



Bedfordshire Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

June 2025 Bulletin

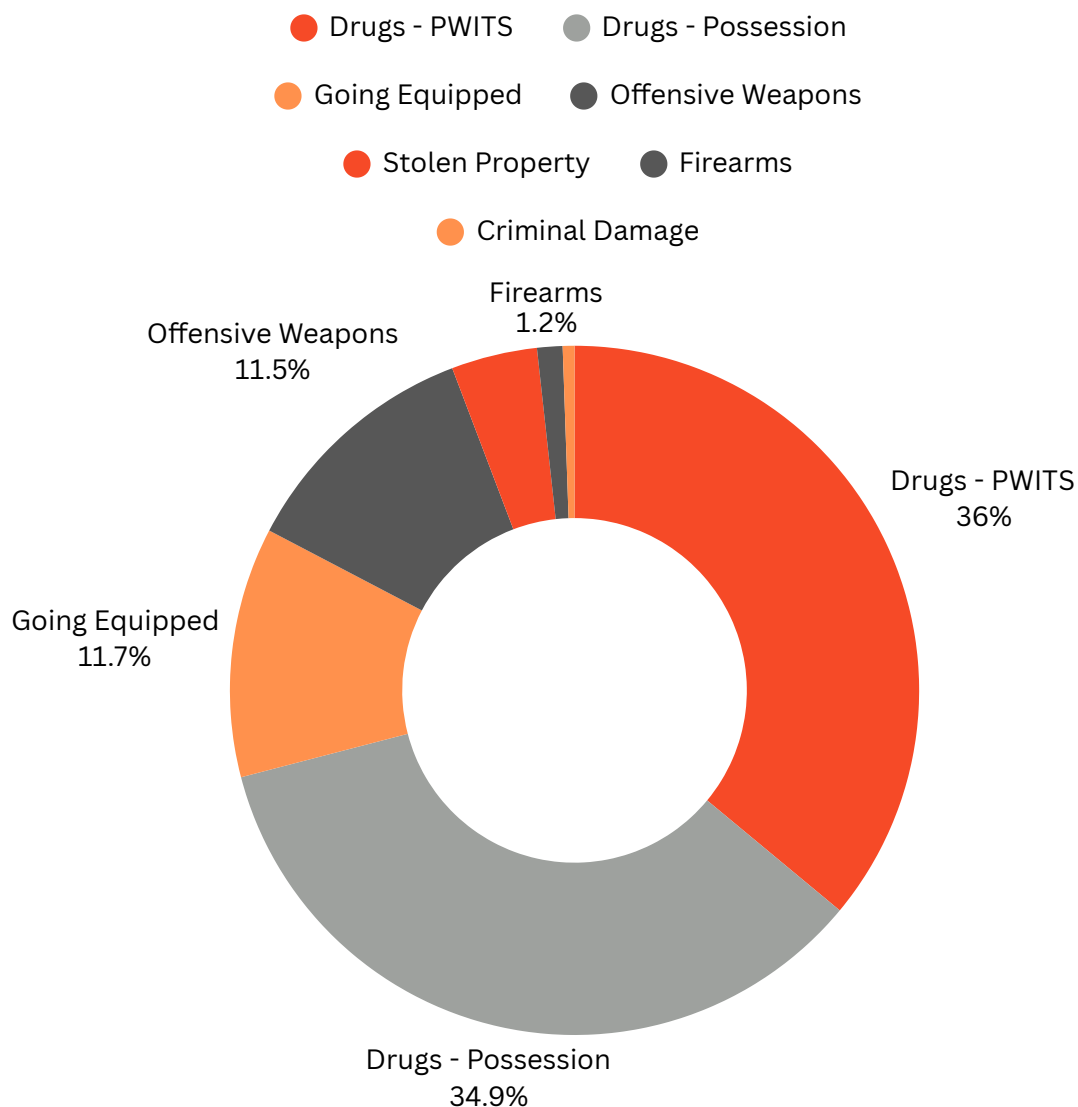
B



Stop and Search Data

Between April and June 2025, a total of 1,078 stop and searches were conducted, this is a slight increase of 30 compared to the previous quarter.

