
Performance Information Unit



Use of Force

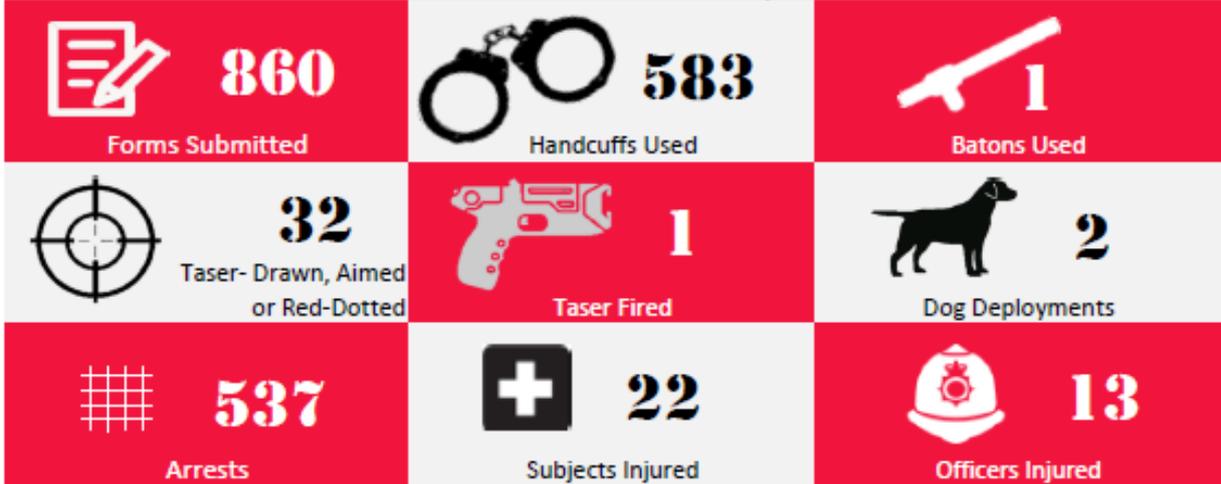
Quarter 3 2019/20

1st October – 31st December 2019

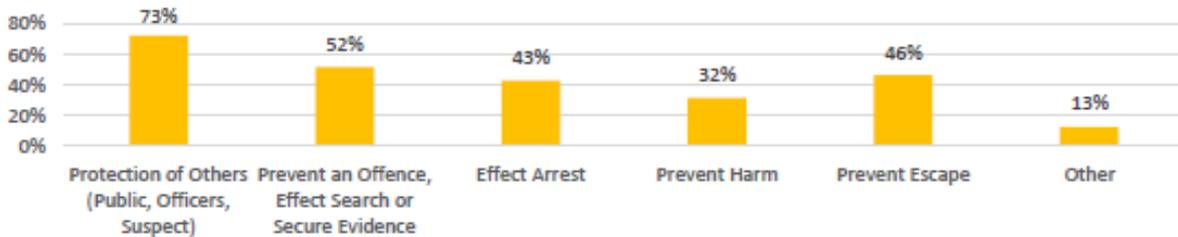
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Use of Force Summary Q3 2019/20 (1st October - 31st December 2019)

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.



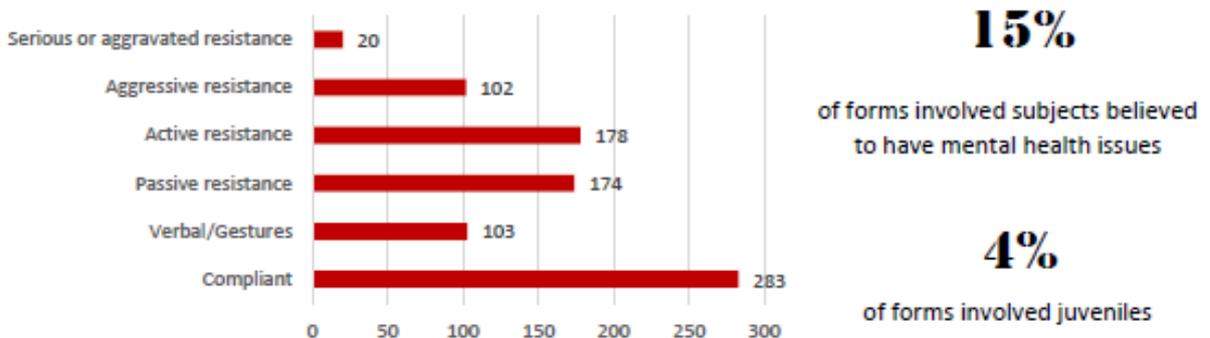
Reason for Use of Force (% of all forms)



Subject Ethnicity Subject Gender



Conduct of Subject



Use of Force – Quarter 3 2019/20

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.

