



● ● ● **Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel Report**

**Quarter 1 2021/22
April 2021 to June 2021**

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Introduction

This report is intended to provide some detailed analysis into Stop Searches conducted by Dorset Police.

The report is designed to provide sufficient information to highlight areas of potential concern or interest. It has been developed to support Dorset Police in the delivery of the Equality Standard for the Police Service which provides a system for monitoring performance and assessing progress on how the priorities of the Equality, Diversity and Human Rights Strategy for the Police Service are being delivered.

Rates per 1,000 population and disproportionality ratios for Stop Search are based on 2011 Census data by ethnicity. The population profile of Dorset used in these calculations is shown below. Unless otherwise stated, ethnicity data stated in this document is based on the self-defined ethnicity of the individual.

Where thresholds are stated, these are calculated at two standard deviations away from the two year average.

Population Profile

	Bournemouth and Poole Division		Dorset County Division		Force	
	2001 Census	2011 Census	2001 Census	2011 Census	2001 Census	2011 Census
White	283,896	289,450	378,380	394,350	662,276	683,800
White Non British	9,915	20,870	7,683	9,967	17,598	30,837
Mixed	2,871	6,107	1,940	3,400	4,811	9,507
Black & Black British	943	2,284	579	924	1,522	3,208
Asian & Asian British	2,932	10,342	1,754	3,833	4,686	14,175
Other Ethnic Group	1,175	2,083	644	431	1,819	2,514
Total	301,732	331,136	390,980	412,905	692,712	744,041
White	283,896	289,450	378,380	394,350	662,276	683,800
BME	17,836	41,686	12,600	18,555	30,436	60,241

	White - British	White - Non British	Mixed	Black & Black British	Asian & Asian British	Other Ethnic Group	Total
Bmth Central	15,505	3,038	672	308	1,302	311	21,136
Bmth East	50,195	6,867	1,420	700	2,447	464	62,093
Bmth North	91,997	5,223	2,152	773	3,362	906	104,413
Bridport	33,071	781	245	47	146	40	34,330
Christchurch	45,414	1,177	505	83	495	78	47,752
Dorchester	56,597	1,393	490	120	753	66	59,419
East Dorset	83,876	1,769	594	106	737	84	87,166
North Dorset	64,936	2,041	552	197	796	61	68,583
Poole North	71,751	2,670	972	262	1,527	180	77,362
Poole South	60,002	3,072	891	241	1,704	222	66,132
Purbeck	43,253	1,087	326	48	231	28	44,973
Weymth & Portland	67,203	1,719	688	323	675	74	70,682
Force	683,800	30,837	9,507	3,208	14,175	2,514	744,041

Delivering the Police and Crime Plan Priorities

The Police and Crime Commissioner and Dorset Police agree a number of Policing Priorities each year. These are laid out in our Police and Crime Plan, which also sets out how Dorset Police organizes itself and its activity in order to achieve these priorities. The 2017-2021 Police and Crime Plan is a public document and is available from the following link:

<https://dorsetpccpolice.s3.amazonaws.com/PCP%202017-2021.pdf>

Our Policing Priorities

- Protecting people at risk of harm
- Working with our communities
- Supporting victims, witnesses and reducing reoffending
- Transforming for the future

1. Ethnicity and Disproportionality

This segment looks at stop and search data based on the self defined ethnicity of the person searched. The term “disproportionality” refers to the ratio between the percentage of persons in a particular racial or ethnic group at a particular decision point or experiencing an event, in this instance Stop and Search compared to the percentage of the same racial or ethnic group in the overall population. Disproportionality should be read as the chances of being searched compared to a white individual are X times greater based on current population data. The data is based on total population statistics, and does not take into account the breakdown of specific policing locales; the disparity between ethnicity changes according to geographical location; or that people are stopped away from their home locality.

