

Most females (42 out of 86) were stopped in relation to going equipped or stolen goods and the most common outcome was no further action (73%, n=63), the arrest rate for females is 22% lower than for all stops (n=19). Most arrests related to stolen goods (n=6) or going equipped (n=5).

### 4.1 Outcomes – Find Rates

There were 259 searches this quarter which resulted in an object being found, 224 where the object of the search was found and 35 where something different was discovered giving a find rate of 34%. Find rates in general were highest for stolen property searches (45%, 44 out of 97 stops) this was also the type of stop where the item searched for was most commonly found (38%, 37 out of 97 stops). Levels were also high for drugs stops where there is a find rate of 36% (166 out of 466 stops). Find rates were lowest for offensive weapons stops with only 17% resulting in an item being found (n=7).

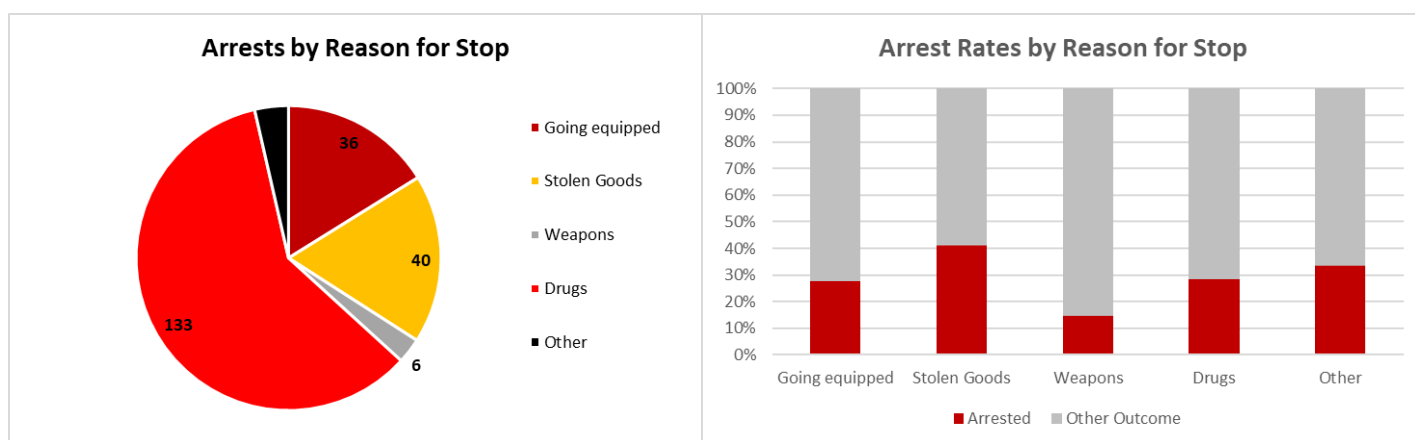


The most common outcome after finding an object was to arrest the subject of the stop (64%, n=167) then to issue a drugs warning (18%, n=46), the no further action rate after finding was 9% (n=24).

Subjects were asked to remove their outer clothing for 99 stops this quarter, mainly for drugs searches (58 stops) or going equipped searches (18 stops). There were 18 drugs searches, 2 stolen goods and one going equipped search that required full strip searches. One subject was female the remaining 20 male. Thirteen of the full strip searches resulted in objects being found (62%) and there were 13 arrests made. The youngest person strip searched was 18 and the oldest 54.

