



Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner



Bedfordshire Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

June 2026 -
Quarterly Bulletin

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Stop & Search & Use of Force Data

The data covering the period April to June 2026 is currently incomplete due to a system issue affecting data extraction and reporting. The force presented the available data to the panel, with members taking into account the known limitations and potential inaccuracies when reviewing the information.

Work is ongoing to resolve the issue and validate the affected data. Once complete, the force will provide the full and corrected dataset to the Scrutiny Panel at the next Data Panel meeting, enabling a more comprehensive review and analysis of activity during this period.



Section 163

What have we seen this quarter?

This quarter, the panel reviewed and graded four Section 163 incidents, across Bedfordshire.

The following gradings were assigned to the S163 cases reviewed by the Scrutiny Panel: one Green 2, one Green 3, one Amber 4 and one Amber 6.

Green 2 and Green 3 indicate that the stop met legal and organisational requirements, with Green 2 requiring minimal feedback and Green 3 highlighting minor learning points for future consideration.

Amber 4 indicates that a key procedural requirement was missed. Amber 6 reflects concerns identified by the panel; however, these were not considered sufficiently serious to warrant a formal investigation.

Feedback on Section 163 videos viewed:

The Scrutiny Panel identified several positive aspects across the four reviewed videos, including:

- The officer provided a clear explanation and repeated it two to three times to ensure the subject understood.
- The panel welcomed the officer's decision not to stop the subject immediately and instead wait until a safe location was available.
- The officer was respectful, polite, friendly, supportive, and patient throughout.

The panel noted that the following aspects of the Section 163 interaction could have been improved:

- The officer's initial approach was overly aggressive, including the use of swearing and a confrontational tone.
- Panel members noted that members of the public may not be familiar with the term "TOR" and that it would be helpful to provide a clearer explanation.
- The written grounds did not match the grounds provided verbally.



Focus Areas

At the start of the quarter, the data panel reviewed stop and search data and use of force data from the previous quarter. The panel identified key trends and patterns that warranted closer attention and determined the areas of focus for this quarter.

Below are the trends highlighted by the panel and the topics they based their video selection on.

Use of Force Quarter Focus

- Black individuals
- Mental health-related incidents
- Subjects injured as a result of police use of force
- Individuals aged 18-34
- Officers with the highest use of force
- Children under the age of 10
- Custody videos

Stop and Search Quarter Focus

- Black, White and Asian individuals within the same age group
- Individuals aged 35-49
- Officer-initiated searches
- Officers conducting the highest number of searches

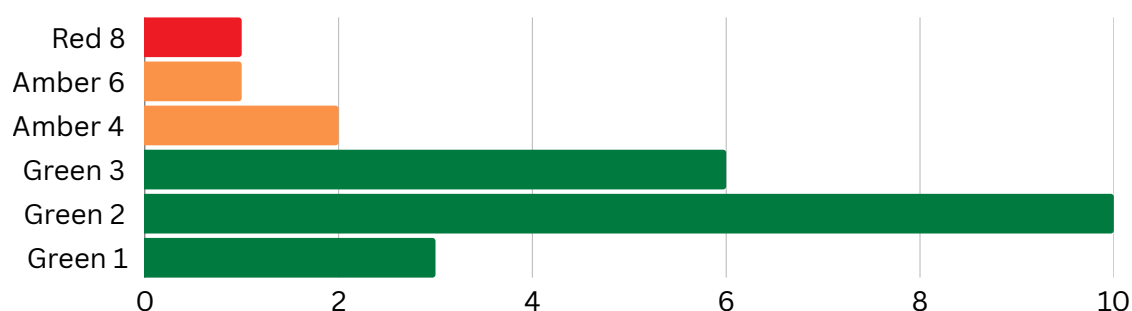
What have we seen?

During this quarter, the panel reviewed a total of 23 video recordings, 5 less than in the previous quarter. These included:

- 11 Stop and Search videos
- 8 Use of Force videos
- 4 Section 163 (S163) videos

The Scrutiny Panel grades each video using a traffic light system: Green, Amber and Red. Green indicates that the officer's conduct was appropriate and met legal and organisational requirements. Amber highlights areas for learning and development, while Red indicates significant concerns regarding the conduct observed.

The table below shows the grading outcomes for the 23 videos reviewed: 19 were graded Green, 3 Amber, and 1 Red.



The Red grading highlighted concerns raised by the panel. The case will be referred to the Professional Standards Department (PSD) for learning and development feedback. Examples of panel feedback included:

- Concerns about the level of force used. Panel members felt it had the potential to cause injury and that the officer's tone may have escalated the situation.
- The officer's behaviour was perceived as aggressive, dismissive and escalatory, with limited attempts to de-escalate.
- Although the officer's attitude and tone became noticeably calmer towards the end of the incident, panel members did not feel this mitigated the earlier use of force or language employed.

Updates this quarter

Review and Update of the RAG

This quarter, a review of the RAG (Red, Amber, Green) grading framework was undertaken. Panel members were invited to provide feedback on its effectiveness, highlighting both areas of good practice and aspects that could be improved. Following this feedback, the Chairs reviewed the comments and agreed a number of amendments, which were subsequently incorporated into the updated RAG. The revised RAG will be used during the next quarter's scrutiny meetings and will continue to be used going forward to support a consistent and transparent assessment process.

Terms of Reference Updated

The Terms of Reference are kept under regular review and are formally reviewed on an annual basis. This year, several amendments were identified and incorporated into the document. The revised Terms of Reference have been finalised and approved by the panel and will be used going forward. The updated Terms of Reference have also been published on the PCC website to support transparency and public accessibility.