	19/20		20/21		20/21		20/21		20/21		21/22	
	Qtr 1		Qtr 1		Qtr 2		Qtr 3		Qtr 4		Qtr 1	
	Searches	Disproportionality Ratio	Searches	Disproportionality Ratio	Searches	Disproportionality Ratio	Searches	Disproportionality Ratio	Searches	Disproportionality Ratio	Searches	Disproportionality Ratio
White	443		541		440		508		552		446	
Mixed	18	3.05	30	4.17	17	2.9	24	3.55	33	4.49	23	3.88
Black	53	26.65	50	20.59	39	19.75	37	16.23	54	21.79	46	22.98
Asian	9	1.02	24	2.24	16	1.83	12	1.19	12	1.1	18	2.03
Other	5	3.21	13	6.83	2	1.29	10	5.6	7	3.6	6	3.82
Not stated	85		90		57		53		87		55	
Total Searches	613		748		571		644		745		594	

In the first quarter of 21/22, Dorset Police have conducted 594 stop searches which is a decrease of 151 compared to the previous quarter. 75.1% of these have been conducted on White individuals and 7.7% of them on Black individuals, this has resulted in a disproportionality rate of 22.98:1 (Black:White searches). This has slightly increased from 21.79:1 in the previous quarter (Qtr 4 20/21) and also from 20.59:1 in the equivalent quarter last year (20/21). The data for the equivalent quarter, 2x financial years ago (19/20) has been included to offer a pre Covid-19 comparison. The table shows that after declining from Q1 to Q3 20/21 the disproportionality ratio has been steadily inclining ever since. Looking at the months of Quarter 1, searches on Black race individuals were statistically higher in May nearing the top of the exception rate recording 20 searches which is double the previous month.

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	19/20			20/21			20/21			20/21			20/21			21/22		
	Qtr 1			Qtr 1			Qtr 2			Qtr 3			Qtr 4			Qtr 1		
	Searches	Arrests	Positive Searches	Searches	Arrests	Positive Searches	Searches	Arrests	Positive Searches	Searches	Arrests	Positive Searches	Searches	Arrests	Positive Searches	Searches	Arrests	Positive Searches
White	443	11.7%	30.9%	541	10.9%	30.5%	440	10.5%	30.2%	508	10.6%	30.5%	552	11.8%	29.2%	446	13.0%	29.8%
Mixed	18	11.1%	22.2%	30	6.7%	23.3%	17	17.6%	41.2%	24	4.2%	16.7%	33	18.2%	42.4%	23	8.7%	21.7%
Black	53	13.2%	20.8%	50	18.0%	30.0%	39	10.3%	20.5%	37	18.9%	27.0%	54	18.5%	37.0%	46	10.9%	19.6%
Asian	9	11.1%	33.3%	24	33.3%	41.7%	16	6.3%	31.3%	12	16.7%	16.7%	12	16.7%	41.7%	18	11.1%	33.3%
Other	5	-	20.0%	13	7.7%	23.1%	2	50.0%	50.0%	10	-	40.0%	7	14.3%	28.6%	6	-	33.3%
Not stated	85	14.1%	25.9%	90	2.2%	14.4%	57	3.5%	21.1%	53	7.5%	20.8%	87	4.6%	14.9%	55	5.5%	27.3%
Total Searches	613	12.1%	29.0%	748	10.8%	28.4%	571	10.0%	29.1%	644	10.6%	28.9%	745	11.8%	28.9%	594	11.8%	28.6%

The arrest rates and positive search rates for Quarter 1 this year have largely shown a decrease across all of the ethnicities compared to the previous quarter with the exception of White race individuals who maintain figures consistent with the previous quarter and equivalent quarters for the last 2 financial years. White race individuals have the highest arrest rate with 13% of the 446 searches in the latest quarter resulting in an arrest however the total number of searches is much higher so this to be anticipated . Positive search rates are relatively consistent across the ethnicities, the average arrest rate year to date is 11.8%, whilst the average positive search rate is 28.6%.

2. Object of Search

This segment looks at the primary item the officer was searching for. Item found rates are where the original object that was searched for was found.

