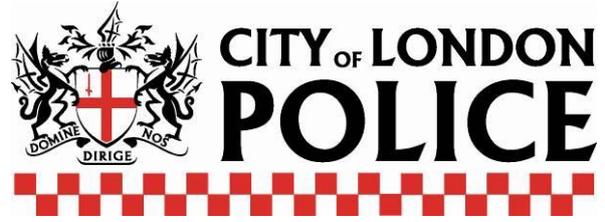

Performance Information Unit



Use of Force
Quarter 1 2020/21
1st April – 30th June 2020

Compiled by:	PIU
Reviewed by:	Performance Analysis Manger
Directorate:	I&I
Date completed:	10/07/2020

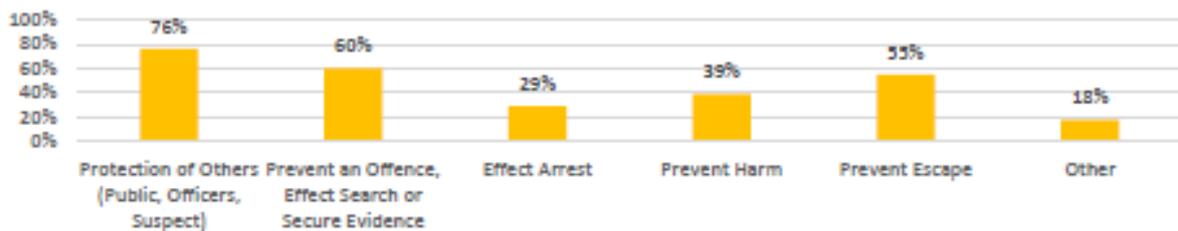
CITY OF LONDON POLICE: OFFICIAL

Use of Force Summary Q1 2020/21 (1st April - 30th June 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



There has been a technical error extracting this data - update to follow

Subject Gender



- 71% Male
- 10% Female
- 19% Not Recorded

Conduct of Subject



17%

of forms involved subjects believed to have mental health issues

5%

of forms involved juveniles



Use of Force – Quarter 1 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.

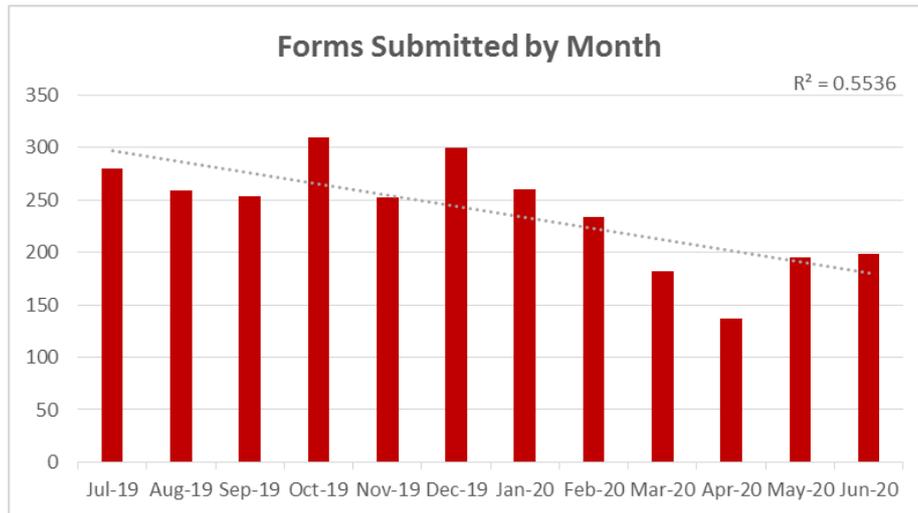
When choosing the appropriate tactical option officers are required to use the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve their legitimate aim.

1.2 Key Findings and Recommendations

- Submission of Use of Force forms has continued to decrease this quarter impacted by COVID-19 however after hitting their lowest level in April they have started to increase again in May and June.
- Many of the completed use of force forms this quarter related to incidents that took place on Metropolitan Police ground due to assistance provided in relation to both COVID-19 and protest activity.
- The most common impact factor reported on forms this quarter was drugs (51%, n=269) and there was a significant increase in the percentage of forms recording suspected possession of weapons as an impact factor.
- Taser was drawn 12 times this quarter, most commonly red dotted, and fired once.
- There were 25 forms involving children submitted this month with the youngest being 13, when force was used children were more likely to be handcuffed and arrested than the whole cohort and also more likely to have 'other' recorded as an impact factor.
- There is a system error that has occurred this quarter when trying to extract ethnicity data for May and June– it is coming back blank for all but two forms. When fixed this report will be republished with the relevant data.
- Fourteen officers reported being spat at during the course of the quarter, this has increased significantly from last quarter when only two incidents were reported.