## 4.2 Outcomes – Arrests

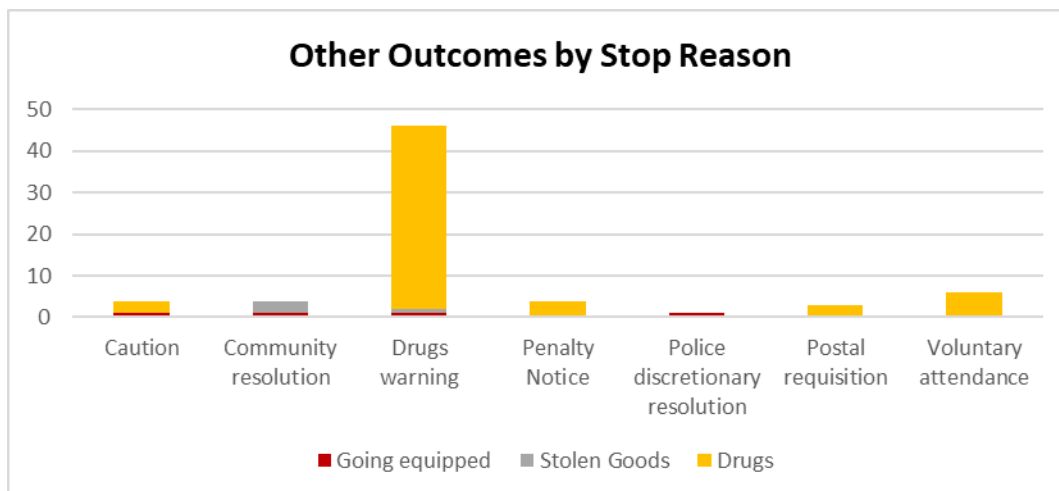
There were 223 arrests resulting from stop search this quarter, 29% of all stops. This is slightly higher than last quarter (27%) but remains around the 30% level consistently reported over the last three quarters significantly lower than previous years where the arrest rate has been 36% or 37%.



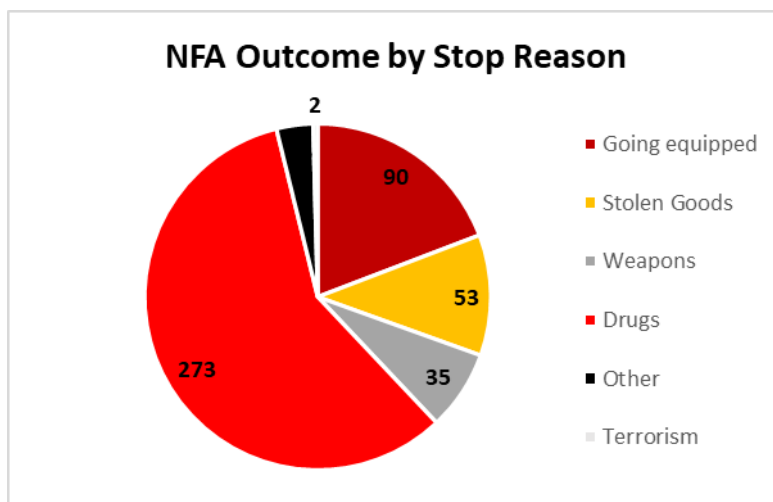
Most arrests in the current quarter resulted from drug stops (85%, n=133) or stolen goods (25%, n=40). When we look at arrest rates instead of volume the arrest rate was highest for stolen goods stops (41%) followed by drugs stops (29%).

Roughly one in three arrests (33%, n=74) were the secondary outcome of the stop and as such were not related to the object of the search, this most commonly happens in the case of drug stops (47) and the rate of secondary arrests was highest for offensive weapons as all arrests were related to other matters such as wanted on warrant or found in possession of stolen goods.

### 4.3 Outcomes – Other



The positive outcome rate this quarter is 38% (n=291) up 3 percentage points from last quarter. Outside of arrests the most common resolution was to issue a drugs warning (46) at the point of the stop. The widest range of outcomes can be seen for drugs stops where every outcome but police discretionary resolution and community resolution was used this quarter. One discretionary resolution was used in relation to going equipped.



The overall No Further Action (NFA) rate for stops this quarter is 62% (n=469), excluding terrorism stops which were only 2 in number and both NFA's the highest NFA rate is for offensive weapon stops (85%, 35 out of 41 stops) then going equipped (69%, 90 out of 130 stops). The NFA rate is lowest for stolen property stops (55%, 53 out of 97 stops).



## 4.4 Outcomes – Age, Gender and Ethnicity Summary

### 4.4.1 Perceived Ethnicity

The arrest rate is highest amongst Asian individuals (38%, 55 out of 144 stops) after this the arrest rate is highest amongst black individuals (33%, 57 out of 171 stops).

Drugs warnings were most commonly issued to white individuals as were police discretionary resolutions.

No further action rates were highest for middle eastern individuals (74%, 14 out of 19 stops) then white individuals (66%, 243 out of 367 stops).

Find rates were highest amongst Asian individuals (35%, 51 out of 93 stops).

### 4.4.2 Age

There were four males and one female aged over 60, stopped this quarter all in relation to stolen goods or going equipped, this led to two arrests and three no further action outcomes.

Arrest rates were then highest amongst 25-34 year olds at 38% (89 out of 233 stops).

No further action rates were highest for 10-17 year olds (83%, 43 out of 52 stops).

