

Bedfordshire Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel Q2 Newsletter

A commitment to
our community

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We strive to have a diverse panel



We are constantly recruiting for more Independent Scrutiny Panel Members aged 16 and above, based in Bedfordshire. The OPCC recently attended the Bedfordshire University Fresher's Fayre, which was a positive experience as the team were able to reach out to the younger demographic and have discussions around the use of police powers and how they can hold the police force to account through joining the panel.

In Bedfordshire and across the UK, black and minority ethnic people are statistically more likely to be stopped and searched than any other ethnic group. It is therefore crucial to ensure that stop and search and use of force is continuously monitored to ensure that these police powers are used in a fair and non-discriminatory manner.

We therefore believe that it is important for us to have a diverse panel to ensure police powers such as stop and search and use of force are being used appropriately and effectively by Bedfordshire Police Officers. We aim to have a panel that is representative of different ethnic minorities and age groups, thus ensuring the process is more robust.



Bedfordshire Stop and Search & Use of Force Data Panel

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Bedfordshire Police recently launched a data panel for Stop and Search and Use of Force. The first meeting was held on Thursday 30th of August 2023 and the OPCC appointed Steve Bond and Elizabeth Ginns as the two leads.

The panel consists of individuals from the Stop and Search and Use of Force panel who volunteered themselves to analyse data packs provided by Bedfordshire Police on a quarterly basis, to identify patterns and trends that will provide focus when selecting parameters for body worn footage in the sub panel meetings. Reviewing the data on a quarterly basis will also allow panel members to compare between different quarters and years.

We currently have 31 panel members on the Bedfordshire Stop and Search and Use of Force Panel, however we are always recruiting to ensure our panel is representative of Bedfordshire. If you would like to contribute to making a difference in how police powers are used, please scan the QR Code or email PCC@Beds.Police.Uk



Bedfordshire Scrutiny Panel Data Panel Leads



Elizabeth Ginns (Lizzie) | Profession: Mathematics Teacher

Ms Ginns said “I joined the data panel because I think I can use my day-to-day job skills to identify aspects of interest in the police statistics”.



Steve Bond | Profession: Data Analyst

“I have a strong sense of right, and this a mechanism to be able to exercise that. I would like to see the data being used in order to identify areas/officers that might need a little more scrutiny, which is something that is being applied now, and look forward to shaping what this looks “.

Deputy Chair Recruitment

Following a successful recruitment drive for a second Deputy Chair for the Stop and Search and Use of Force Independent Scrutiny Panel, we are happy to announce that Simon C has been appointed. Simon joined the Scrutiny panel in October 2022, as a way of continuing his 25 years of volunteering experience to support the residents of Bedfordshire. His aim is to find ways to improve the experiences of Bedfordshire residents with police officers, using his many years of experiences within People Management along side his knowledge and experience in the areas of Use of Force and Stop and Search. Simon says in his year as a panel member, he has seen progress, improvement and positive actions by panel and police representatives and hopes to help maintain this momentum.

Bedfordshire University Freshers

The Bedfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner attended the Bedfordshire University Fresher's Week to talk to young people about Safer Streets, Independent Custody Visiting (ICV's) and the Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel. The OPCC received high level's of interest from students from a diverse range of backgrounds who wanted to join the scrutiny panel and contribute to making a difference in Bedfordshire.



VOLUNTEERS CELEBRATION

2023

On the 28th September 2023 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner hosted first ever awards ceremony for the Independent Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel and the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV's).

The **PCC, Festus Akinbusoye** opened the event by thanking the volunteers for their hard work and informing them of the great difference their work has made to policing in Bedfordshire. The Deputy PCC, Ian Dalgarno also congratulated the volunteers and spoke about the great impact the volunteers have on the local community.

The **Lord Lieutenant, Susan Lousada**, was also present to support the event, to explain her role as His Majesty's representative in Bedfordshire, and show her thanks to the volunteers. The Lord Lieutenant presented 9 special awards, highlighting specific examples of where volunteers had gone above and beyond.

The **Deputy Chief Constable (DCC)** from Bedfordshire Police, **Dan Vajzovic**, and Community Policing teams were in attendance alongside Custody Inspectors.

DCC Dan Vajzovic said "I was honoured to be part of the awards ceremony alongside our incredible volunteers. Their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment is exemplary and thoroughly deserves to be recognised.

"Without them as our critical friends, we wouldn't be able to improve and give constructive feedback to our officers. Their work enables us to make better policing decisions and is invaluable in shaping our scrutiny processes going forward.