	19/20		20/21		20/21		20/21		20/21		21/22	
	Qtr 1		Qtr 1		Qtr 2		Qtr 3		Qtr 4		Qtr 1	
	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found
Article for use in criminal damage	5	-	9	44.4%	6	16.7%	5	20.0%	10	60.0%	3	-
Article for use in theft	56	16.1%	35	11.4%	28	7.1%	39	10.3%	47	19.1%	35	11.4%
Drugs	427	30.9%	590	30.8%	369	32.2%	445	36.4%	525	33.7%	407	32.9%
Firearms	1	100.0%	7	28.6%	7	-	5	40.0%	6	33.3%	4	-
Offensive weapons	82	20.7%	44	20.5%	88	14.8%	88	13.6%	89	14.6%	107	22.4%
Stolen goods	30	30.0%	41	24.4%	60	21.7%	46	26.1%	52	19.2%	28	21.4%
Other	4	-	18	61.1%	12	-	17	41.2%	16	12.5%	10	50.0%
Not Recorded	8	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Searches	613	27.4%	747	29.7%	570	26.0%	645	31.1%	745	29.4%	594	29.1%

In the latest quarter (1), Drug searches account for the most common reason at 68.5% of all searches. In 32.9% of the time, drugs are found on the individual that was searched, this is above the overall find rate for all stop searches. Searches for Drugs decreased to 407 searches in Quarter 1 which is a 22.5% decrease to the previous quarter and a 31% decrease from the equivalent quarter of the previous financial year. Searches for stolen goods has nearly halved compared to the previous quarter with June only providing 5 searches just marginally inside the minimum exception rate which is 4.6. Offensive weapon searches have risen again this year after doubling from 44 in Q1 last year to 88/89 in Q2, Q3 and Q4 they have now increased to 107 in the latest quarter which is well above the maximum exception rate.

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21/22	White		Mixed		Black		Asian		Other		Not stated	
	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found	Searches	Item Found
Article for use in criminal damage	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Article for use in theft	28	14.3%	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	6	-
Drugs	311	33.4%	11	18.2%	34	29.4%	15	40.0%	4	50.0%	32	31.3%
Firearms	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
Offensive weapons	72	22.2%	8	12.5%	8	50.0%	3	-	1	-	15	20.0%
Stolen goods	22	22.7%	3	33.3%	3	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other	7	42.9%	1	100.0%	1	100.0%	-	-	-	-	1	-
Total Searches	446	29.6%	23	21.7%	46	32.6%	18	33.3%	6	33.3%	55	23.6%

69.7% of all searches so far this financial year on White individuals have been for drugs. 33.4% of these searches resulted in the object being found. The overall find rate for all White searches is 29.6%. 73.9% of all searches on Black and Black British individuals have been for drugs. 29.4% of these resulted in the object being found. The overall find rate for all Black and Black British searches is 32.6%.

3. Location

This segment looks at the geographical location that a search has taken place in.

	19/20	20/21	20/21	20/21	20/21	21/22
	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1
Bournemouth Central	76	87	95	82	77	101
Bournemouth East	89	110	62	80	138	71
Bournemouth North	53	107	75	73	87	77
Poole North	28	34	34	47	34	34
Poole South	105	71	86	58	100	126
Bridport	16	11	5	9	16	4
Christchurch	13	33	15	20	29	11
Dorchester	45	58	34	43	64	36
East Dorset	25	39	48	63	32	24
North Dorset	37	45	19	27	25	11
Purbeck	19	7	9	11	17	8
Weymouth & Portland	100	143	85	118	107	81
Unknown	7	2	3	12	18	10
X	-	-	-	1	1	-
Total Searches	613	747	570	644	745	594

41.9% of searches this financial year have taken place in Bournemouth. 26.9% of searches this year have taken place in Poole and 13.6% of searches have occurred in Weymouth & Portland. Searches in Bournemouth East had dramatically increased between Q3 & Q4 by 72.5% however in the latest quarter the number of searches has dropped back down to a figure more consistent with the previous year. Poole South has seen the biggest increase in searches in Q1 by 26%.