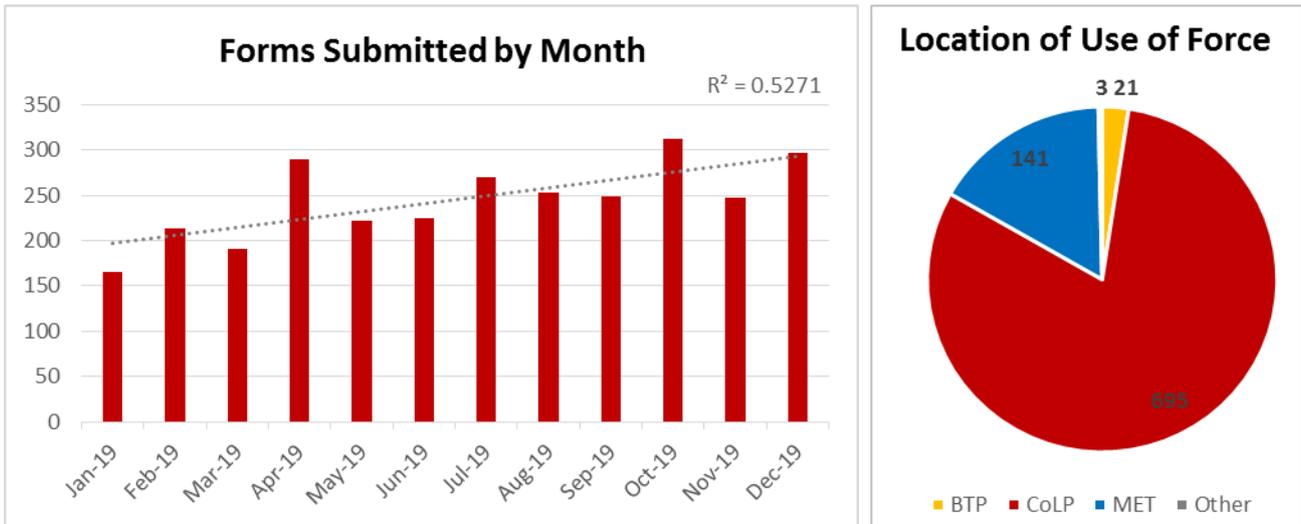
When choosing the appropriate tactical option officers are required to use the minimum amount of force necessary to achieve their legitimate aim.

1.2 Key Findings

- Submission of Use of Force forms has continued to increase this quarter but at a slower rate than last quarter (10%, n=78).
- Most of the repeat locations have moved away from the East of the City back towards the centre this quarter, with Bishopsgate and Liverpool Street being key locations.
- Drugs and alcohol are the most common impact factors.
- Mental health, alcohol and subject size/gender/build are the impact factors most likely to increase subject resistance.
- Taser was deployed 32 times and fired once.
- There were 35 forms involving children – they were less likely to be arrested or impacted by alcohol than the whole cohort but they were more likely to be impacted by suspected possession of weapons.