Volunteer's Celebration Special Awards

Natasha Loftus – Volunteer of the Year

Natasha has demonstrated enthusiasm, commitment, and dedication to the scrutiny panel since she joined in October 2022. On behalf of Bedfordshire Police and OPCC, Thank you for your many hours of hard work and valuable contributions throughout the year, your continued commitment to achieve excellence in Bedfordshire and help build confidence in the police is making a difference.



Phil Dickson-Earle – Length of Service

Phil Dickson-Earle is our longest serving scrutiny panel volunteer. He joined the panel when it began in 2016 and has been an exceptional and devoted member. Phil was appointed as the scrutiny panel chair in May 2023 and continues to demonstrate great leadership and dedication that is required on the panel.

Kim Taylor – New Volunteer of the Year

Kim joined the Scrutiny Panel in September 2022. As well as being a Scrutiny Panel member, Kim is also an Independent Custody Visitor. Kim recently shared her experience with colleagues of not only completing a ride along in Bedfordshire, but also in Los Angeles. She continues to demonstrate willingness to learn and eagerness to make a difference.



Simon C – Going Above and Beyond

A special thank you to Simon for going above and beyond in his role as a Scrutiny Panel Member. He has shown great commitment, extraordinary dedication, and passion by assisting the Chair by deputising, providing much support and guidance to the Panel. More recently Simon was appointed as the second Deputy Chair and continues to go the extra mile. Your exemplary commitment hasn't gone unnoticed.

All Scrutiny Panel Members and Independent Custody Visitors received a volunteer appreciation certificate for in recognition of their dedication and exceptional work as volunteers for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire.



STOP AND SEARCH DATA

Stop and search use has increased compared to the same period last year from 1021 searches to 1361 (33.3% increase). 70% were drugs searches in 2022 (40% simple possession, 30% PWITS), 72% were drug searches in 2023 (42% simple possession, and 30% PWITS).

The largest percentage increases were Firearms 5-15 (200% increase), and going equipped 108-155 (43.5% increase).

Positive outcomes increased from 28.3% to 32.4%. (12% arrest rate in 2022, 11% arrest rate in 2023)

	Stop Searches		
CSP	Previous Period	Current Period	% Change
Bedford Borough	272	487	+79.0% ↑
Central Beds	133	264	+98.5% ↑
Luton Borough	594	588	-1.0% ↓
Bedfordshire Unknown CSP	9	6	-33.3% ↓
Out of Force	13	16	+23.1% ↑
Total	1021	1361	+33.3%

	Stop Searches			Police Action Taken Rate		
Reason for Search	Previous Period	Current Period	% Change	Previous Period	Current Period	Change
Stolen Property	26	26	0.0% →			
Drugs	720	973	+35.1% ↑	29.6%	33.9%	+4.4% ↑
Firearms	5	15	+200.0% ↑	31.7%	31.8%	+0.2% ↑
Offensive Weapons	150	184	+22.7% ↑	37.2%	38.7%	+1.5% ↑
Going Equipped	108	155	+43.5% ↑	39.3%	32.1%	-7.1% ↓
Criminal Damage	10	5	-50.0% ↓	17.6%	25.0%	+7.4% ↑
Other	2	2	0.0% →	17.0%	25.7%	+8.8% ↑
Anticipation of Violence (s.60)				28.3%	32.4%	+4.1% ↑
Terrorism Act 2000 section 47A						
Terrorism Act 2000 section 43A						
Total	1021	1360	+33.2%			

STOP AND SEARCH DATA - SELF & OFFICER DEFINED ETHNICITY

- Self Defined Ethnicity proportionality rates for the Black community reduced from 3.3 (113 x searches) to 3.2 (163 x searches)
- Officer Defined Ethnicity proportionality rates for Black community reduced from 3.0 (172 x searches) to 2.9 (254 x searches)
- Self Defined Ethnicity proportionality rates for Asian community reduced from 2.2 (218 x searches) to 1.3 (198 x searches)
- Officer Defined Ethnicity proportionality rates for Asian community reduced from 2.2 (270 x searches) to 1.4 (256 x searches)

