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Performance Information Unit

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# Use of Force

## Quarter 2 2020/21

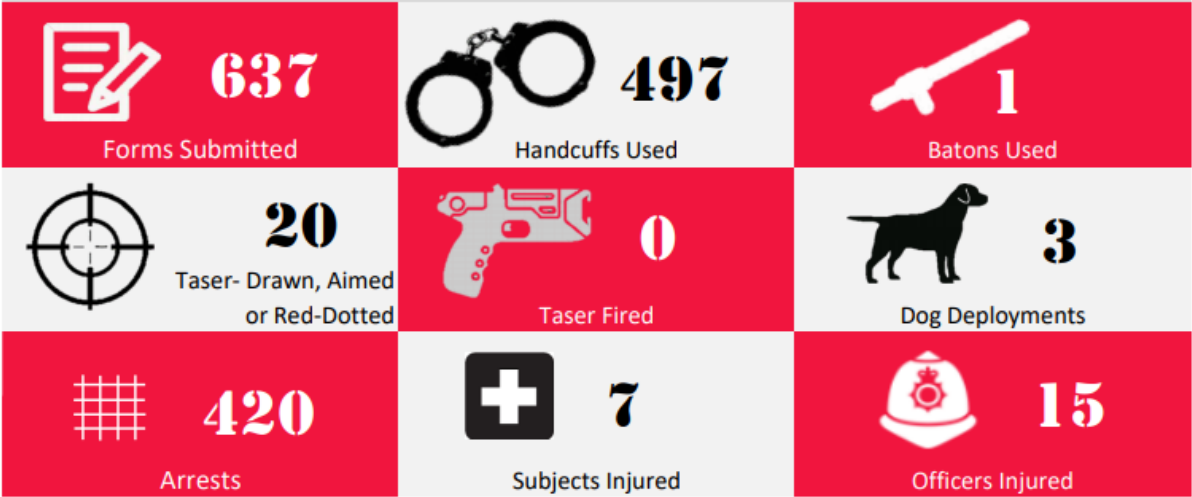
### 1<sup>st</sup> July – 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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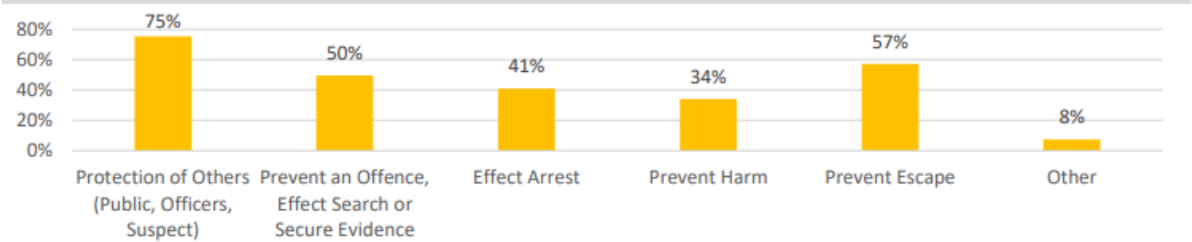
<b>Compiled by:</b>	PIU
<b>Reviewed by:</b>	Performance Analysis Manger
<b>Directorate:</b>	I&I
<b>Date completed:</b>	28/10/2020

## Use of Force Summary Q2 2020/21 (1st July - 30th September 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.



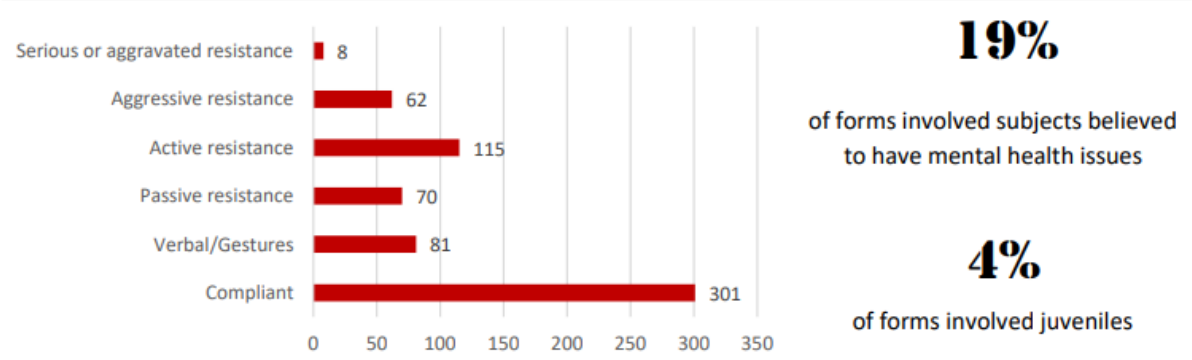
### Reason for Use of Force (% of all forms)



