

Bedfordshire Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

March 2025 Bulletin

B



Stop and Search Data

Over this quarter (January, February and March 2025) there has been a total of 1048 stop and searches. Compared to the last quarter this has increased slightly with 45 more stops.

1048

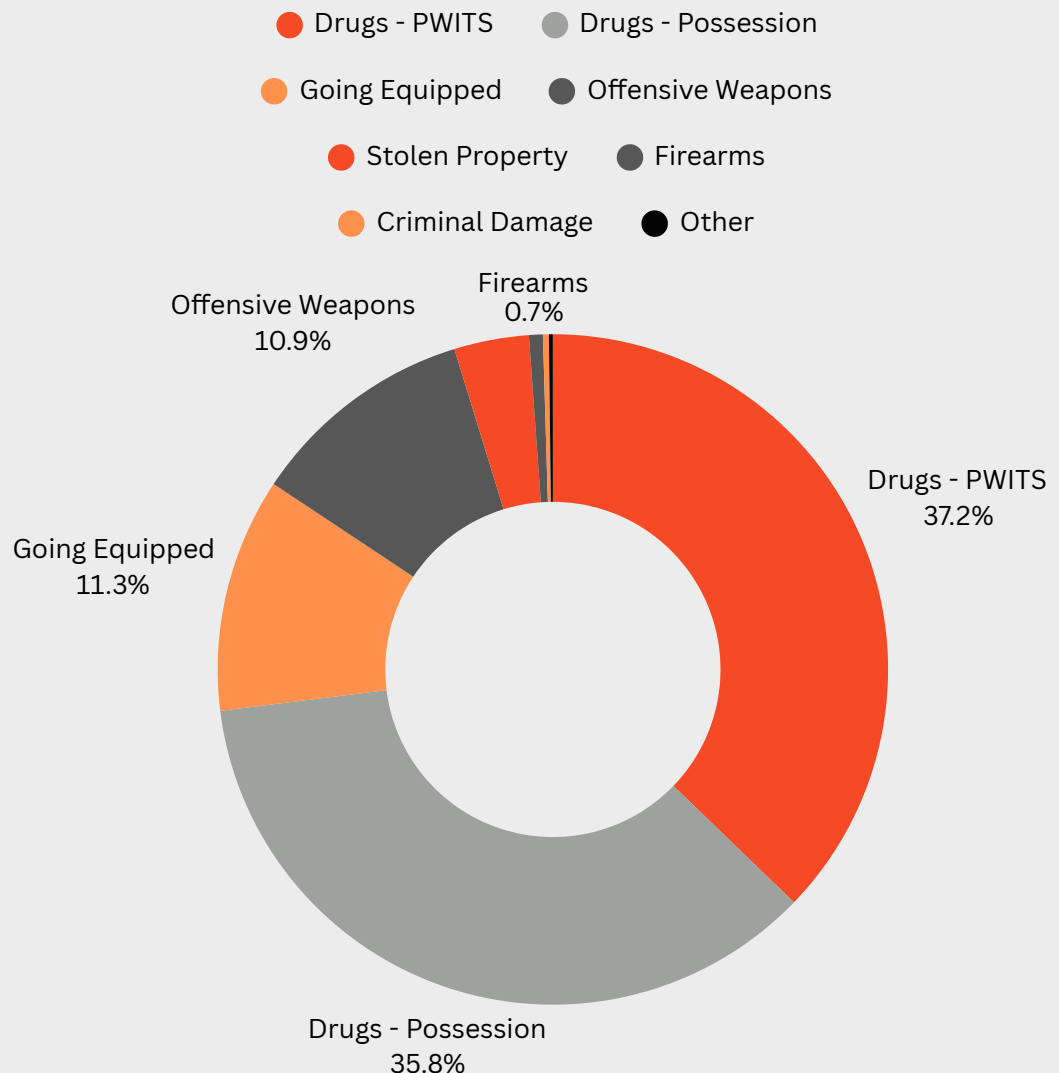
Compared to the previous quarter, there has been more stops as a result of Drugs - PWITS (Possession with intent to supply). 37% of all stops were conducted as a result of PWITS,

The outcome of stop and searches remains fairly stable in comparison to the last quarter.