1.3 Q2 Overview

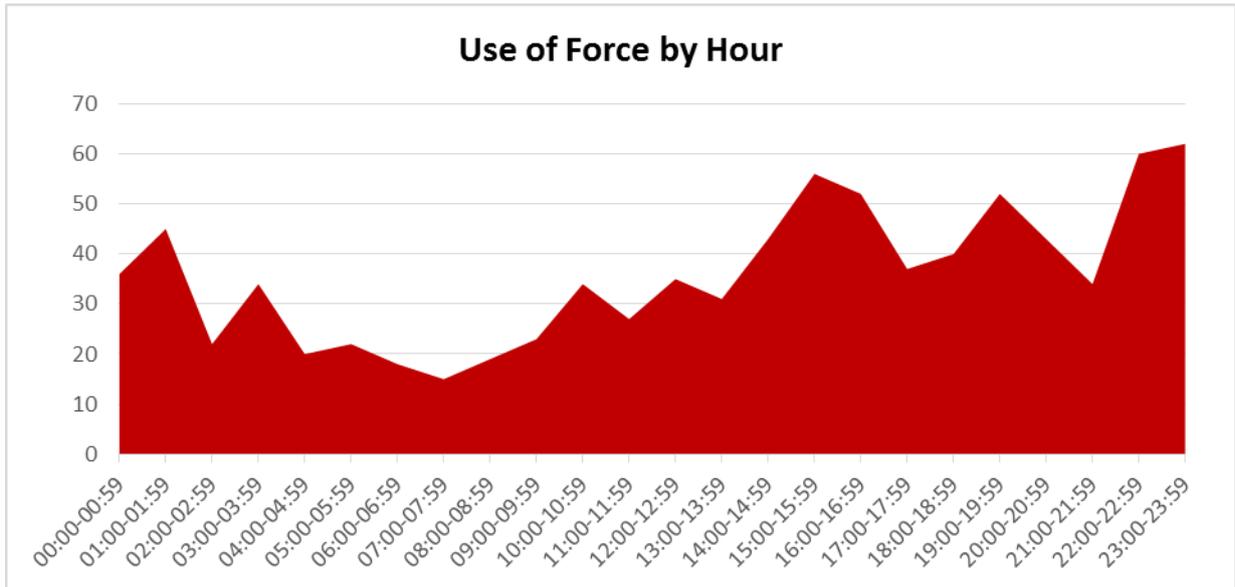
The average number of Use of Force (UoF) forms per month over the last year is approximately 245. Levels have been increasing across the year, there were particular increases in April and October 2019 with around 300 forms completed, well above the usual level. This quarter there has been an average of 285 forms submitted each month, levels dipped in November but the whole quarter saw generally higher levels than previous months in the year.



Of the 860 forms submitted this quarter 695 (81%) occurred on City of London ground with a further 162 (19%) taking place in the wider metropolitan London area or BTP London transport hubs.

In the last three months 73 forms submitted related to public order events, most took place in October and relate to the Extinction Rebellion events held that month. For public order related forms 57% (n=42) took place on Metropolitan Police ground with the remainder within City of London boundaries.

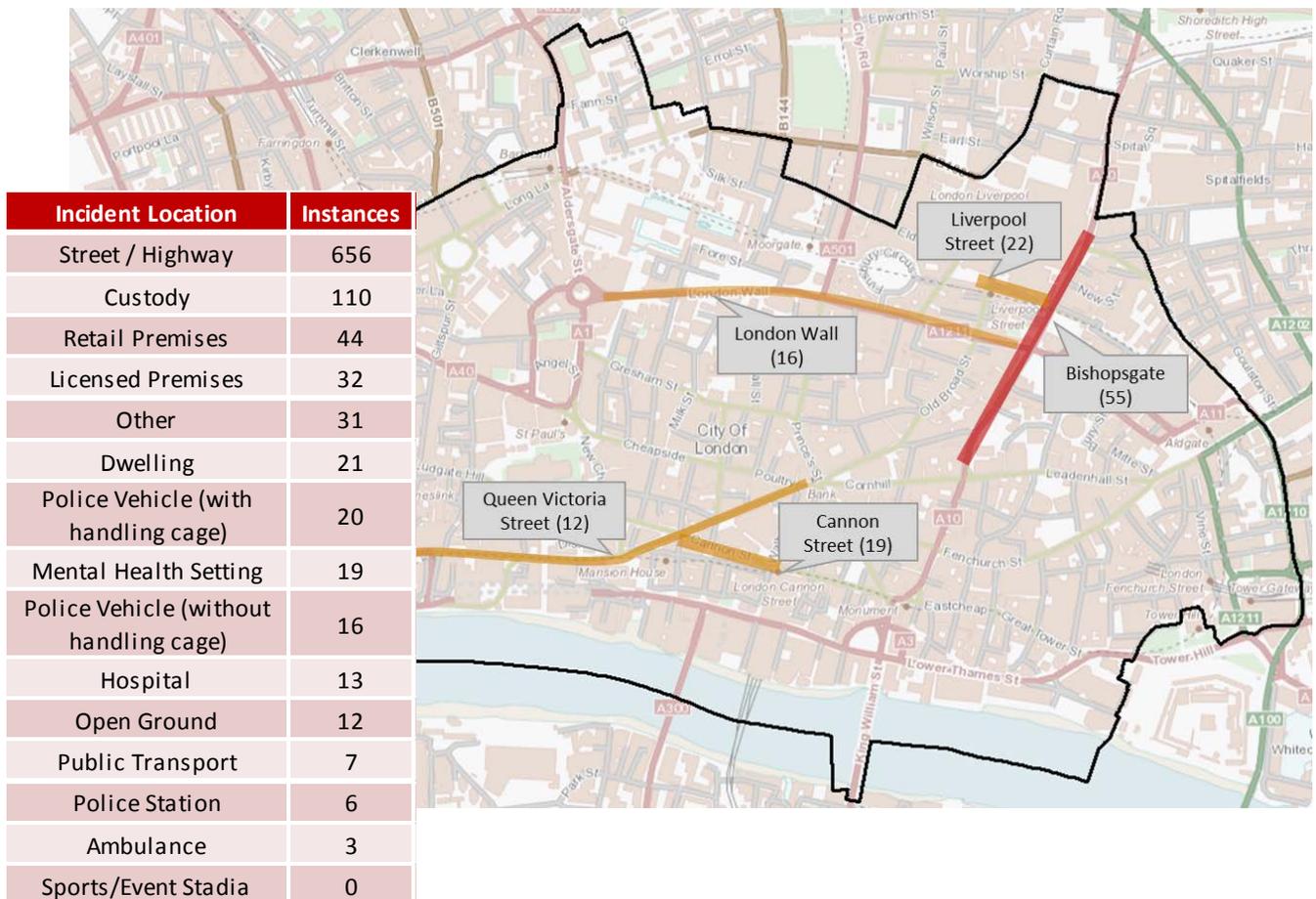
The most common time for UoF incidents this quarter was between 22:00-23:59. In terms of days Friday is most common followed by Saturday. Between 22:00 on Saturday and 04:00 on Sunday is the peak that emerges this quarter, the majority of these incidents involve subjects impacted by alcohol.