Annual Report Finalised

This quarter, the Annual Report for the Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel was drafted and finalised. The report provides an overview of force data relating to Stop and Search and Use of Force activity between April 2025 and March 2026.

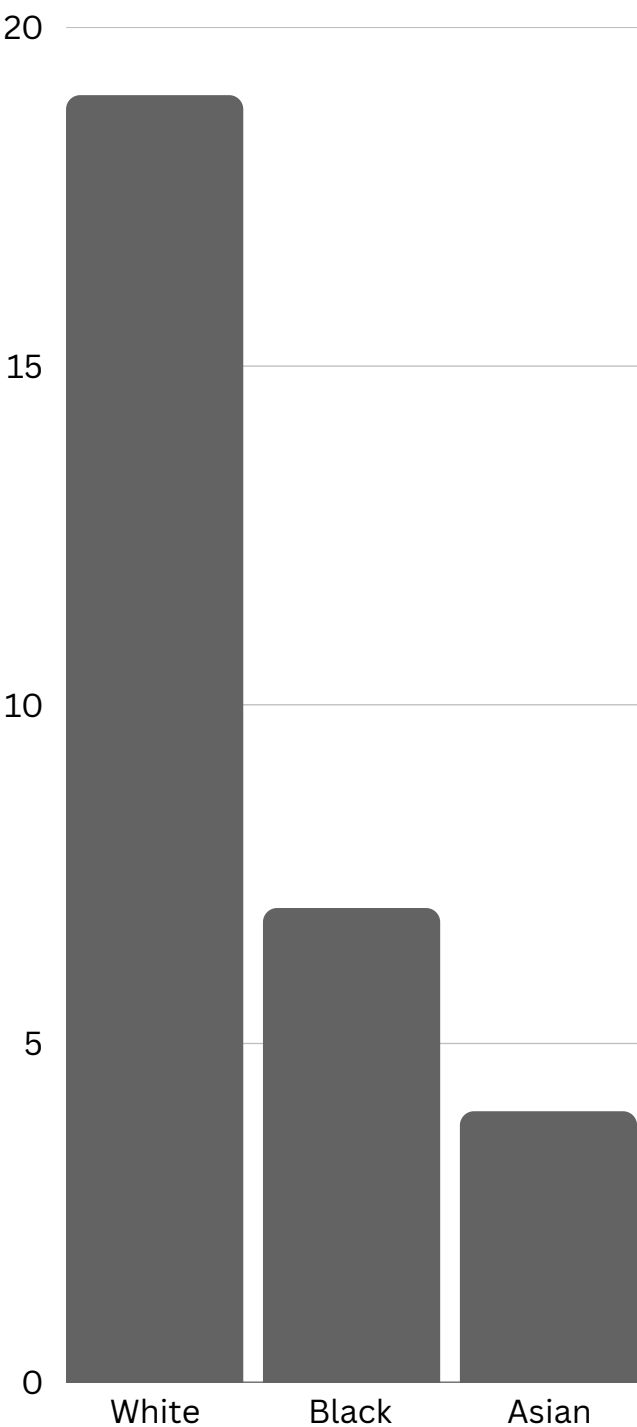
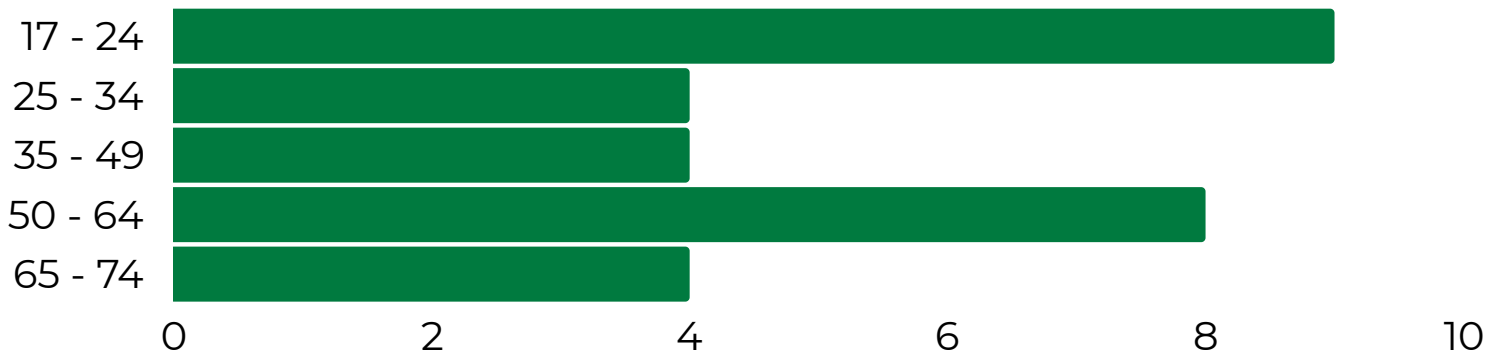
It also summarises the panel's work over the past year, including the number of body-worn video (BWV) recordings reviewed and graded, key findings from scrutiny activity, recommendations made by the panel, and the impact of its work on policy, practice and officer learning.

The report highlights the panel's achievements during the year and outlines its priorities for the coming year. The Annual Report is available to view on the PCC website.

Recruitment



As of June 2026, we currently have 29 panel members.



Statistics show that, both within Bedfordshire and nationally, Black and minority ethnic people are disproportionately more likely to be stopped and searched. For example, national Home Office data consistently shows that Black people are around four times more likely to be stopped and searched than White people. It is therefore essential that stop and search and use of force are continuously monitored to ensure these police powers are exercised fairly and without discrimination.

To achieve this, we need a diverse panel that reflects a range of ethnic backgrounds and age groups. This representation is crucial to ensure that police powers, such as stop and search and use of force, are applied appropriately and effectively.