Drugs warnings were most commonly issued to those between 18-24 years old, closely followed by 25-34. The 35-59 age group received the widest range of diversionary outcomes this quarter.

Find rates were highest for 25-34 year olds (36%, 85 of 233 stops). The find rates for 10-17 year olds is 19% (10 out of 52 stops).

There were 12 stops this quarter where the age of the subject is unknown.

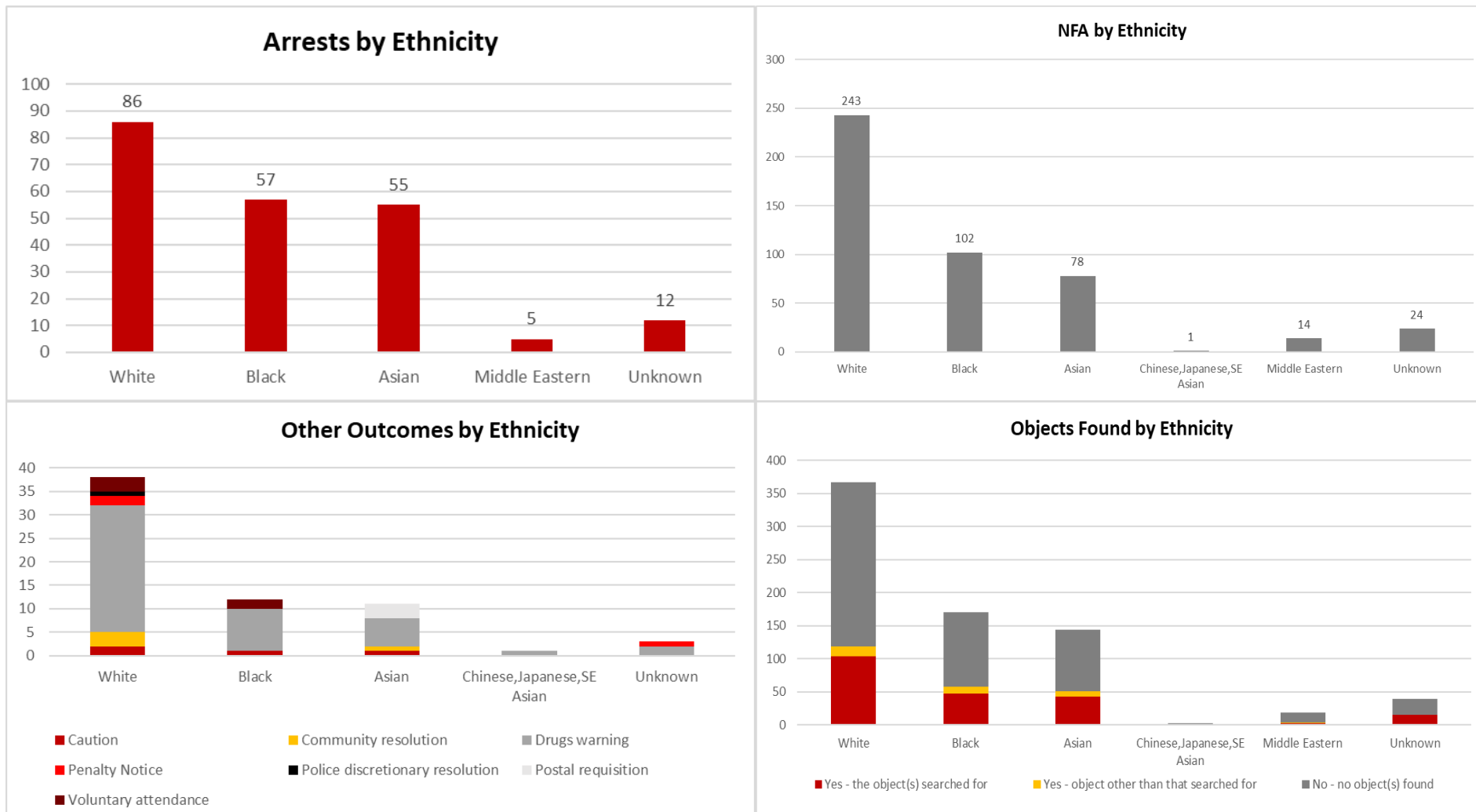
### 4.4.3 Gender

The arrest rate for females is 22% and for males 30%, the NFA rate for females is 73% and for males 61%.