### Subject Ethnicity      Subject Gender



### Conduct of Subject



# Use of Force – Quarter 2 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.

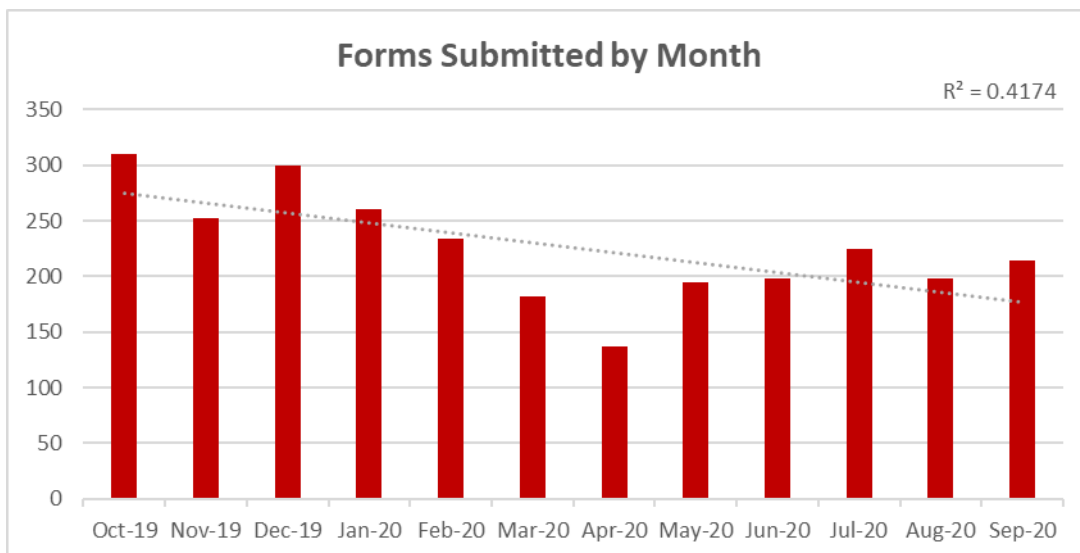
When choosing the appropriate tactical option officers are required to use the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve their legitimate aim.

## 1.2 Key Findings

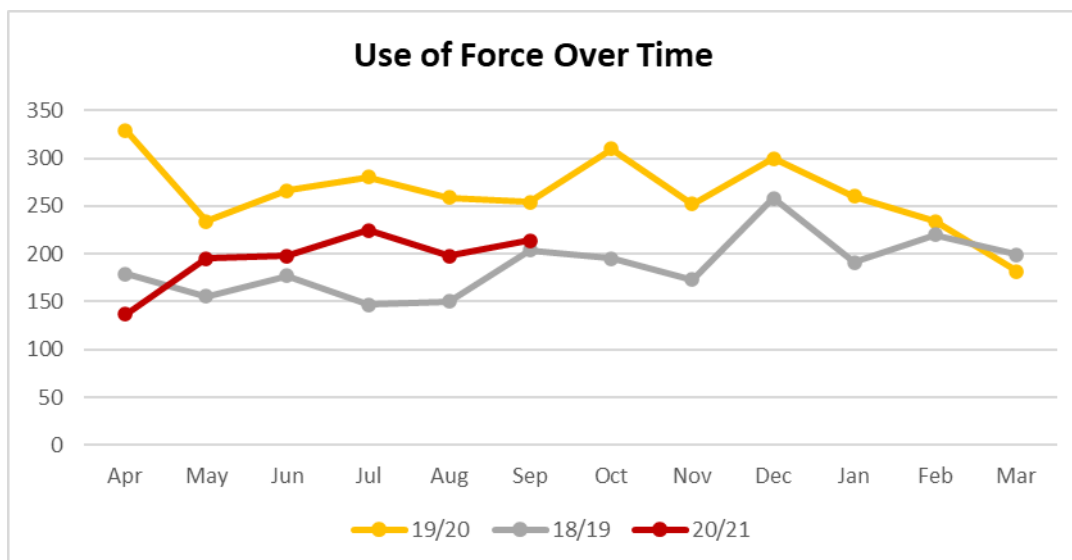
- Submission of Use of Force forms have started to increase again this quarter as activity levels return to those similar to pre lockdown.
- If seasonal trends from previous years are repeated this year we could see an increased number of forms submitted in October and December.
- The most common impact factor reported on forms this quarter was drugs (43%, n=273) which while lower than last quarter remains higher than expected, other impact factors have returned to expected levels after unusual changes last quarter.
- Taser was drawn 20 times this quarter and then most commonly red dotted.
- There were 28 forms involving children submitted this quarter with the youngest being 14, when force was used children were more less likely to be arrested than the whole cohort and also more likely to have 'other' or 'possession of weapons' recorded as an impact factor.
- Nine officers were spat at during the quarter, a slight decrease from last quarter but still a higher level of reporting than before COVID- 19.

### 1.3 Q2 Overview

The average number of Use of Force (UoF) forms per month over the last quarter is 212, rising from 176 last quarter perhaps hinting at the beginning of a return to pre-Coronavirus levels of reporting as activity starts to increase again. July saw the highest number of forms submitted since February.