1.3 Q1 Overview

The average number of Use of Force (UoF) forms per month over the last quarter is 176, this continues the decline we started to see at the end of the last financial year as crime levels decreased due to the Coronavirus and nationwide lockdown. Levels were at their lowest in April and have increased again in May and June although still lower than what would usually be expected.

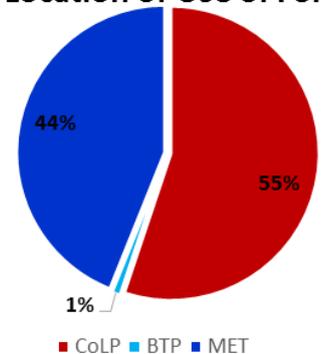


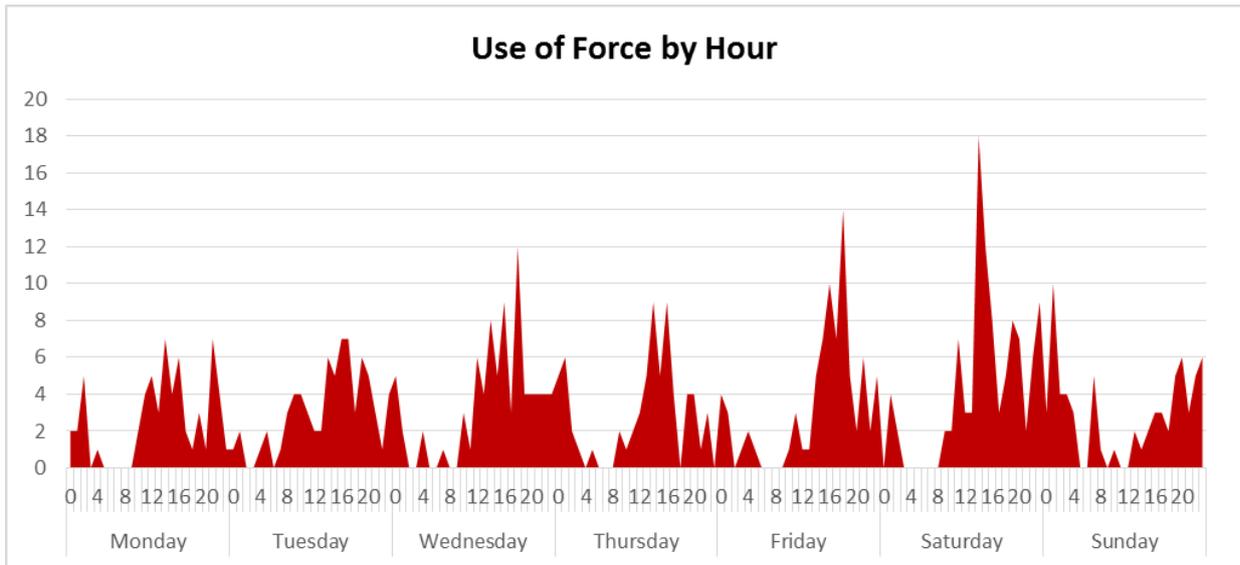
Of the 530 forms submitted this quarter 292 (55%) occurred on City of London ground with a further 238 (45%) taking place in the wider metropolitan London area or BTP London transport hubs.

In the last three months 75 forms submitted related to public order events, all of these relate to Black Lives Matter protests or the counter protests in early June. All public order related forms this quarter occurred on Metropolitan Police ground.

The most common time for UoF incidents this quarter was between 14:00-16:59. In terms of days Saturday is most common followed by Wednesday. Between 14:00 and 16:00 on Saturday is the peak that emerges this quarter looking at both day and time, this is likely impacted by the protests.