16% of stop and searches led to an arrest

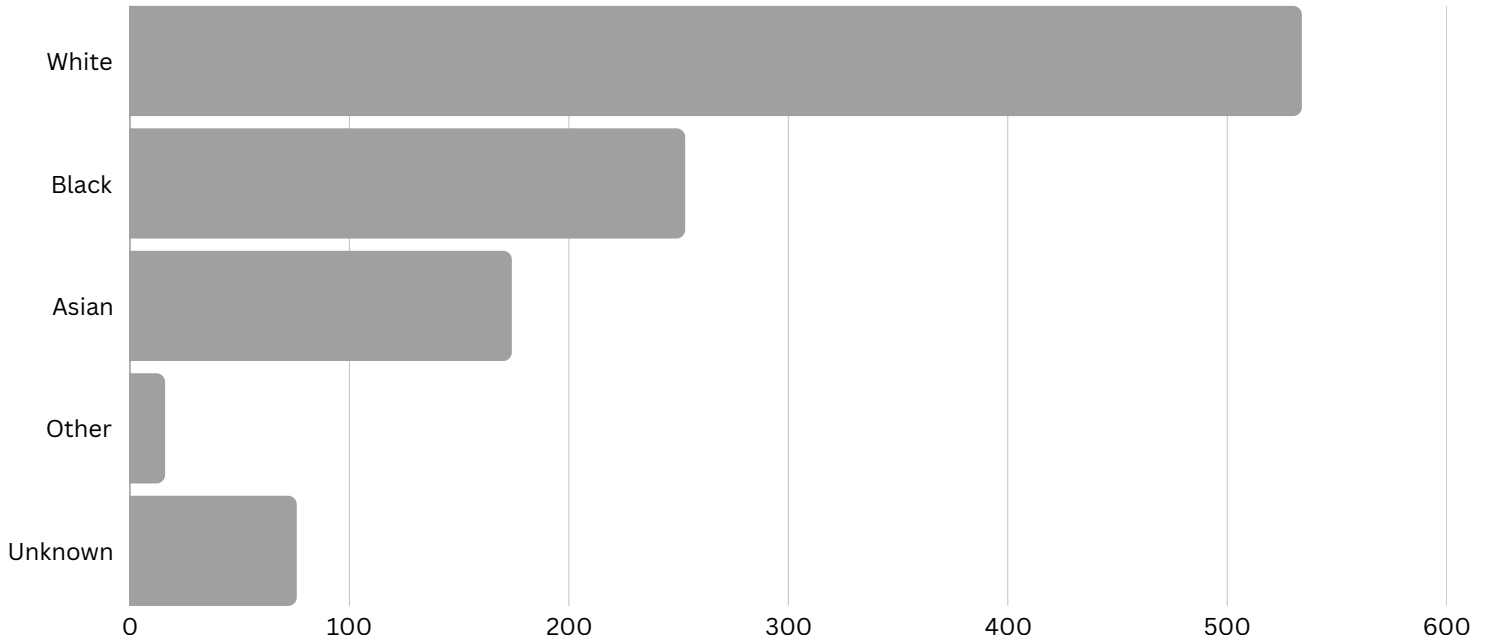
21% of stop and searches led to other police action

62% of stop and searches led to no further action.



Stop and Search Data

● Number of stop based on officer defined ethnicity



This quarter we can see an improvement in officer defined disproportionality from 3.2(202) to 2.8 (174). However we can still see 76 stating unknown.

The age range remains in the higher bracket of 35-49 for the majority of all stop and searches, however this drops to 25-34 when looking at the Black community and 20-24 within the Asian community.

Category	White	Asian	Black	Arab	Unknown	Total
5 to 9	1					1
10 to 15	28	6	8	1	1	44
16 to 19	93	28	39	3	3	166
20 to 24	70	61	40	4	1	176
25 to 34	114	56	52	7	4	233
35 to 49	189	56	49	3	2	299
50 to 64	35	12	14			61
65 to 74	4					4
75 to 84	1	1				2
85 and over						
Unknown					40	40
Total	535	220	202	18	51	1026

Use of Force Data

Interesting aspects found from January, February and March

1816

A total of 1816 use of force was recorded in Q4 (Jan, Feb, Mar 2025). Compared to the last quarter, this has increased by 5.8% (1716 use of force records)

Out of 1816 use of force incidences, 59.1% resulted in arrest. Compared to the last quarter this has slightly decreased as this was 61.2%.