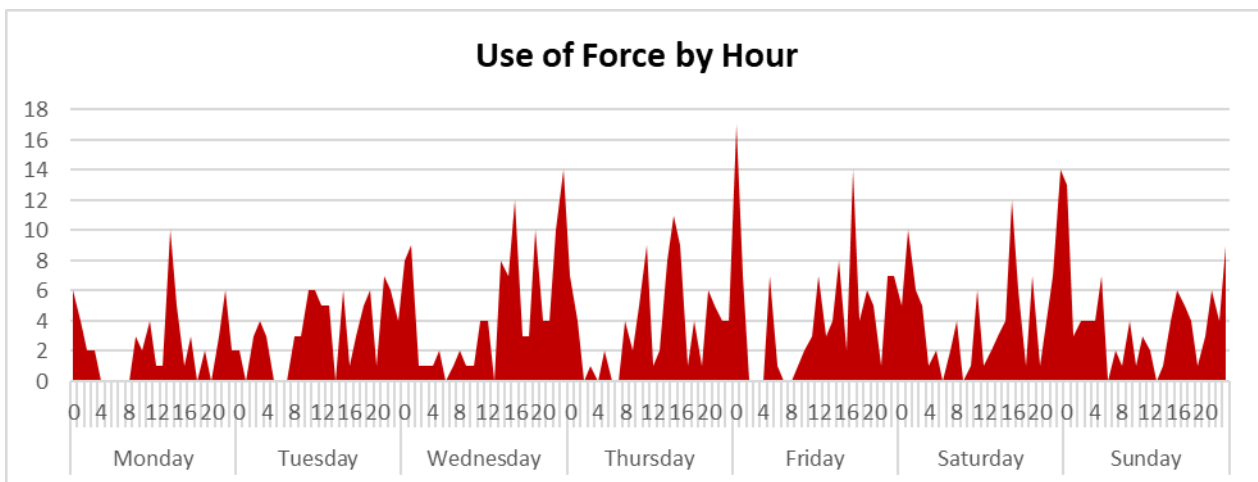
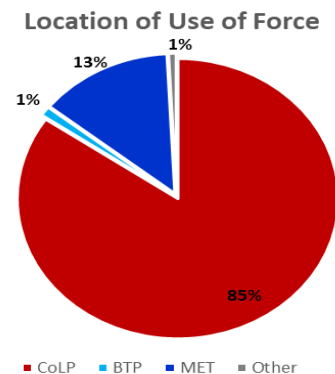
Looking at patterns of form submission over time we are starting to see a similar pattern to last year emerge although levels are slightly lower, they remain above where we were in 2018/19. If levels continue to follow previous seasonal trends, we may see an increased number of reports in October and December.



Of the 637 forms submitted this quarter 539 (85%) occurred on City of London ground with a further 93 (15%) taking place in the wider metropolitan London area or BTP London transport hubs.

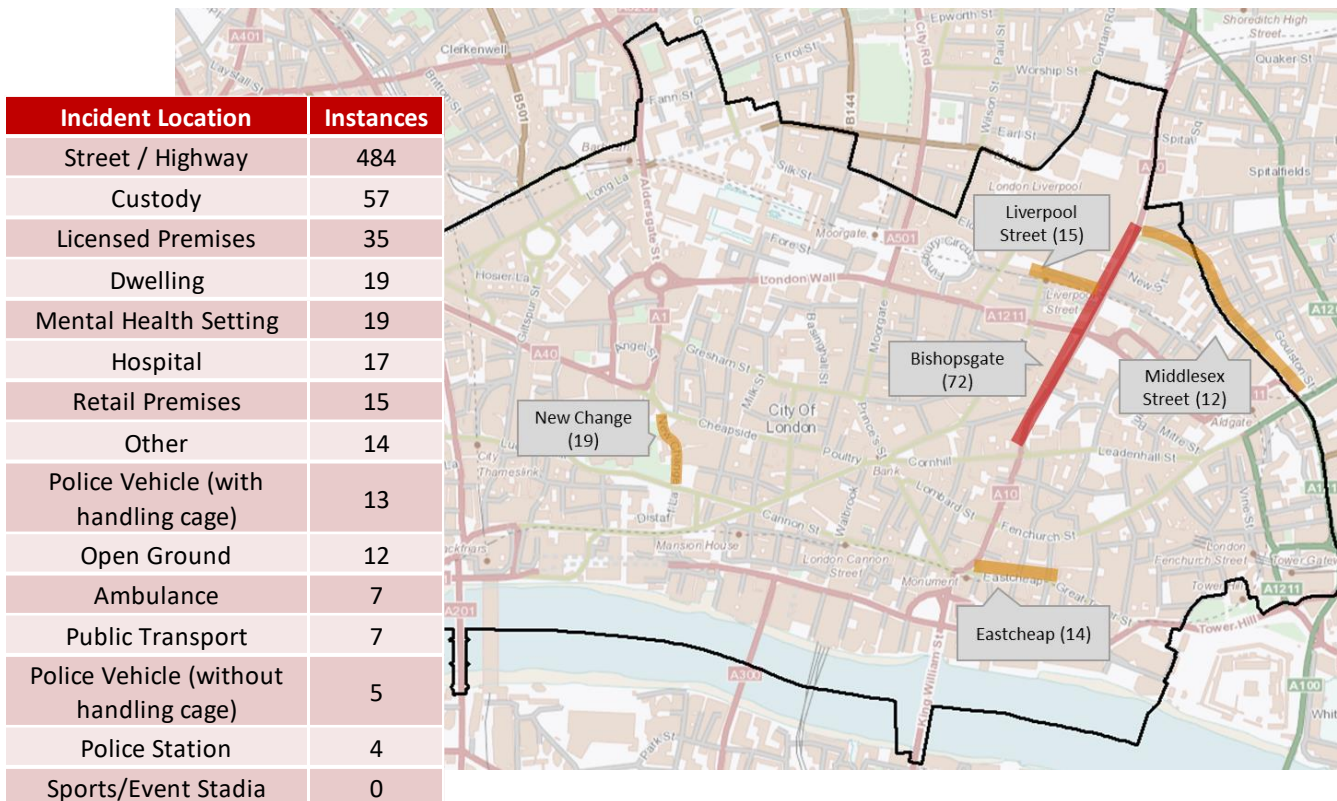
In the last three months 13 forms submitted related to public order events, these relate to several events but the main one was the extinction rebellion protests across London at the beginning of September.