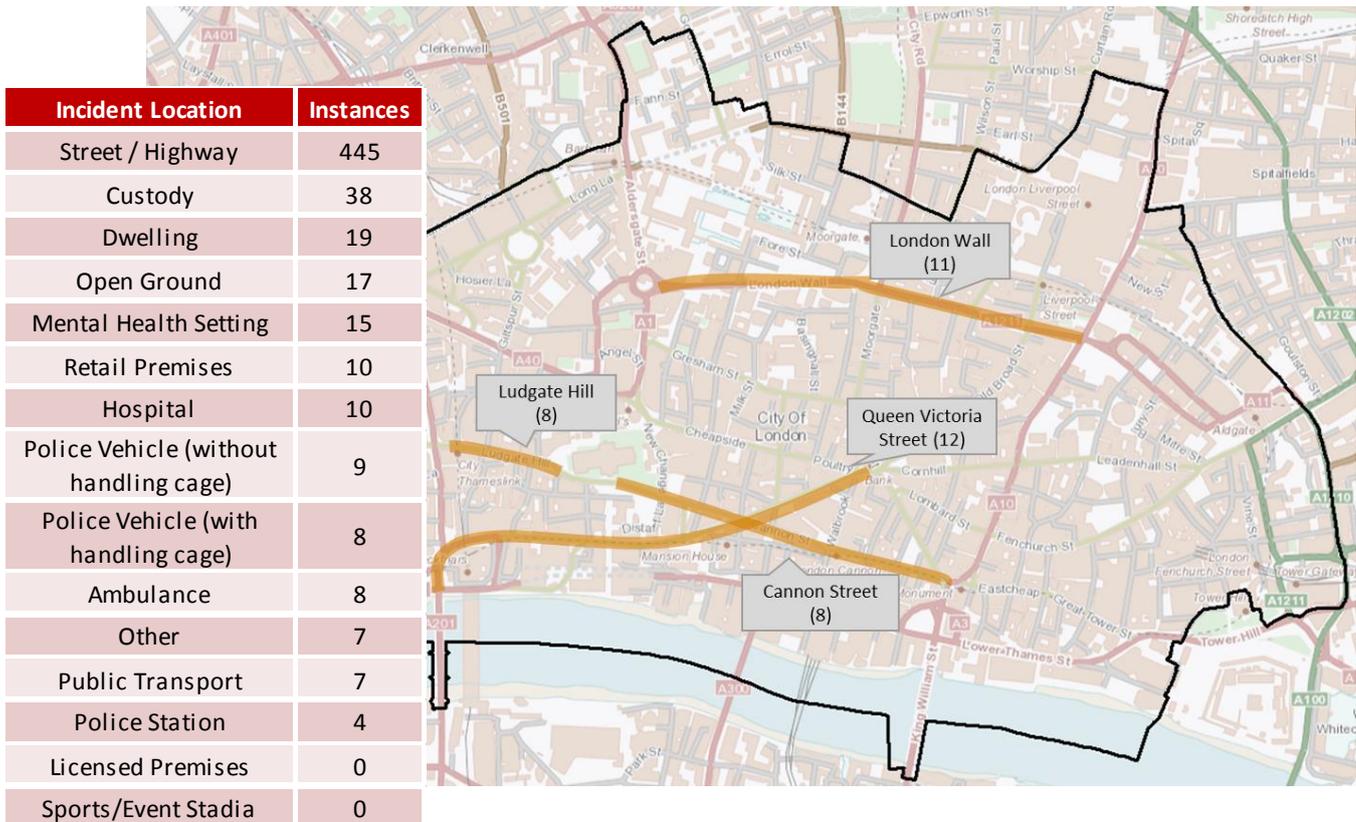
Location of Use of Force





During this quarter there were 6 forms that reported that the subject received a minor injury as a result of the Use of Force, 4 of these received medical assistance at the scene. Eleven officers received injuries, in incidents where the subject did not, all injuries were minor. Five officers believed their injuries were the result of the subject intentionally trying to assault them.