59.1%

Qtr. 4 24-25				
Perceived Ethnicity	#Use of Force	Population	Per 1,000 Population	Ratio
White	1074	507,517	2.12	1
Black	308	39,601	7.78	3.68
Asian	321	116,909	2.75	1.30
Mixed/Other	30	40,709	0.74	0.35
Unknown	83			
	1816	704,736		

*Unknown includes 83 labelled as mz

Compared to the last quarter there has been a 13% decrease of perceived Ethnicity Black.

Below shows the outcomes from use of force.

Outcome	#	%
Hospitalised	37	2.0
Arrested	1073	57.3
Detained (MH Act)	82	4.4
Other	202	10.8
No further action	477	25.5
	1871	



Use of Force Quarter Focus

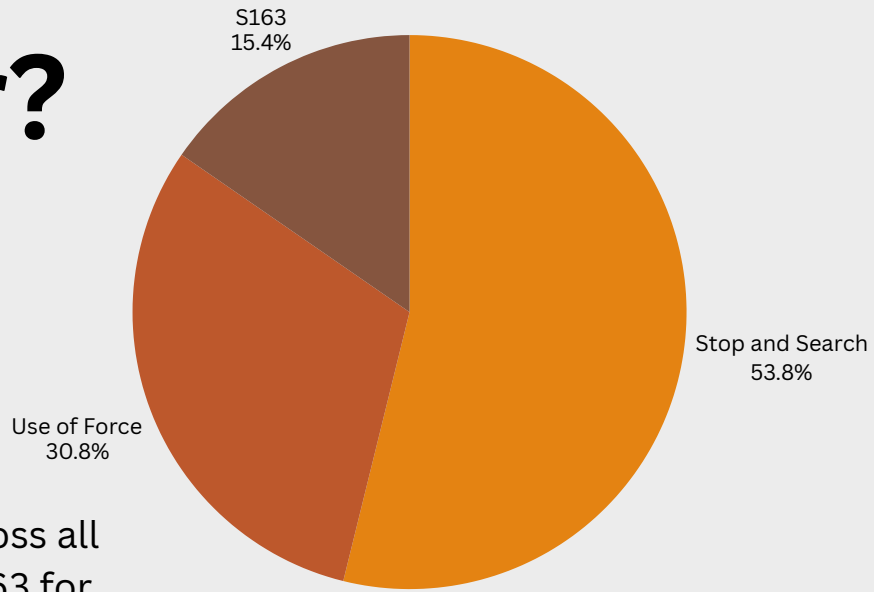
- Officers who have used force the most
- Use of Force with injury as a result
- Vulnerable groups including young women and children
- Taser use on those from the black community
- Non-compliant handcuffing

Stop and Search Quarter Focus

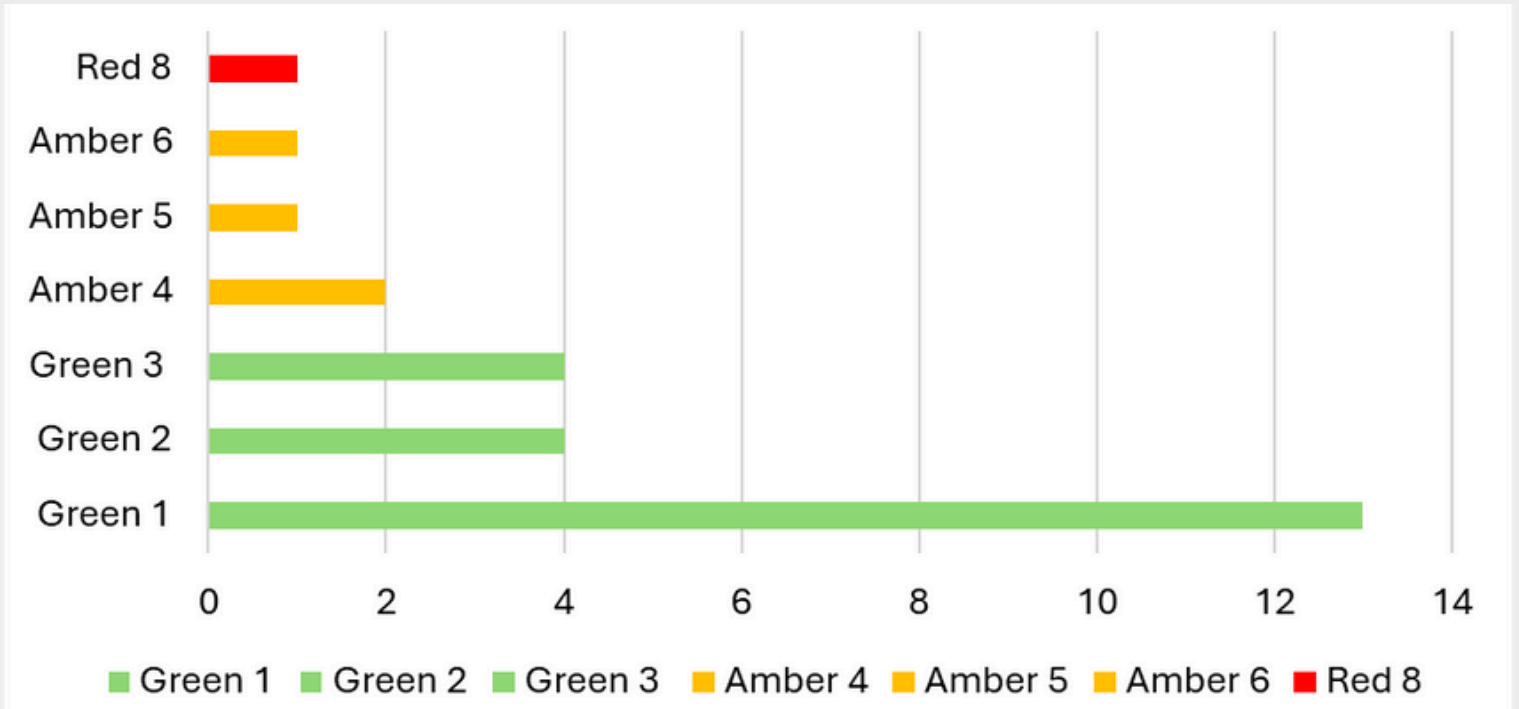
- Black males across the CSP
- The 25-49 age group
- Drug related cases and stolen property
- White community in Luton
- Stops within the Asian community due to officer initiation