During this quarter there were 21 forms that reported that the subject received a minor injury as a result of the Use of Force, 15 of these received medical assistance at the scene. Three officers also received a minor injury as a result of these incidents. Ten other 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.

There was one death recorded this quarter after a firearms discharge in relation to the Fishmonger’s Hall incident at the end of November.

2.1 Locations



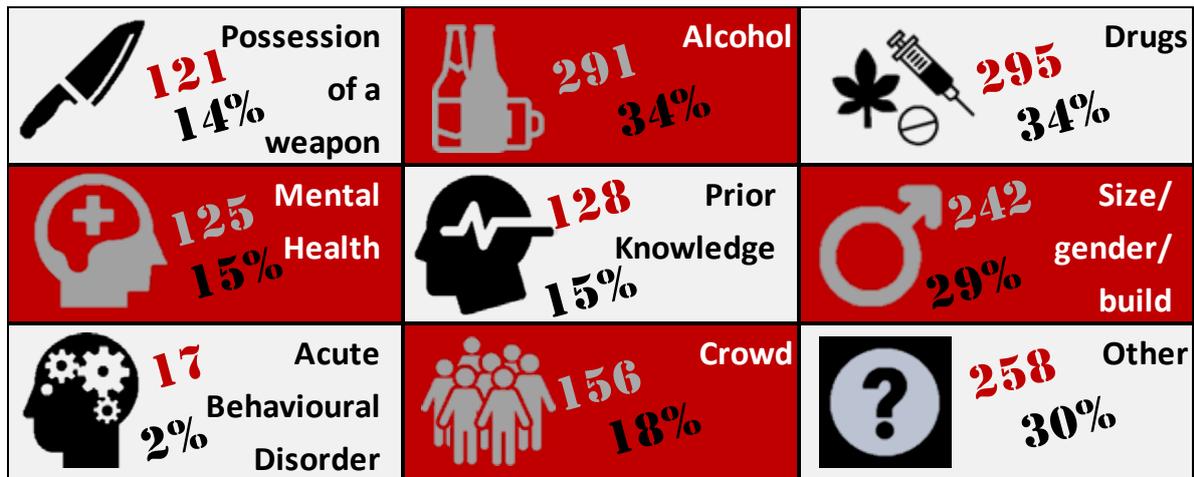
The map above highlights the top five areas associated with Use of Force forms this quarter and the table details the most common types of location. Each form can list multiple location types.