The most common time for UoF incidents this quarter was between 22:00-00:59. In terms of days Wednesday is most common followed by Friday and Saturday. Between 2300 and 00:00 on Thursday is the peak that emerges this quarter looking at both day and time. It is usually Friday and Saturday which see the most activity across each quarter so the higher levels of activity seen on Wednesday this quarter are somewhat out of the norm but likely relate to protest activity.



During this quarter there were 7 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. Fifteen officers received injuries, in incidents where the subject did not, all injuries were minor. Six officers believed their injuries were the result of the subject intentionally trying to assault them.

## 2.1 Locations



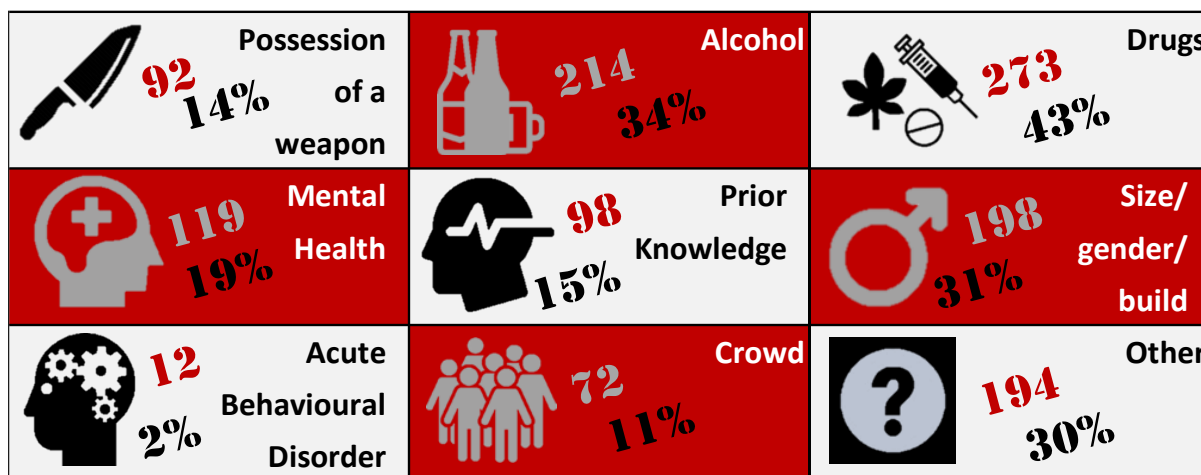
The map above highlights the top five areas associated with Use of Force forms within the City this quarter and the table details the most common types of location. Each form can list multiple location types.

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.

The percentage of forms with no street address recorded continues to fall from 11% last quarter to 8% (n=52) this quarter.

Repeat street locations are mostly to the east of the City this quarter. The majority of incidents relating to licensed premises were centred around Bishopsgate and New Change while there were no key locations for retail premises.