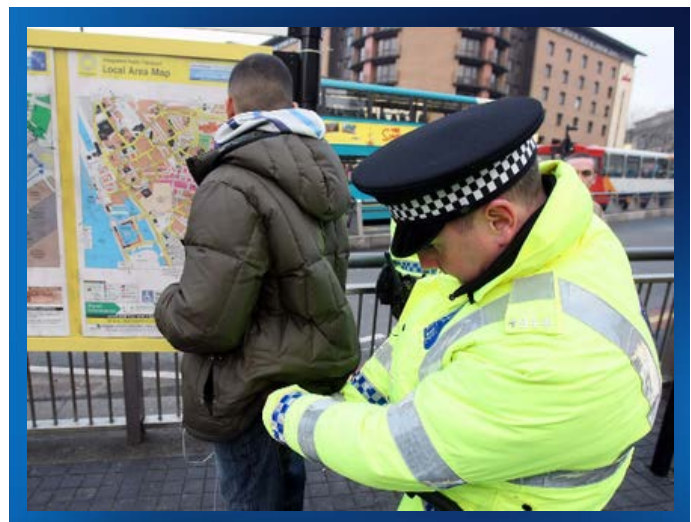
Ethnic Group	Stops	Population	per 1000 population	Ratio
White	660	507,514	1.30	1.0
Asian	198	116,911	1.69	1.3
Black	163	39,600	4.12	3.2
Mixed	56	27,089	2.07	1.6
Other	16	13,612	1.18	0.9
Not Stated	268			
Total	1361	704,726	1.93	1.5



Officer Defined Ethnicity	Stops	Population	per 1000 pop.	Ratio
White	754	507,517	1.49	1.0
Asian	256	124,061	2.06	1.4
Black	254	59,539	4.27	2.9
Other	23	13,612	1.69	1.1
Unknown	74	0		
Total	1361	704,729	1.93	



There are 22 records where the CSP is unknown or out of force.



BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE - FORCE LEADS



Chief Inspector - Mike Chand

“Bedfordshire Police take the Use of Force against anyone as a serious matter.

This is why we hold a Use of force meeting along side our community members to ensure that our policies and our procedures are legitimate and ethical.

We take any breach of ethics or law as a serious matter, and will do all we can to ensure there is parity between the Use of force for all members of our community”.



**Superintendent
(Head of Operations) -
Ian Taylor**

“I have worked extensively with the community scrutiny panel in my role as force lead for stop and search, and believe that the panel are invaluable in holding the force to account for our use of stop and search ensuring that stop and search is used fairly and effectively. Bedfordshire is entirely transparent with the independent panel, providing access to data relating to stop and search, and access to video recordings of searches enabling the panel to scrutinise the use of stop and search powers, and provide feedback to the force, and individual officers.

The panel have supported the force in developing annual refresher training programme for officers, whilst providing advice on amendments to force policies, and communication strategies to the community more widely and internally to the force.

I am extremely grateful for the work of the community scrutiny panel, their scrutiny and feedback has enabled the force to improve its use of stop and search, with the last HMICFRS review assessing that 96.8% of all stop and searches reviewed had reasonable grounds recorded. This was the highest rate recorded across England and Wales. Positive outcomes for stop and search have also increased in the last 3 years from 23% to 34%, the panel have played a crucial role in supporting the force to achieve this”.

USE OF FORCE DATA

Q2 23-24 Summary:

- 1734 Use of Force recorded in Q2 23 - 24 compared to 1844 in the previous quarter.
- 62.9% of total Use of Force resulted in arrest compared to 59.06% in the previous quarter. This had been gradually increasing over the last few quarters.
- 25 Officers were responsible for 19.1% (331) of Use of Force (they each had 10 or more UoF records). Of the 331, 76 were arrested but none were detained for mental health reasons.
- 71 Officers said, 'Not applicable – I was not assaulted', 70 had minor injuries and 1 severe.
- 65 Subjects injured during Use of Force, all with minor injuries.

Use of Force Ethnicity:

Qtr 2 23 -24				
Perceived Ethnicity	#Use of Force	Population	Per 1,000 Population	Ratio
White	1015	507,517	2.00	1
Black	293	39,601	7.40	3.70
Asian	279	116,909	2.39	1.19
Mixed / Other	14	40,709	0.34	0.17
Unknown	133			
	1734	704,736		

* Unknown includes 87 labelled as mz

Qtr 1 23 -24				
Perceived Ethnicity	#Use of Force	Population	Per 1,000 Population	Ratio
White	1078	507,517	2.12	1
Black	348	39,601	8.79	4.14
Asian	254	116,909	2.17	1.02
Mixed / Other	27	40,709	0.66	0.31
Unknown	137			
	1844	704,736		

* Unknown includes 123 labelled as mz

- There has been a decrease in UOF this quarter, with a 6% decrease, and a 15.8% decrease of perceived ethnicity black.
- Records labelled as mz appear to be where no subject information has been recorded. This is being investigated to ascertain whether it is a system issue or a recording issue.