As usual the key locality where use of force takes place is the street/highway and predominantly Bishopsgate, however the proportion of forms relating to Bishopsgate continues to be lower than previously reported this quarter (4%, n=24).

Most of the repeat locations have moved away from the East of the City this quarter, outside of City grounds Whitehall was also a key location with 14 forms submitted.

Those incidents involving licensed premises focus around Bishopsgate (6) or New Change (4) while retail premises are most likely to be on Bishopsgate (12) or Fenchurch Street (8).

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 factors for use of force continue to be drugs and alcohol (34% each), both have fallen this quarter in terms of percentage of all forms- drugs falling 10 percentage points from 44% and alcohol decreasing by 3 points from 37%. The only other category to see a significant change this quarter is prior knowledge which has fallen from 21% to 15%.

Looking at how impact factors correlate with subject behaviour the main factor that seems to lead to increased resistive behaviour is mental health (61%, n=76, compared to 35% for all forms). Both alcohol and size/gender/build also correlated with increased resistance (active, aggressive or aggravated) with 51% of alcohol involved forms and 44% of size forms documenting such behaviours. When looking at the type of resistance most commonly impacted by these behaviours it is active resistance not serious or aggressive that is increased compared to the whole cohort of forms.

Just over a third of mental health impacted forms resulted in the subject being detained under the mental health act or hospitalised (34%, n=42).

Taser was deployed most often on those forms where the size/gender or build of the subject was an impact factor (n=18) or where the subject was thought to be in possession of a weapon (n=17).

2.3 Reason for Use of Force



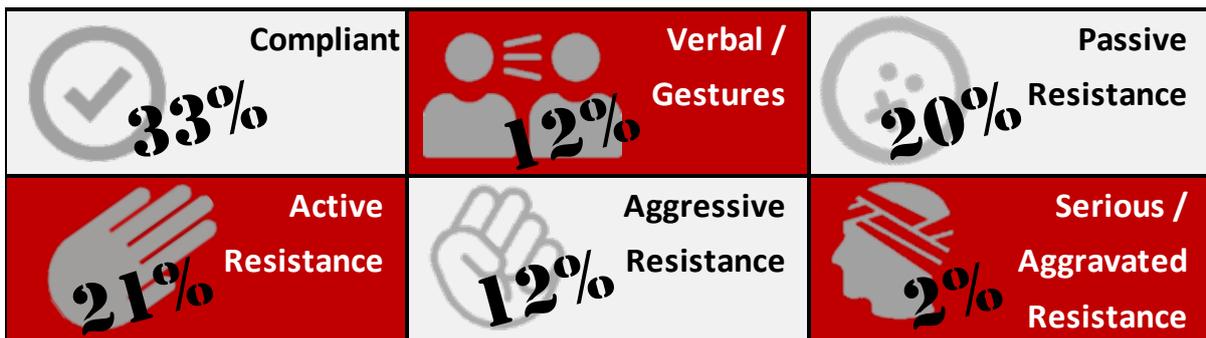
As with other factors there can be multiple reasons given for use of force so figures will not add up to 100%.

The primary reason given for UoF is the protection of others, 73% of forms (n=624), this may be the public, other officers or the subject themselves. This is the only area that has changed significantly since last quarter increasing by 5 percentage points.

Over half of all forms (52%, n=448) refer to preventing an offence, including actions linked to an investigation such as conducting a search or securing evidence. This level is slightly higher than the figure of 46% (n=399) where force is used in order to prevent the escape of the subject.

43% of UoF forms detail tactics used in the course of arresting the subject (n=369).