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21/22 - Total Searches by location	White	Mixed	Black	Asian	Other	Not stated	Total
Bournemouth Central	60	8	13	7	1	12	101
Bournemouth East	52	3	6	3	1	6	71
Bournemouth North	56	6	4	4	3	4	77
Poole North	24	-	5	-	-	5	34
Poole South	107	3	4	1	1	10	126
Bridport	4	-	-	-	-	-	4
Christchurch	8	1	1	-	-	1	11
Dorchester	31	1	1	-	-	3	36
East Dorset	19	-	-	-	-	5	24
North Dorset	10	-	-	-	-	1	11
Purbeck	6	-	-	-	-	2	8
Weymouth & Portland	60	1	12	3	-	5	81
Unknown	9	-	-	-	-	1	10
Total	446	23	46	18	6	55	594

Most searches on Black and Black British Individuals take place in the Bournemouth area however the latest quarter has seen Weymouth as the individual section with the second highest Black search rate after Bournemouth Central. The individual section that recorded the most White searches is Poole South recording 107 which is 78% more than the second highest sections Bournemouth Central and Weymouth & Portland at 60.

4. Age

This segment looks at the age of the person searched.

	19/20	20/21	20/21	20/21	20/21	21/22
	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1
Under 10	1	-	-	1	-	-
10-13	20	2	9	13	11	18
14-16	88	84	72	82	122	90
17	45	26	42	56	43	44
18-24	161	209	151	216	218	164
25-34	122	191	120	134	154	113
35-59	166	220	166	129	185	146
60 and over	3	8	7	4	7	6
Unknown	6	7	3	9	5	13
Total Searches	612	747	570	644	745	594

Q1 searches for the current financial year have decreased across most of the age groups compared to the previous quarter. The highest increase is 10-13 years rising to 18 searches however looking at the table the searches for Q1 of the current year have returned to a very similar position to the searches in Q1 of 2019/20 financial year. During Q1 of the current year the month of June saw the highest number of searches on 10-13 year olds at 9 searches which is marginally higher than the maximum exception rate.

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21/22 - Total Searches by Age	White	Mixed	Black	Asian	Other	Not stated	Total
10-13	15	-	-	-	-	3	18
14-16	73	3	1	3	-	10	90
17	39	1	2	-	-	2	44
18-24	99	13	24	9	1	18	164
25-34	89	3	7	4	3	7	113
35-59	121	2	11	2	1	9	146
60 and over	3	1	1	-	-	1	6
Unknown	7	-	-	-	1	5	13
Total	446	23	46	18	6	55	594

The highest number of White searches is with the 35-59 age group at 121 searches however the highest number of black searches is within the 18-24 age group at 24 searches which is 118% higher than the second highest age group which is 35-59. This is infact the case for all ethnic minority groups recording their highest search figures within the 18-24 age group. In the latest quarter, searches on persons aged 13 and under were only performed on White British and Non British individuals.

5. Outcomes

This segment looks at the primary outcome that is recorded against the stop and search.

	19/20	20/21	20/21	20/21	20/21	21/22
	Qtr 1	Qtr 1	Qtr 2	Qtr 3	Qtr 4	Qtr 1
Suspect arrested	74	81	57	68	88	70
Suspect summonsed to court	9	9	10	5	11	4
Penalty Notice for disorder	-	1	-	-	-	-
Offender given drugs possession warning	19	8	-	5	1	8
Local resolution	22	41	33	49	48	39
Voluntary Attendance	52	70	64	56	64	47
Alcohol Seized	1	1	2	1	1	1
Tobacco Seized	1	-	-	1	1	-
No further action	418	476	339	387	459	364
Not Recorded	17	60	65	72	72	61
Total Searches	613	747	570	644	745	594

70 searches in the latest quarter have resulted in the suspect being arrested. The majority of stop search encounters still result in the individual receiving no further action. There are some occasions where the outcome has not been recorded, this has increased by 259% compared to the equivalent quarter in the 19/20 financial year however this remains consistent with each quarter of the previous year. Voluntary Attendance has decreased by 32% compared to the equivalent quarter in the previous financial year (20/21).