USE OF FORCE

DATA - TIME/ DATE/ LOCATIONS

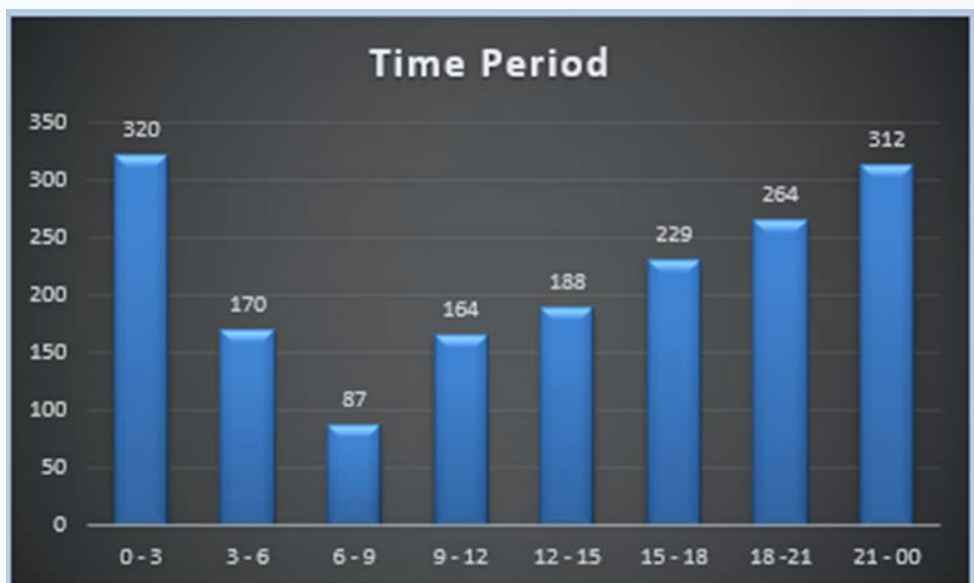
The highest recorded Use of Force on 1 day: 18th Sep 2023, 41 Use of Force. Breakdown by month:

- Jul 629
- Aug 564
- Sep 541
-

The majority of Use of Force is occurring late evening to the early hours.

The majority of Use of Force took place in a Dwelling or in the Street.

There were 54 incidents in emergency vehicles - 25 of which took place in an ambulance. This is a decrease compared to last quarter. 19 took place in a mental health setting, which is also a decrease compared to last quarter.



Incident location street highway	798
Incident location public transport	15
Incident location retail premises	31
Incident location open ground e g park car park field etc	232
Incident location licensed premises	12
Incident location sports or event stadia	6
Incident location Hospital A E non mental health setting	83
Incident location mental health setting	19
Incident location police vehicle with prisoner handling cage	19
Incident location police vehicle without prisoner handling cage	10
Incident location dwelling	427
Incident location police station excluding custody block	15
Incident location custody block	123
Incident location ambulance	25
Incident location other	76

USE OF FORCE

DATA - TYPES OF FORCE

- Between 1 and 5 tactics were used in each Use of Force.
- The top two approaches for each tactic are listed, which differ from those used in the last quarter.
- Batons were drawn on 5 occasions and used on 6 occasions.
- 155 Use of Force involved deployment of Taser (an increase on last quarter): 9 resulted in firing.

Tactic 1

Compliant Handcuffing = 38.0%
Non-compliant Handcuffing = 19.1%

Tactic 2

Unarmed Skills = 22.3%
Other / improvised = 21.9%

Tactic 3

Unarmed skills = 26.5%
Other / improvised = 24.5%

Tactic 4

Unarmed skills = 28.1%
Other / improvised = 25.0%

Tactic 5

Unarmed skills = 40.0%
Other / improvised = 40.0%

Key Facts:

Taser - red dot = 60.00%

Taser - drawn = 23.87%

Taser- aimed = 9.68%%

Taser- fired = 5.81%

Taser - arced = 0.65%



**STOP AND SEARCH/USE OF FORCE
SCRUTINY PANEL**

INDEPENDENT MEMBERS NEEDED IN BEDFORDSHIRE!



What do we do?

We are an independent panel formed to consider the way that Bedfordshire Police use stop and search, to ensure it is being used appropriately. We aim to ensure accountability, through openness and transparency with the police service, provide learning and increase public confidence in the police. 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?

 [**PCC@beds.police.uk**](mailto:PCC@beds.police.uk)

Who are we?

- We are members of the local community
- We are aged 16 and over
- We live in Bedfordshire



Office of the
Bedfordshire
Police & Crime
Commissioner