2.1 Locations

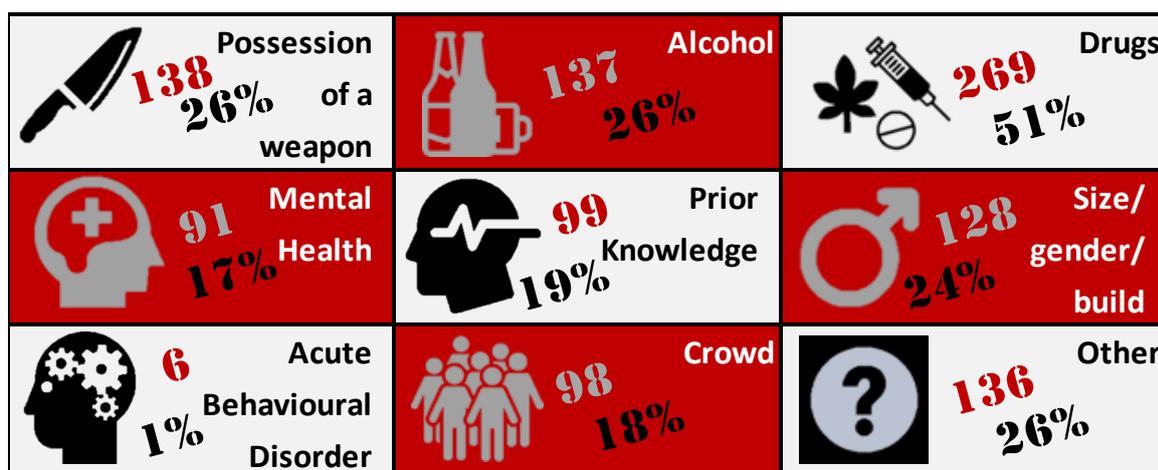


The map above highlights the top four areas associated with Use of Force forms within the City this quarter and the table details the most common types of location. Each form can list multiple location types.

As usual the key locality where use of force takes place is the street/highway however with nearly half of all Use of Force forms being submitted for incidents outside City grounds this quarter the key locations were mostly in Westminster (Bridge Street, 24 and Whitehall, 22).

Repeat street locations have moved away from the east of the City this quarter to be focused more centrally. There were no use of force forms related to licensed premises due to those being closed during this period however there were 10 forms relating to retail premises, these were mostly in the City and relate to nine separate incidents all in separate locations.

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 just over half of all forms, drugs has risen 13 percentage points this quarter from 38%. Other categories that have seen significant change this quarter are alcohol which has decreased from 33% to 26% and premises and possession of weapons increasing from 13% to 26%. These changes have likely been impacted by lockdown as licensed premises not being open has limited the amount of people drinking socially and less people on the streets could make those under the influence of drugs or alcohol more conspicuous.

Looking at how impact factors correlate with subject behaviour the main factors leading to increased resistive behaviour are being in a crowd and alcohol (91% and 74%, compared to 40% for all forms). Those in a crowd were most likely to offer serious and aggravated or aggressive resistance this quarter whilst active resistance was most commonly demonstrated by subjects impacted by either alcohol or mental health.

40% 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=8) or where the subject was thought to be under the influence of alcohol (n=6).

2.3 Reason for Use of Force



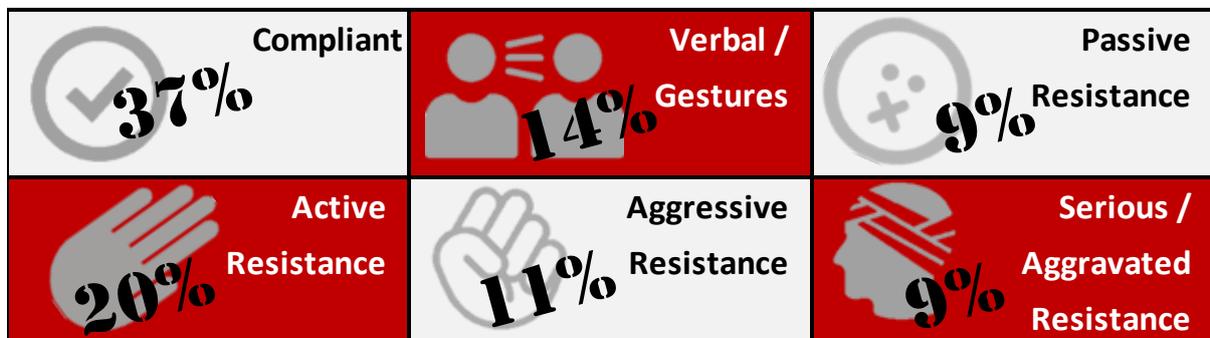
As with other factors there can be multiple reasons given for use of force so figures will not add up to 100%.