Outcomes for the latest quarter are reasonably consistent between April, May and June, none of them exceeding the exception rates.

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21/22 - Total Searches	White	Mixed	Black	Asian	Other	Not stated	Total
Suspect arrested	58	2	5	2	-	3	70
Suspect summonsed to court	3	-	1	-	-	-	4
Offender given drugs possession warning	7	1	-	-	-	-	8
Local resolution	27	1	1	1	-	9	39
Voluntary Attendance	36	1	2	3	2	3	47
Alcohol Seized	1	-	-	-	-	-	1
No further action	270	14	34	8	3	35	364
Not Recorded	44	4	3	4	1	5	61
Total	446	23	46	18	6	55	594

So far in 2021/22, 13% of White searches have resulted in the suspect being arrested compared to 10.9% of Black and Black British encounters (however it needs to be noted these are for much smaller numbers).

7.9% of searches resulted in an out of court disposal (caution, penalty notice, drugs possession warning or local resolution) being given. 7.9% of searches resulted in the individual being interviewed voluntarily.

No further action rates are relatively consistent across all ethnicities.

5. National Data

Force	Disproportionality Rate (Black:White)	Change	
		in Rate	in Position
Dorset	22.5	-2.3	0
West Mercia	13.8	-0.3	1
Warwickshire	13.0	3.4	5
Sussex	12.4	-1.7	-2
Devon and Cornwall	12.2	3.8	10
Hampshire	10.8	-0.6	0
London, City of	10.6	1.0	2
Norfolk	10.3	-0.1	-1
Gwent	10.3	1.3	1
Wiltshire	9.6	1.8	11
Lincolnshire	9.4	1.8	11
Surrey	8.7	0.3	4
Staffordshire	8.4	-0.3	-2
Kent	8.1	-3.4	-9
Cambridgeshire	8.0	1.4	10
Suffolk	7.4	-1.1	-2
Cheshire	7.4	-1.0	0
Northamptonshire	7.0	-1.7	-5
South Wales	6.8	0.6	8
Avon and Somerset	6.7	0.2	6
Gloucestershire	6.5	-5.8	-17
Nottinghamshire	5.8	-1.3	1
Humberside	5.7	-2.1	-3
Essex	5.3	-0.7	4
Derbyshire	5.2	-3.5	-13
North Yorkshire	5.2	0.1	5
Hertfordshire	5.1	0.3	6
Leicestershire	4.7	-0.4	2
Thames Valley	4.7	-0.3	3
Cumbria	4.6	-3.3	-11
Cleveland	4.4	-1.2	-2
West Midlands	4.4	0.0	3
Northumbria	4.0	-0.5	1
Lancashire	4.0	-0.2	3
Dyfed-Powys	3.9	-4.0	-17
Metropolitan Police	3.9	-0.4	0
Durham	3.7	0.9	6
West Yorkshire	3.5	0.6	4
Merseyside	3.2	-0.2	2
Bedfordshire	3.1	-0.5	-1
South Yorkshire	2.5	-1.1	-1
North Wales	1.7	-2.0	-4
Greater Manchester	-	-	-

The table shown to the left displays the black to white disproportionality rate for each Force in the UK based on 2019/20 data. The red line denotes the national average rate (7.1:1). This has dropped slightly from (7.6:1) in 2018/19.

It can clearly be seen that Dorset is a national outlier with regards to its disproportionality rate. There are many reasons why this is the case.

A recent in depth review has been commissioned by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner to investigate why Dorset is such an outlier.

We did not receive any data for Greater Manchester for the previous financial year.