1078

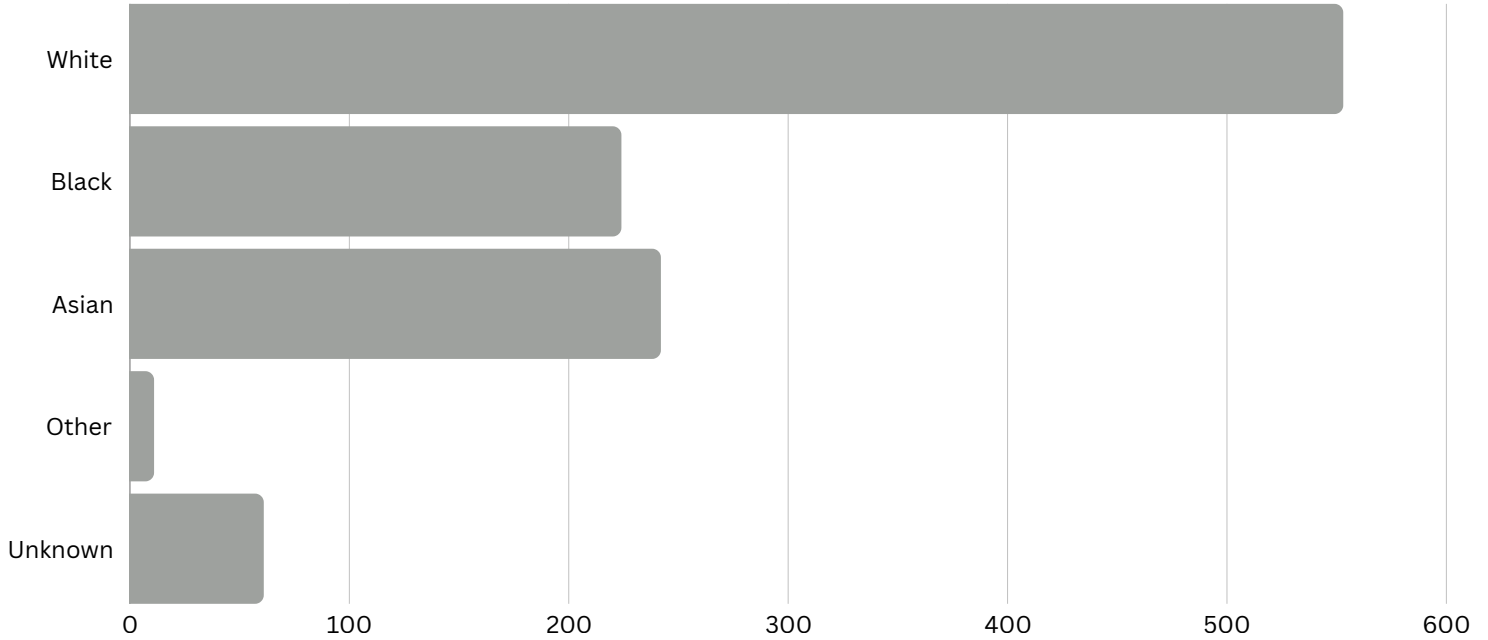


Outcomes of Stop and Searches:

- 17% of stops led to an arrest
- 22% of stops led to other police action
- 61% of stops led to no further action

Stop and Search Data

● Number of stop based on officer defined ethnicity



Age Bands by Officer Defined Ethnicity

Category	White	Asian	Black	Chinese	Arab	Unknown	Total
0 to 4	1						1
5 to 9	1						1
10 to 15	28	10	19			1	58
16 to 19	82	52	36		2	6	178
20 to 24	66	55	52	1	2	3	179
25 to 34	124	56	51		4	6	241
35 to 49	200	55	39		3	6	303
50 to 64	48	10	25			1	84
65 to 74	2		2	1			5
75 to 84	1						1
85 and over							
Unknown		2				38	40
Total	553	240	224	2	11	61	1091

Use of Force Data

April, May, June 2025

2327

A total of 2327 use of force was recorded in Q1 (April, May, June 2025). Compared to the last quarter, this has increased by 28.1%.

In this quarter, 65.3% of all Use of Force incidents resulted in an arrest, up from 59.1% in the previous quarter. This increase is likely linked to the higher volume of Use of Force recorded.

59.1%

Qtr. 1 25-26				
Perceived Ethnicity	#Use of Force	Population	Per 1,000 Population	Ratio
White	1366	507,517	2.69	1
Black	436	39,601	11.01	4.09
Asian	367	116,909	3.14	1.17
Mixed / Other	27	40,709	0.66	0.25
Unknown	131			
	2327	704,736		

Below shows the outcomes from use of force.