What have we seen this quarter?

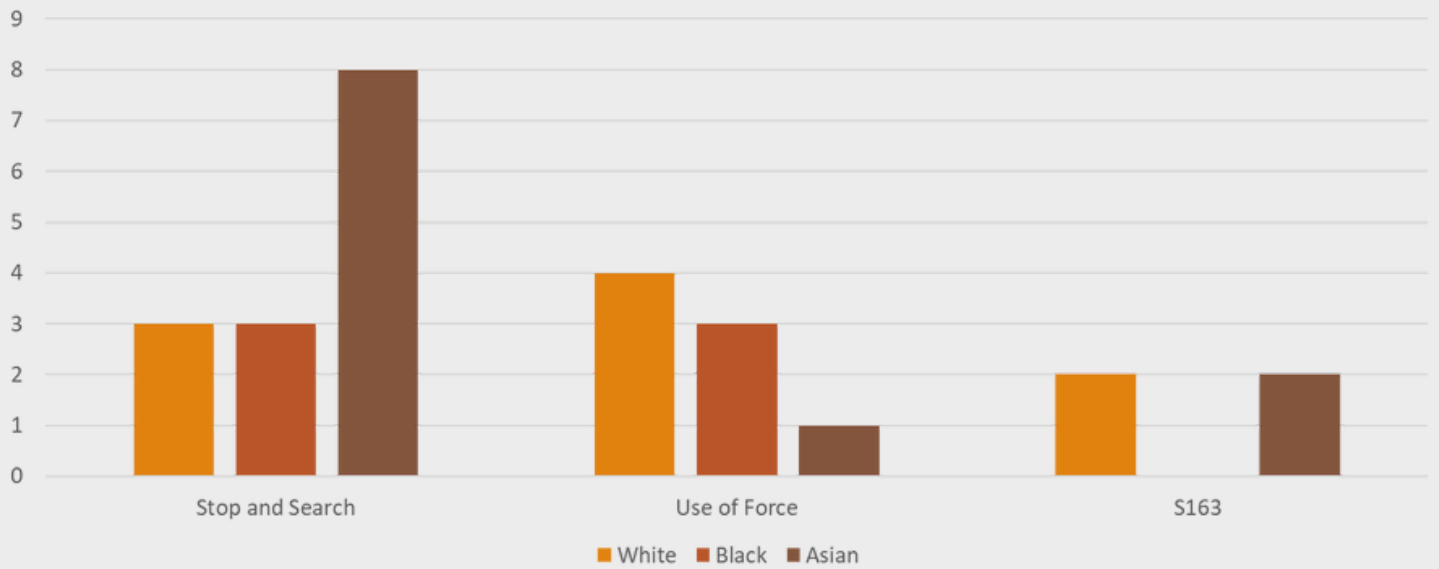
- 26 Videos seen this quarter
- 14 Stop and Search Videos
- 8 Use of Force Videos
- 4 S163 Videos



This graph shows overall grading across all stop and search, use of force and S163 for this quarter.