## 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.

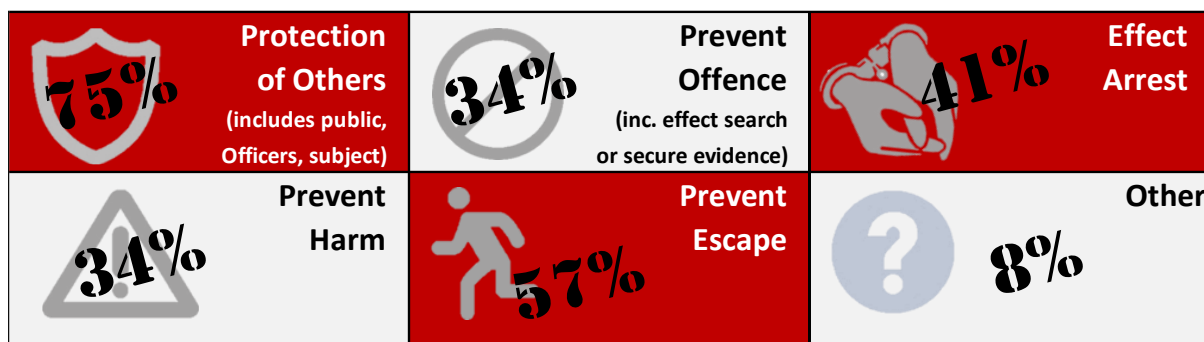
The most common impact factor for use of force this quarter is drugs which was recorded on 43% of all forms, this has fallen 8 percentage points from last quarter but remains higher than levels we were seeing before lockdown. Other categories that have seen significant change this quarter are alcohol which has increased from 26% to 34% and possession of weapons decreasing from 26% to 14%. The current levels for both areas are in line with what we would usually expect with last quarter being the outlier.

Looking at how impact factors correlate with subject behaviour the main factors leading to increased resistive behaviour are alcohol and mental health (61% and 60%, compared to 40% for all forms). Both factors see the biggest increase in relation to Active and Aggressive resistance.

38% of mental health impacted forms resulted in the subject being detained under the mental health act or hospitalised (n=45).

Taser was used most often on those forms where possession of a weapon was an impact factor (n=11) or where the subject was thought to be under the influence of alcohol (n=7).

## 2.3 Reason for Use of Force

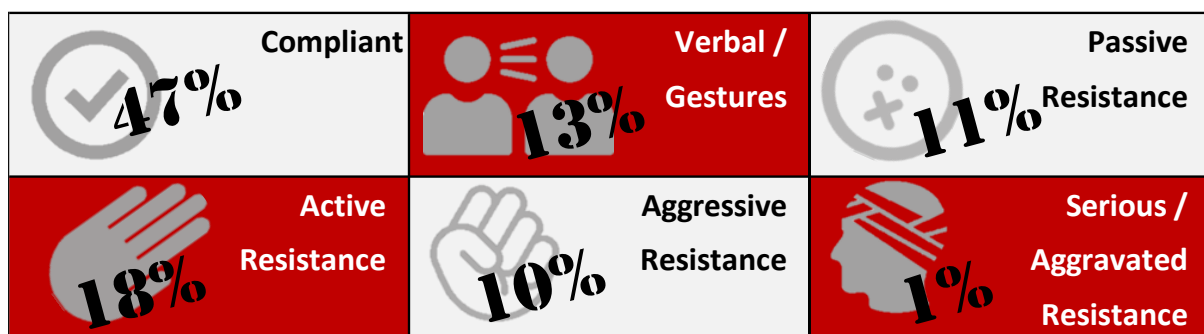


As with other factors there can be multiple reasons given for use of force so figures will not add up to 100%.

The primary reason given for UoF is the protection of others, 75% of forms (n=480), 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 effecting an arrest (from 29% to 41%) while those linked to preventing an offence have fallen (from 60% to 34%) reversing some of the changes we saw last quarter. The number of use of force forms falling under other has also fallen from 18% to 8%.

## 2.4 Conduct of Subject

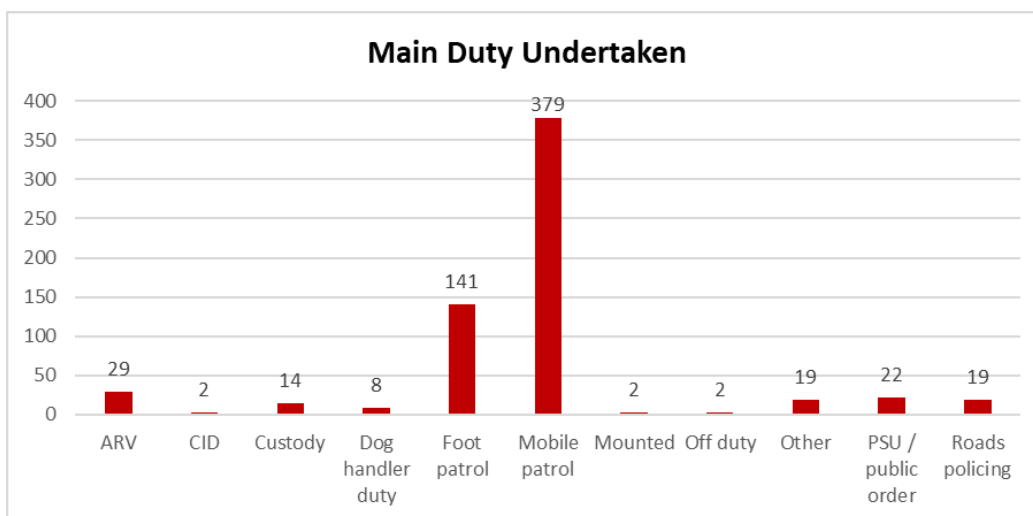


Subjects were mostly compliant with the use of force- levels of the various types of compliance remain similar to previous quarters, with serious resistance falling back to expected levels after peaking last quarter at 9%. Those subjects that received minor injuries were more likely to have offered resistance with 4 offering active resistance.