Outcome	#	%
Hospitalised	61	2.6
Arrested	1520	63.7
Detained (MH Act)	77	3.2
Other	220	9.2
No Further action	507	21.3
	2385	

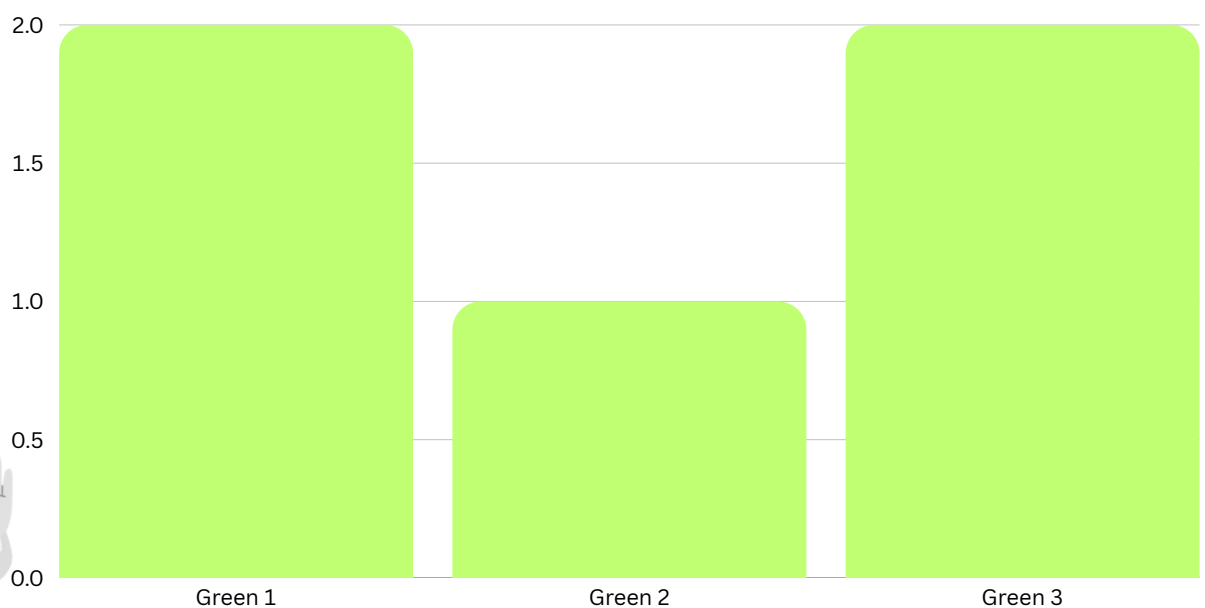


Section 163

What have we seen this quarter?

The panel viewed 5 S163 Videos this quarter, which is an increase compared to the previous quarter. These videos consisted of 4 male subject and 1 female. In addition 4 Asian individuals and 1 Black individual.

The graph below illustrates the gradings assigned to the S163 cases reviewed.



Actions going forward:

The OPCC is currently working with the force to improve S163 data.