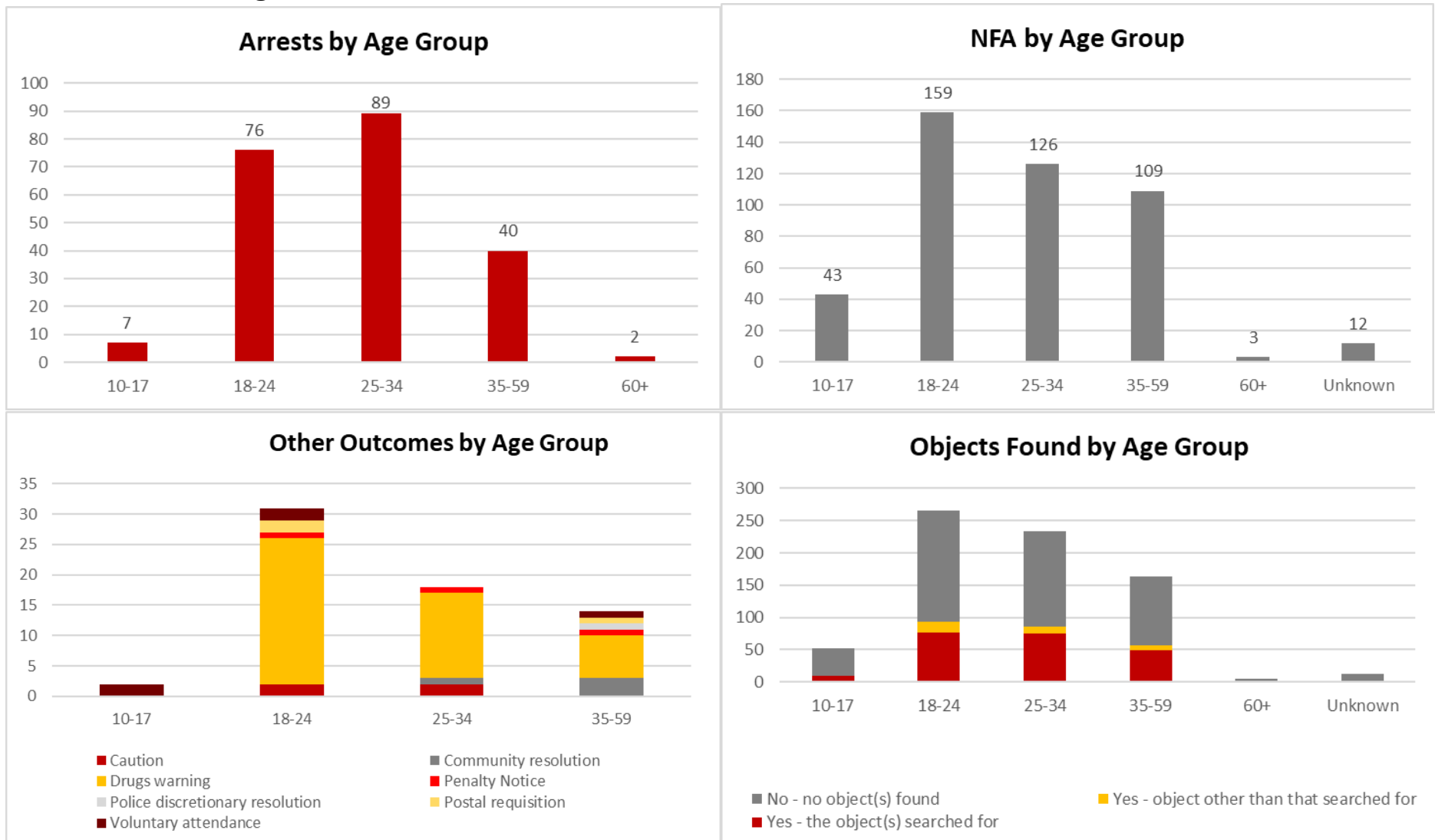
No women had a stop resulting in a caution, penalty notice, postal requisition, or voluntary attendance this quarter. Two females were issued with a community resolution, one a drugs warning and one a police discretionary resolution, these were the only alternatives to arrest and NFA this quarter.

The find rate for females (30%, n= 26) is slightly lower than that for males (34%, n=122).

### 4.5 Outcomes – Ethnicity Breakdown



### 4.6 Outcomes – Age Breakdown



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### 4.7 Outcomes – Gender Breakdown