## 2.5 Officer Details

- **Violence:** Fifteen officers received minor injuries with six believing the injury to have been inflicted intentionally. Nine officers were spat at during the quarter, a slight decrease from last quarter but still a higher level of reporting than before COVID- 19.
- **Weapons:** Eleven officers were threatened with a weapon; two with a blunt object, two had objects thrown at them, one with a bladed article, one with a firearm and five with other objects. No officers were injured during these incidents. There were a further 91 forms submitted where intelligence suggested a weapon may be present.
- **Main duty:** 59% of officers utilising UoF were on mobile patrol and 22% were on foot patrol, all other areas made up small percentages of reporting. In 6% (n=38) 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 each.
- **Rank:** Constables (including PC, DC and SC) account for 94% of UoF, Sergeants account for 4% and 1% of forms are submitted by inspector rank or higher. Twenty-one 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 18-61 years with the average age being 34 years and most common being 27 years.
- **Training:** Nearly all officers had received Personal Safety Training (PST) within the previous 12 months.

## 2.6 Tactics Used

Tactic Order	Tactic														
	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	Irritant spray PAVA used	Spit Guard	Dog deployed	Taser	Firearms	Other / improvised	Not Applicable/ Order Unknown
1 <sup>st</sup>	377	202	24	3	1	2	1	-	1	-	1	8	-	4	13
2 <sup>nd</sup>	13	244	103	7	10	5	-	4	-	2	1	12	-	3	233
3 <sup>rd</sup>	4	41	14	14	8	-	-	-	2	2	-	2	-	2	548
4 <sup>th</sup>	1	9	7	-	2	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	-	1	615
5 <sup>th</sup>	-	2	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	633
6 <sup>th</sup>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	636
7 <sup>th</sup>	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	636

Tactical communications and handcuffing are the most common first tactics employed in 59% and 32% 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 and dog biting – so have been removed from the table.

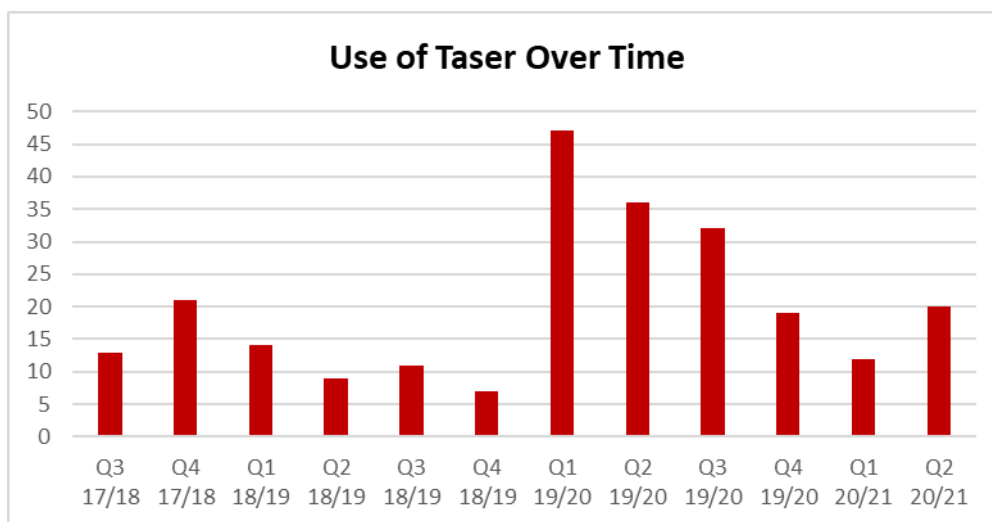
There are 13 forms where the order of tactics has not been recorded. In 35% of UoF forms (n=220) only one tactic is utilised, with the maximum number of tactics recorded on any form being 7.

Taser was available at the scene in 65% of forms (n=412). Taser trained officers submitted 257 forms, 223 were carrying at the time of the incident while 34 were not. Taser was drawn 20 times this quarter, most commonly red dotted (14) and otherwise aimed (2) or drawn (4). There were no Taser firings this quarter.

## 2.7 Taser Usage

On average since recording began on Niche RMS there have been 20 uses of taser recorded each quarter (roughly 7 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=128), there have been 11 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=73).