Videos seen based on ethnicity



Updates this Quarter

A member of the public contacted the stop and search panel in regard to a recent stop and search which occurred in the Bedford area. The scrutiny panel reviewed the stop and search as it hit the threshold for a community trigger. The panel reviewed the footage and found areas of learning for the force.

The member of the public has also been invited to attend a stop and search meeting to observe how the panel operate and provide some feedback on their lived experiences.



Following the recent HMIC Peel Inspection, Supt. Ian Taylor is now the strategic lead for both Stop and Search and Use of Force. Ch. Inspector Mike Chand will remain as the tactical lead. There is now an improvement plan placed enhance

As part of the Race Action Plan, the force is introducing cards for individuals who have been stop and searched or involved in use of force. The cards will list the laws, their entitlements and a QR code. The panel have provided feedback on the draft cards and given their opinion on what should be included.



GOWISELY is an acronym used by officers to remind them of the information they are supposed to provide prior to stop and searching an individual. Recently, and additional letters E and R will be added to the acronym, creating GOWISELYER. The extra letter E will stand for 'explain'. The extra letter R will stand for 'respect'. These elements have been introduced to humanise the process and ensure officers are treating the public with respect and courtesy. This will also aid in the trust and confidence of the individual and the officer as well as ensuring they understand the reason for that occurrence.

Feedback Outcomes

Panel members provided the following feedback to officer:

Officers used inappropriate language. BWV was switched on late and subject had to inform officer to switch on this on.

Officer feedback and outcome:

Officer acknowledges that there are clear improvements to be made. He acknowledges his use of language and agrees his swearing was excessive and does nothing but escalate the situation. Officers acknowledges the clear BWV late activation and knows that this is a risk to himself and his colleagues.

Officer was informed of the feedback and understood it and taken on board.

Panel members provided the following feedback to officer:

Officers tone and approach was confrontational and harsh. He did not attempt to deescalate the situation nor try to build a rapport with the subject.

Officer feedback and outcome:

Officer was receptive of feedback and understood how his behaviour in this situation could be perceived in a negative way by the public. Officer and Supervisor agreed that the officers BWV will be reviewed for the next couple of months to ensure adherence to the panels feedback.

Panel members provided the following feedback to officer:

BWV switched on late and the officers jacket was covering the camera. Copy of the search was not offered to subject. Panel members could also hear radio transmission which would be a GDPR breach.

Officer feedback and outcome:

Officer accepts he could have worn an ear piece and turned his body worn video on sooner, they will be mindful of positioning in the future. Supervisor also reminded officer that GOWISELY should be completed in it entirety.

Supervisor was thankful for the positive feedback which has been passed on to officer. **Outcome:** to keep up to date with stop and search laws.

Recruitment

As of March 2025, we currently have 27 members.

Since the last quarter, we have recruited 5 new members.

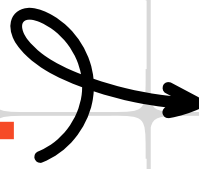
We are constantly recruiting for more Independent Scrutiny Panel Members aged 16 and above, based in Bedfordshire.

Statistics show that within Bedfordshire and across the country, black and minority ethnic people are statistically more likely to be stopped and searched. Therefore, it is essential for stop and search and use of force to be continuously analysed to ensure that these police powers are used in a fair and non-discriminatory manner.

Therefore, it is important for us to have a diverse panel, that is representative of a variety of ethnic minorities and age groups, to ensure police powers such as stop and search and use of force are being used appropriately and effectively.



CALLING ALL VOLUNTEERS!



Bedfordshire Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Can you spare some time for your community?



WHO ARE WE?

- We are an independent panel formed to consider the way that Bedfordshire Police use stop and search, to ensure it is being used appropriately.

WHAT IS OUR GOAL?

- We aim to ensure accountability, through openness and transparency with the police service, provide learning and increase public confidence in the police.

WHAT DO WE DO?

- We assess individual cases to identify areas of concern and good practice using a RAG (red, amber, green) traffic light system.

Interested in joining us or would you like to find out more information?

Contact us: PCC@beds.police.uk