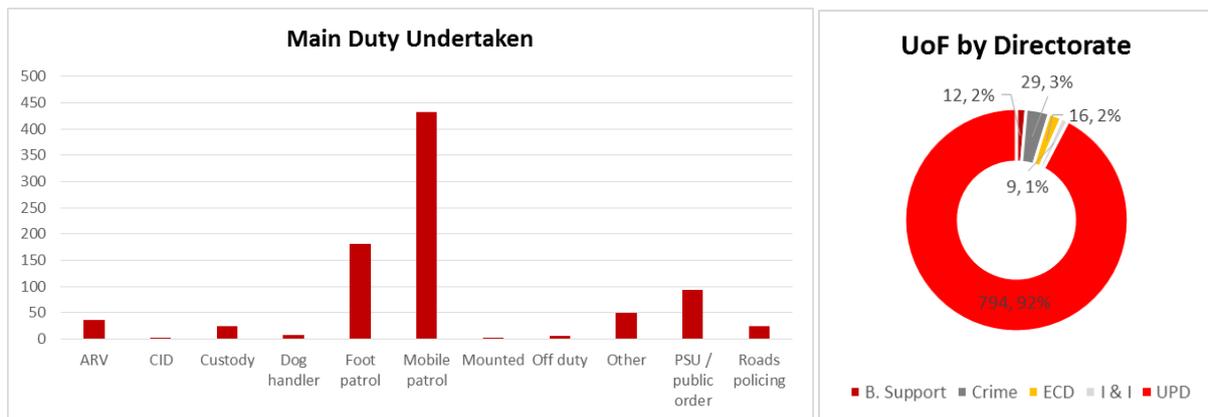
2.4 Conduct of Subject



Subjects were mostly compliant with the use of force- levels of the various types of compliance remain similar to previous quarters apart from passive resistance which has increased by 8 percentage points from 12% to 20%. Those subjects that received minor injuries were more likely to have offered resistance with 10 offering active resistance and a further 6 offering aggressive resistance and 4 more serious or aggravated resistance.

2.5 Officer Details

- **Violence:** Thirteen officers received minor injuries with five believing the injury to have been inflicted intentionally. Fifteen officers were spat at during the course of the quarter.
- **Weapons:** Twelve officers were threatened with a weapon; three with a bladed weapon, one with a pointed object and eight with other objects. All officers involved in these incidents were unharmed. There were a further 137 forms where intelligence suggested a weapon may be present.
- **Main duty:** 50% of officers utilising UoF were on mobile patrol, followed by foot patrol at 21%. In 8% (n=71) of submitted forms the officer reporting was single crewed at the time of use of force.
- **Directorate:** UPD represents 92% of all UoF, followed by Crime (3%) –other directorates submitted no more than sixteen forms each in the current quarter.



- **Rank:** Constables (including PC, DC and SC) account for 92% of UoF, Sergeants account for 6% and 2% of forms are submitted by inspector rank or higher. Twenty seven forms relate to actions taken by detective constables, sergeants or inspectors.
- **Gender:** The majority of officers are male (91%) compared to female (9%).
- **Age:** Officers ages ranged from 19-60 years with the average age being 35 years and most common being 26 years.
- **Training:** The vast majority (94%) of officers had received Personal Safety Training (PST) within the previous 12 months. There are 22 incidences of UoF where the officer’s PST occurred over 13 months ago.

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	Irritant spray CS drawn	Spit Guard	Dog deployed	Taser	Firearms	Other / improvised	Not-Applicable
1 st	463	230	56	7	1	3	-	2	1	-	2	1	7	10	4	-
2 nd	21	283	136	16	7	2	-	13	-	1	1	1	17	4	12	290
3 rd	7	51	38	10	13	-	1	3	7	-	1	-	10	-	4	711
4 th	2	10	10	7	2	-	-	1	2	-	1	-	-	-	1	824
5 th	1	4	1	3	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	848
6 th	-	-	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	857
7 th	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	859
8 th	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	859

Tactical communications and handcuffing are the most common first tactics employed in 54% and 27% 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. Spit guards have been used on 6 occasions this quarter.

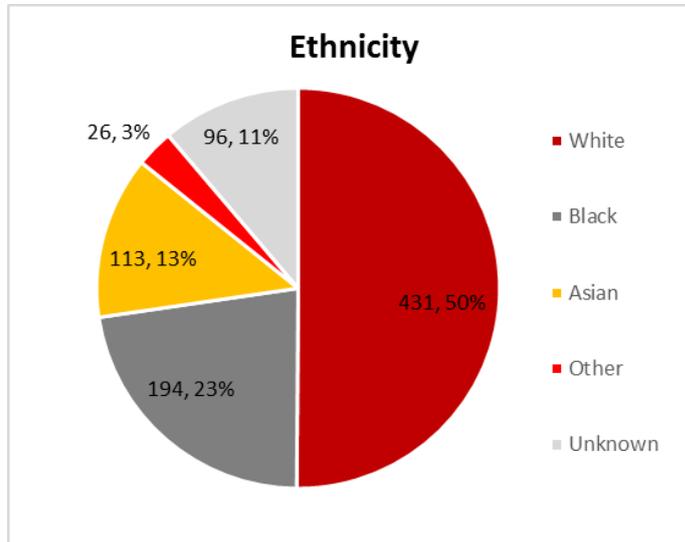
Some tactics were not used at all this quarter – the use of CS spray, shields and dog biting – so they have been removed from the table.