The primary reason given for UoF is the protection of others, 76% of forms (n=404), this may be the public, other officers or the subject themselves. This has only seen a slight increase since last quarter from 75%, other areas have seen more significant changes.

There has been a decrease in the number of forms linked to effecting an arrest (from 43% to 29%) while those linked to preventing an offence or preventing escape have risen (from 52% to 60% and from 46% to 55% respectively).

These changes are likely linked to the changing landscape of policing during lockdown and policing presence at protests during June.

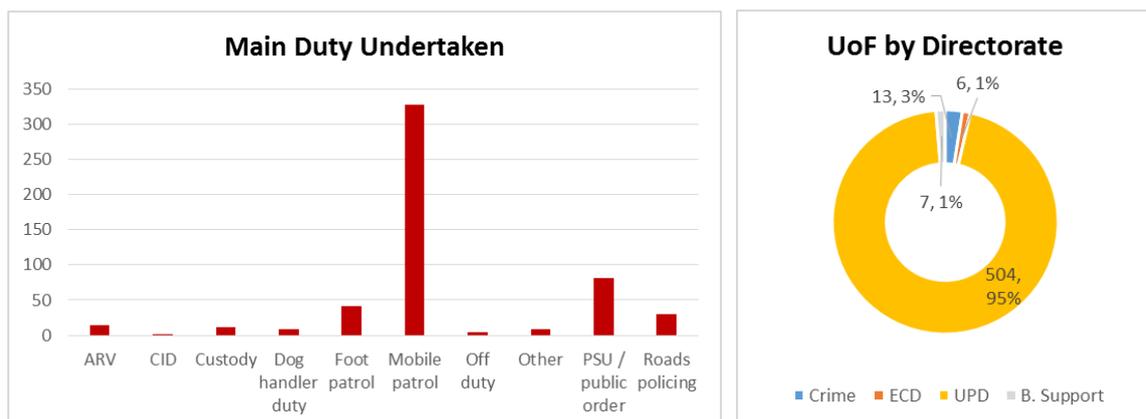
2.4 Conduct of Subject



Subjects were mostly compliant with the use of force- levels of the various types of compliance remain similar to previous quarters apart from serious resistance which has increased by 7 percentage points from 2% to 9%. The majority of these incidents relate to forms submitted from protest activity in Westminster. Those subjects that received minor injuries were more likely to have offered resistance with 2 offering active resistance and a further 3 offering aggressive resistance.

2.5 Officer Details

- **Violence:** Eleven officers received minor injuries with five believing the injury to have been inflicted intentionally. Fourteen officers were spat at during the course of the quarter, an increase from last quarter where only two incidents of spitting were reported. This presents particular threat in the context of Coronavirus.
- **Weapons:** Thirty four officers were threatened with a weapon; four with a blunt object, twenty five had objects thrown at them and five with other objects. Five of the officers involved in these incidents received minor injuries. There were a further 133 forms submitted where intelligence suggested a weapon may be present.
- **Main duty:** 62% of officers utilising UoF were on mobile patrol which is a higher percentage than we usually see there has also been an increase in the percentage of use of force forms submitted while on public order or roads policing duty this quarter. The number of forms submitted from foot patrol has fallen. In 5% (n=26) of submitted forms the officer reporting was single crewed at the time of use of force.
- **Directorate:** UPD represents 95% of all UoF, followed by Crime (3%) with ECD and Business Support submitting just 1% of forms each.



- **Rank:** Constables (including PC, DC and SC) account for 90% of UoF, Sergeants account for 8% and 2% of forms are submitted by inspector rank or higher. Seventeen forms relate to actions taken by detective constables, sergeants or inspectors.
- **Gender:** The majority of officers using force are male (89%) compared to female (11%).
- **Age:** Officers ages ranged from 21-56 years with the average age being 33 years and most common being 27 years.
- **Training:** The vast majority (97%) of officers had received Personal Safety Training (PST) within the previous 12 months. There are 19 incidences of UoF where the officer's PST occurred over 13 months ago but 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	Firearms	Other / improvised	Not Applicable/ Order Unknown
1st	306	122	19	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	4	-	-	75
2nd	4	212	75	6	2	1	3	4	-	1	7	1	5	212
3rd	1	36	17	8	4	-	-	-	1	-	2	-	3	458
4th	1	6	4	3	2	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1	511
5th	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	526

Tactical communications and handcuffing are the most common first tactics employed in 57% and 23% of forms respectively. When officers are called to assist with an ongoing incident this may lead to more serious tactics such as taser and firearms being used as the first tactic.