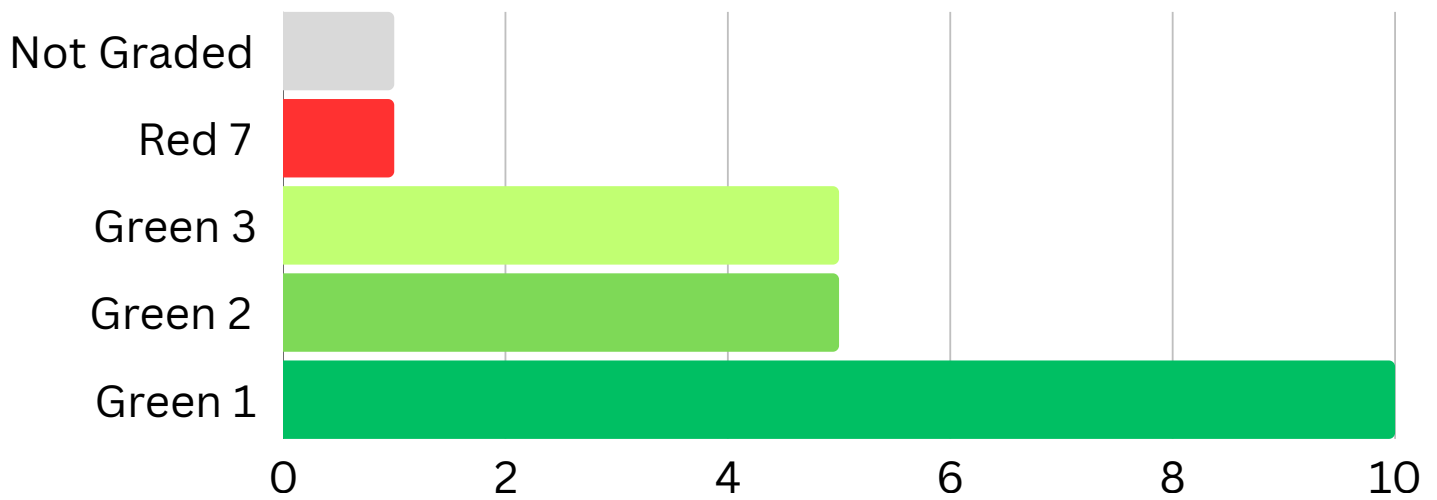
Use of Force Quarter Focus

- Top 10 officers in both Q3 and Q4.
- Use of Force with injury as a result
- Women and children
- Taser use on those from the black community
- Non-compliant handcuffing

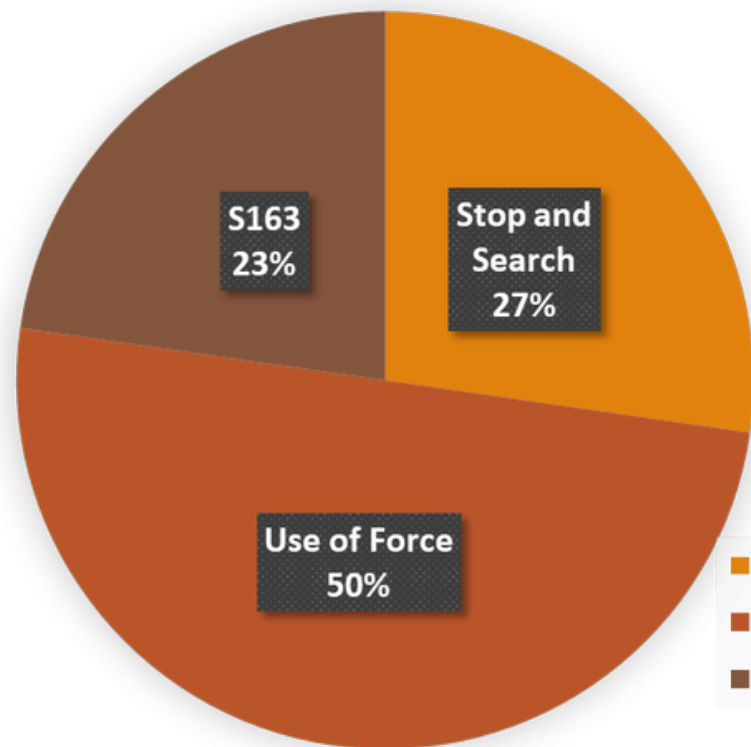
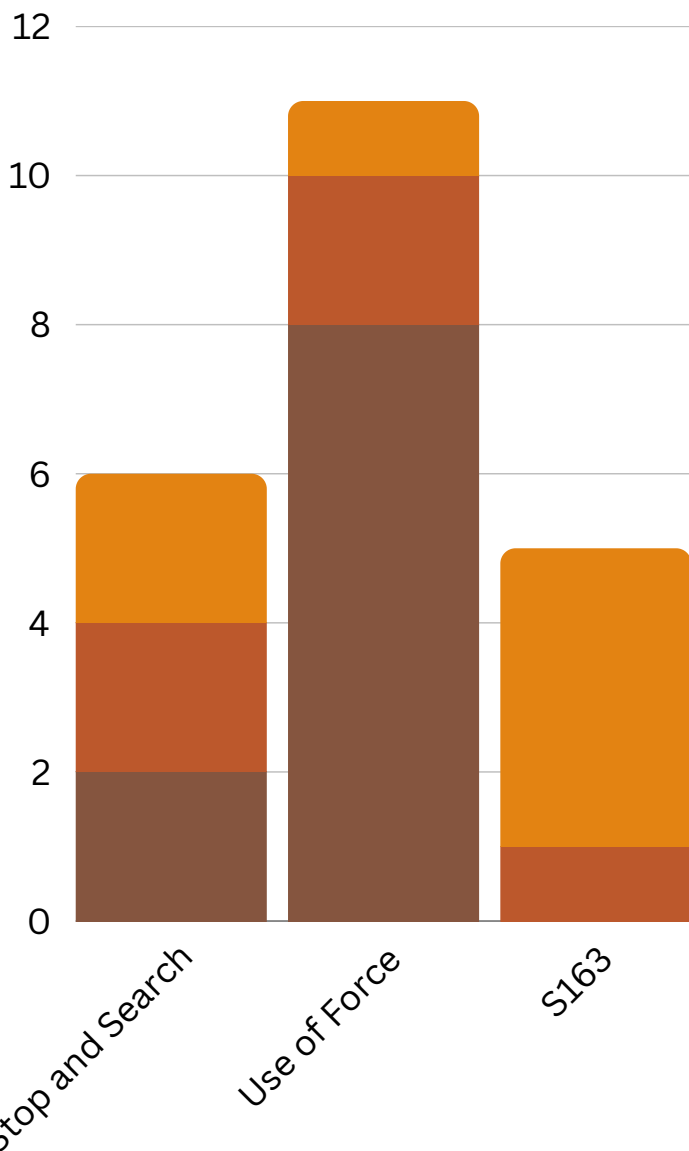
Stop and Search Quarter Focus