As with all data in this report this counts forms submitted and not incidents so there may be multiple forms recording use of taser that apply to a single incident, for example the average of 7 a month is 7 officers involved in incidents where taser was required not 7 individual incidents.



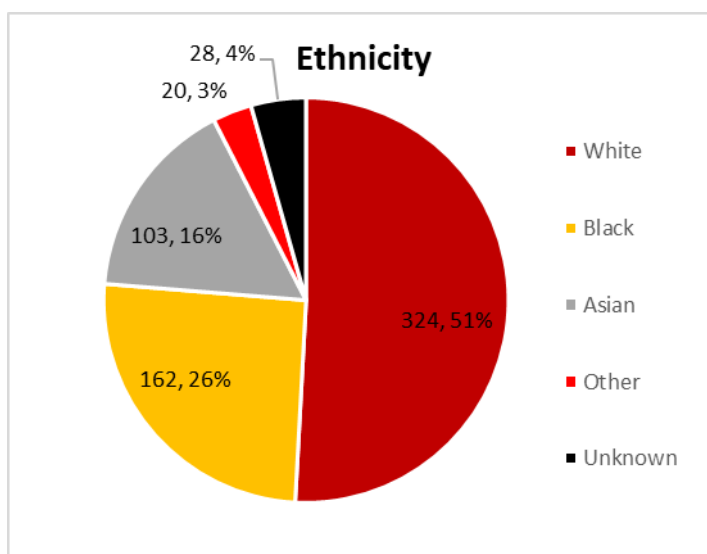
There was a clear increase in the use of taser in 2019/20 with reports increasing 227% from 41 to 134 between the two years. There was a particular spike in Q1 of 2019/20 when we also saw a spike in all forms being submitted. This coincides with an unprecedented crime increase in the city in 2019/20,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

Looking at the order of tactics and where taser is used in relation to other tactics it is most commonly listed as the second tactic employed by officers (43%, n=118) or first (36%, n=97). If we take this as a proportion of all forms the percentage of forms where taser is used first is 1% and 2% for second. It is likely that taser is common as an early tactic because these officers have been called to assist with an ongoing incident as opposed to being there from the beginning and have perhaps been called in particularly because of their taser training. Each escalation of taser use is also required to be recorded on the form so these early tactics are likely to be the drawing of the taser with further usage coming later in the tactic order.

Use of Taser - Tactic Order												
	Q3 17/18	Q4 17/18	Q1 18/19	Q2 18/19	Q3 18/19	Q4 18/19	Q1 19/20	Q2 19/20	Q3 19/20	Q4 19/20	Q1 20/21	Q2 20/21
1 <sup>st</sup>	4	9	7	3	1	7	24	14	7	9	4	8
2 <sup>nd</sup>	4	8	5	5	10	6	18	19	17	7	7	12
3 <sup>rd</sup>	5	3	1	1	-	2	7	5	10	3	2	2
4 <sup>th</sup>	-	2	1	-	-	-	2	1	-	3	-	1
5 <sup>th</sup>	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	1	2	-	-
6 <sup>th</sup>	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

### 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 (51%) involve subjects that are white, this includes North and South European, followed by black (26%), Asian (16%) and other (including Middle Eastern) at 3%. 4% of forms record an unknown ethnicity.

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 2.2 times more likely than the white population to have force used against them. This is slightly higher than the forces average over the last 2 years of 2.1. Asian individuals are just slightly more likely than their white counterparts to have force used against them.

**BLACK**  
**2.24**

**ASIAN**  
**1.12**

**OTHER**  
**0.74**

### 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 324 white subjects recorded on forms; 88% were male, 7% female and 5% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 216 (67%) were arrested, similar to the rate of 66% for the whole cohort.
- **Injury:** Of the 7 subjects who received an injury 3 were white.

#### Impact Factors

- **131 (40%) link to alcohol, higher than the whole cohort of 34%.**
- 131 (40%) link to drugs, slightly lower than the whole cohort rate of 43%.
- 71 (22%) have mental health concerns, higher than the whole cohort at 19%.
- 96 (30%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, just below the overall 31%.
- 34 (10%) involve possession of a weapon, lower than the whole cohort of 14%.

#### Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 79% were handcuffed, slightly higher than the whole cohort at 78%.
- **Taser:** 7 out of 20 uses involved white subjects.
- **PAVA Irritant Spray:** Drawn three times.
- **Baton:** 6 out of 7 baton drawings and 1 use involved white subjects.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 13 out of 22 occasions were against white subjects.
- **Spit guard:** 4 out 5 occasions involved white subjects.

### 3.3.2 Black

There are a total of 162 black subjects recorded on forms; 85% were male, 12% female and 3% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 113 (70%) were arrested, slightly higher than the overall percentage (66%).
- **Injury:** Of the 7 subjects who received an injury 4 were black.