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

There are 75 forms where the order of tactics has not been recorded. In 27% of UoF forms (n=143) only one tactic is utilised, with the maximum number of tactics recorded on any form being 5.

Taser was available at the scene in 67% of forms (n=357). Taser trained officers submitted 186 forms, 151 were carrying at the time of the incident while 35 were not. Taser was drawn 12 times this quarter, most commonly red dotted (6) and otherwise aimed (2) or drawn (3). Taser was fired once this quarter involving a male in his 30s who had been racially abusing strangers and was believed to be in possession of a weapon and offered active resistance while being arrested.

3.1 Subject Ethnicity

Due to a system issue around the extraction of ethnicity data this is not available, once resolved the document will be updated.

3.2 Subject Gender

The subjects gender has been recorded on 81% of forms (n=428), for those forms where the gender is known 87% are Male and 13% Female. Overall percentages are shown below;



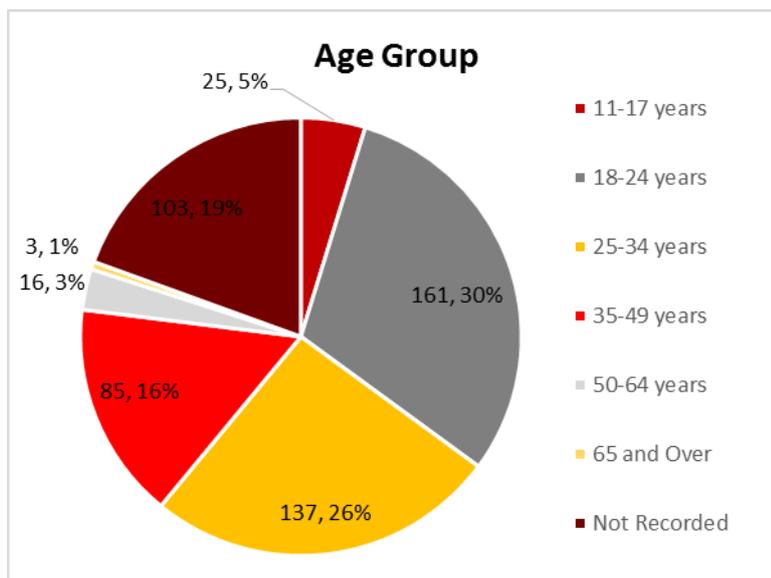
For those forms where gender has been recorded males are significantly over represented in regards to UoF compared to females. They are 7 times more likely to have force used against them when compared to their prevalence in the wider population.

One female had a taser drawn against her this quarter after failing to stop a vehicle for officers and then making off from the vehicle. On the whole females were less compliant with use of force than men (35% to 45%) and more likely to offer aggressive or active resistance while men were more likely to resist verbally or with gestures.

3.3 Subject Age

The age of subjects is not recorded on a number of forms (19%, n=103), 75 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 (30%, n=161) and then 25-34 years old (26%, n=137) with very few people being over 50 or under 18.



3.3.1 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 25 forms involving children – all aged between 13 and 17, the majority were 16 or 17 years old (68%, n=17).
- There are 3 forms involving 13 year olds all relating to the same incident with a white male who was threatening people with a knife, he was arrested, handcuffed and red-dotted by taser.
- **Four forms involve females** (16%), referring to two separate incidents; in the first the girl was handcuffed in the course of her arrest and the second- thought to be under the influence of alcohol and drugs - offered serious resistance and ground restraints were used as well as handcuffs.
- The most commonly stated impact factors were **other** (48%, n=12) and then **drugs** (32%) and possession of weapons (28%).
- There was one drawing of taser against a juvenile this quarter as described above.
- **88% handcuffed; 56% arrested.**
- No juveniles received injuries this quarter resulting from use of force.

3.4 Outcomes



The majority (49%) of UoF result in an arrest of the subject.

This quarter there are 13 forms showing hospitalisation as an outcome, none of these subjects received an injury as a result of the use of force.

There has been a sharp increase in the number of forms listing an ‘other’ outcome (rising from 29% to 45%).