- Black males across the CSP
- Searches within the Luton area
- Drug-related cases in particular drug possession with intent to supply
- Officer initiated searches

What have we seen this quarter?



● White ● Black
● Asian



During this quarter, the panel reviewed a total of 22 video recordings, comprising:

- 6 Stop and Search videos
- 11 Use of Force videos
- 5 Section 163 (S163) videos

Updates this Quarter

New Stop and Search feedback cards are set to be rolled out across the force.

The force's Police Race Action Plan delivery team has developed a feedback card that will be given to members of the public following a stop and search.

The new approach forms part of our ongoing commitment to transparency and building trust, especially amongst our Black and diverse communities.

The cards will ensure those who have been stopped are fully sighted on what to expect, demonstrate our commitment to treating our communities fairly, and encourage them to influence our continued improvements to Stop and Search.

The pocket-sized cards include a summary of the legal GO WISELY framework, a feedback form, legal guidance, S163, and information on how to join our stop and search scrutiny panel.



Feedback Outcomes

Panel members provided the following feedback to officer:

Officers were criticizing other support services. The panel understand that this is frustrating, however panel members did not think this was appropriate in front of the public.

Officer feedback and outcome:

Officer agrees with the feedback regarding it probably not being best practice to criticise any organisation in front of members of the public.

The panel reviewed body-worn video (BWV) footage showing the removal of a child from a home, as requested by Social Services. The footage was presented to the Independent Panel, who acknowledged that the attending officers acted appropriately and within their capacity. However, the panel expressed concern that the operation should have been led by Social Services, particularly given the vulnerability of the child, who is autistic and non-verbal. This matter has since been discussed with the police force, with the aims of providing a multi-agency learning approach with Social Services to improve future responses.

Other feedback given included:

- The panel recommended officers to switch their BWV on earlier
- GOWISELY completed in full and reason for the stop was justified.
- Panel member reminded officers to cuff subjects to the rear and not the front.
- Reminder to take cuffs on after the search is completed.



Feedback Outcomes

Panel members were touched by a BWV they witnessed of a patrol officer helping a man who was experiencing a mental health crisis. He prevented him from causing further harm to himself and potentially ending his life.

The Use of Force panel commended the officer and provided him with an award for his outstanding professionalism and quick thinking. Panel members praised Chris's actions, commending his courage, selflessness, and resilience throughout the incident.



Recruitment

As of June 2025, we currently have 28 members.

Since the last quarter, we have recruited 1 new member.

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.





This quarter, we marked Volunteers' Week—a special occasion dedicated to honouring and celebrating the remarkable efforts of volunteers across Bedfordshire.

We would like to say a massive thank you for all your hard work and dedication. You all do an amazing job, and you all are an absolute credit to our scheme. Your support is so appreciated.



VOLUNTEERS' WEEK



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