There are 73 forms where the order of tactics has not been recorded. In 34% of UoF forms (n=294) only one tactic is utilised, with the maximum number of tactics recorded on any form being 8.

Taser was available at the scene in 50% of forms (n=433). Taser trained officers submitted 298 forms, 205 were carrying at the time of the incident while 52 were not. Taser was deployed 32 times, most commonly red dotted (21), aimed (2) or drawn (6). Taser was fired once this quarter on a 52 year old male who was arrested for assault after attempting to strangle a police officer.

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 (50%) involve subjects that are white, this includes North and South European, followed by black (23%), Asian (13%) and other (including Middle Eastern) at 3%. 11% of forms record an unknown ethnicity.

The majority of the unknown forms (n=73) 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 had force used against them 2 times more than the white population. UoF is less likely to be used against Asian groups than white individuals.

BLACK
2.02

ASIAN
0.92

OTHER
1.54

3.3 Subject Ethnicity Breakdown

- Points highlighted in **RED** indicate an over representation of more than 5% based on comparison to the overall cohort.
- Points highlighted in **YELLOW** indicate under representation of more than 5% based on comparison to the overall cohort.

3.3.1 White

There are a total of 431 white subjects recorded on forms; 82% were male, 10% female and 9% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 314 (73%) were arrested, higher than the rate of 62% for the whole cohort.
- **Injury:** Of the 22 subjects who received an injury 14 were white.

Impact Factors

- 195 (41%) link to alcohol, higher than the whole cohort of 34%.
- 164 (38%) link to drugs, higher than the whole cohort of 34%.
- 65 (15%) have mental health concerns, the same as the whole cohort.
- 129 (30%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, slightly higher than the overall 29%.
- 54 (13%) involve possession of a weapon, slightly lower than the whole cohort of 14%.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 74% were handcuffed, higher than the whole cohort at 68%.
- **Taser:** 16 out of 32 deployments, including the one firing, involved white subjects.
- **Firearms:** Involved in two incidents with white subjects.
- **Baton:** Drawn three times and used once.
- **PAVA/CS Irritant Spray:** Drawn eleven times and used on six occasions.
- **Dog deployed:** There were no dog deployments this quarter involving white subjects.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 14 out of 25 occasions were against white subjects.
- **Spit Guards:** Five of the six uses were against white subjects.

3.3.2 Black

There are a total of 194 black subjects recorded on forms; 78% were male, 13% female and 8% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 127 (65%) were arrested, slightly higher than the overall percentage (62%).
- **Injury:** Of the 22 subjects who received an injury 6 were black.

Impact Factors

- 50 (26%) link to alcohol, lower than the whole cohort of 34%.
- 63 (32%) link to drugs, slightly lower than the whole cohort of 34%.
- 40 (21%) have mental health concerns, higher than the whole cohort at 15%.
- 78 (40%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, higher than overall 29%.
- 32 (16%) involve possession of a weapon, higher than the whole cohort of 14%.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 69% were handcuffed, slightly higher than the whole cohort at 68%.
- **Taser:** Use recorded 13 times against black subjects.
- **Firearms:** Involved in two forms relating to black subjects.
- **Baton:** A baton was drawn twice but not used against black subjects.
- **PAVA/CS Irritant Spray:** Spray was drawn eight times against black subjects and used four times.
- **Limb/body restraints:** 4 of the 25 occasions were against a black subject.
- **Spit Guards:** Used once with a black subject.

3.3.3 Asian

There are a total of 113 Asian subjects recorded on forms; 94% were male, 3% female and 3% unknown.

- **Outcome:** 68 (60%) were arrested, slightly lower than the rate of 62% for the whole cohort.
- **Injury:** 1 Asian subject received an injury.

Impact Factors

- 32 (28%) link to alcohol, lower than the whole cohort of 34%.
- 54 (48%) link to drugs, significantly higher than the whole cohort at 34%.