#### Impact Factors

- **40 (28%) link to alcohol, lower than the whole cohort of 34%.**
- 67 (41%) link to drugs, slightly lower than the whole cohort of 43%.
- 29 (18%) have mental health concerns, lower than the whole cohort at 19%.
- **70 (43%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, significantly higher than overall 31%.**
- **33 (20%) involve possession of a weapon, higher than the whole cohort of 14%.**

#### Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 75% were handcuffed, slightly lower than the whole cohort at 78%.

- **Taser:** Use recorded 7 times against black subjects.
- **PAVA Irritant Spray:** Spray was drawn once against a black subject.
- **Dog deployed:** The one dog deployment this quarter involved a black subject.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 9 of the 22 occasions were against black subjects.

### 3.3.3 Asian

There are a total of 103 Asian subjects recorded on forms; 93% were male, 2% female and 5% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 68 (66%) were arrested, the same as the overall rate of 66%.
- **Injury:** No Asian subjects received an injury.

#### Impact Factors

- 29 (28%) link to alcohol, lower than the whole cohort of 34%.
- 57 (55%) link to drugs, significantly higher than the whole cohort at 43%.
- 13 (13%) have mental health concerns, lower than the whole cohort at 19%.
- 17 (17%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, lower than 31% for the whole cohort.
- 17 (17%) involved possession of a weapon, slightly higher than the overall rate of 14%.

#### Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 85% were handcuffed, higher than the whole cohort at 78%.
- **Taser:** Use recorded four times against Asian subjects.
- No incidents involving Asian subjects included the use of PAVA, dogs, batons or limb/body restraints.

## 3.4 Subject Gender

The subject's gender has been recorded on 93% of forms (n=594) an improvement on previous quarters where this is usually around 80%, for those forms where the gender is known 92% are Male and 8% Female. Overall percentages are shown below;



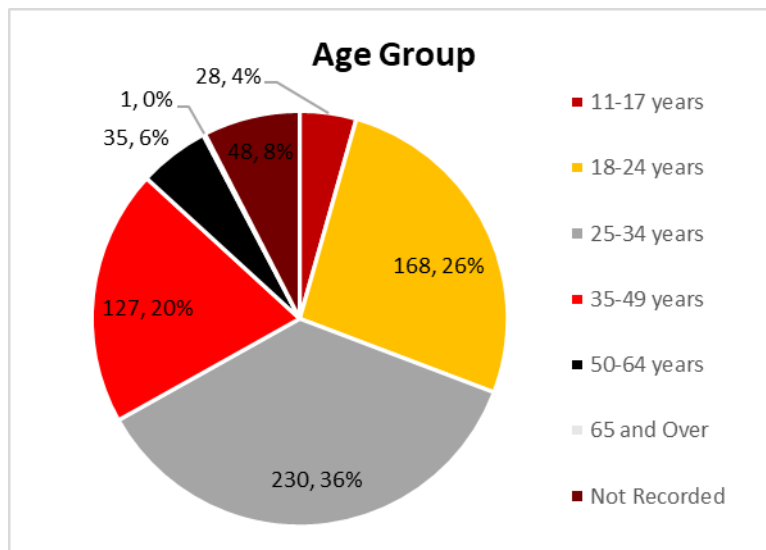
For those forms where gender has been recorded males are significantly overrepresented regarding UoF compared to females. They are 12 times more likely to have force used against them when compared to their prevalence in the wider population.

One female had a taser drawn against her this quarter after offering active resistance while trying to make off on a stolen pedal cycle. On the whole females were less compliant with use of force than men (30% to 51%) and more likely to offer passive resistance, resist verbally or with gestures while men were more likely to offer active resistance.

### 3.5 Subject Age

The age of subjects is not recorded on a number of forms (8%, n=48), 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 25-34 years old (36%, n=161) and then 18-24 years old (26%, n=168).



#### 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 28 forms involving children – all aged between 14 and 17, the majority were 16 or 17 years old (64%, n=18).
- The 28 forms relate to 21 individual incidents.
- **Only one form involves a female** (4%), she was handcuffed after offering aggressive resistance to officers.
- The most commonly stated impact factors were **other** (43%, n=12) and then **possession of weapons** (32%, n=9). 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, it was drawn once and red-dotted once, both subjects were suspected to be in possession of weapons.

- 75% handcuffed; 50% arrested.
- One juvenile received a minor injury as a result of use of force this quarter and received medical assistance. This was a 15 year old male believed to be in possession of a weapon who offered active resistance to officers and was handcuffed in the course of the incident.

### 3.6 Outcomes



The majority (66%) of UoF result in an arrest of the subject.

This quarter there are 13 forms showing hospitalisation as an outcome yet none of these subjects received an injury because of the use of force, two were detained under the mental health act.

Most areas remain similar to previous quarters although we have seen an increase in the number of incidents resulting in a mental health detention this quarter (rising from 23 to 43) some of this could be due to the general increase in reporting but there has also been a number of reports nationally that suggests we are likely to see a sustained increase in people presenting with mental health issues in the coming months and potentially years due to the emotional and economic effects of lockdown which many are just starting to realise.