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- 9 (8%) have mental health concerns, lower than the whole cohort at 15%.
- 25 (22%) identify size, gender or build of the subject as an impact factor, lower than 29% for the whole cohort.
- 16 (14%) involved possession of a weapon the same as the whole cohort.

Tactics Used

- **Handcuffs:** 79% (n=89) were handcuffed, higher than the whole cohort at 68%.
- **Taser:** Use recorded three times against Asian subjects.
- **Limb/body restraints:** Three of the twenty five occasions involved Asian subjects.
- **PAVA/CS Irritant Spray:** Was drawn once when an Asian subject was involved.
- **Firearms:** Seven forms involving Asian subjects
- **Dog deployments, Batons and Spit Guards** were not used against Asian subjects this quarter.

3.4 Subject Gender

The subjects gender has been recorded on 84% of forms (n=722), for those forms where the gender is known 88% are Male and 11% Female. Overall percentages are shown below;



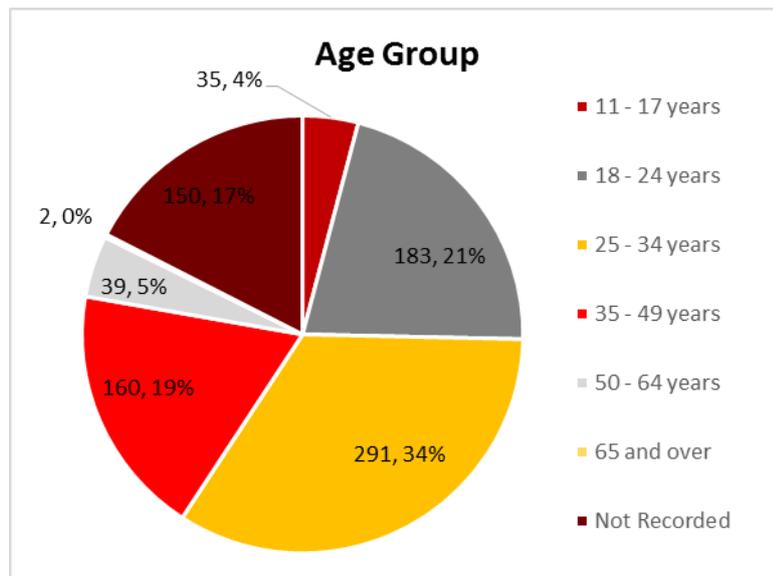
For those forms where gender has been recorded males are significantly over represented in regards to UoF compared to females. They are 7.9 times more likely for force to be used against them when compared to their prevalence in the wider population.

No females had taser deployed against them. No females offered serious resistance although there were more likely to offer active or aggressive resistance (46% compared to 31%) than men.

3.5 Subject Age

The age of subjects is not recorded in a significant proportion (17%, n=150) of UoF, only 73 of these refer to Public Order where the details are not routinely recorded.

Force is used most frequently against those aged 25-34 years old (34%, n=291) with very few people being over 50 or under 18. This is likely reflective of the ages of the working population and the majority of the available street population within the City.



3.5.1 Children (Under 18)

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

- There were 35 forms involving children – all aged between 12 and 17, the majority were 17 years old (46%, n=16).
- There were 4 forms relating to 2 incidents involving 12 year olds – one white male and one black male neither of whom were arrested so further circumstances are not known.
- Two forms involve females, these relate to a single incident where a 16 year old female was detained under the mental health act and offered resistance so was handcuffed.
- In terms of ethnicity **34% were white**, **31% Asian** and 26% black.
- The most commonly stated impact factors were drugs (37%, n=13) and **alcohol or possession of weapons** (both 26%, n=9).
- There was one deployment of taser against a 17 year old male, he was red-dotted.
- 69% handcuffed; **40% arrested**.
- 2 juveniles received minor injuries this quarter with one receiving medical assistance at the scene.

3.6 Outcomes



The majority (62%) of UoF result in an arrest of the subject.

There is a concern around the question regarding hospitalisation outcome recorded by officers, even though officers are selecting yes this may not be as a result of the UoF and may concern other factors i.e. mental health or injuries sustained prior to police arrival. This continues this quarter - there are 27 forms showing hospitalisation as an outcome yet only six of these subjects received a minor injury or were detained under the mental health act as a result of the use of force.

There are no additional details in order to provide context as to the 32% of UoF forms that have 'other' outcomes (n=271).