

OFFICE OF POLICE & CRIME COMMISSIONER	
LEAD CHIEF OFFICER:	ACC Jon Edwards
TITLE:	Stop and Search Bi- annual Report
DATE:	3rd June 2020
TIMING:	Bi-annual (Period reported on October 2019- April 2020)
PURPOSE:	For monitoring
1.	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
1.1	This report is for information and to note progress around the Force's approach to stop and search activities.
2.	<u>INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND</u>
2.1	The Operational Tactics Board manages the forces response to stop and search. This is chaired by the Superintendent from Operational Support.
2.2	<p>The Operational Tactics Board has representatives from each Local Policing Area (LPA), senior representatives from other work streams, members of the Independent Advisory Group (IAG), Gwent Police Diversity Officer, The Police & Crime Commissioner's Office and the Police Federation, to allow for scrutiny, accountability and transparency.</p> <p>Since the last report in October 2019, the Stop and Search Plan has been updated to include progress against:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HMICFRS recommendations and feedback from the recent inspection in 2019. • Best Use of Stop Search Scheme. • Internal Audit Recommendations August 2017 and Review March 2018. • Feedback from Stop Search IAG Working Group. • Feedback from Internal Scrutiny Panels and Working Groups. • Gold Group for Stop Search. <p>Progress against these recommendations is monitored internally through the Board.</p> <p>This is also published on the force's external website. This plan is a template that has been agreed nationally between the Police Public Encounters Board (PPEB) and HMICFRS as being suitable for external assessment of the Force's progress in respect of stop and search.</p> <p>The information in relation to stop and search has been updated and enhanced to give greater access of information to our residents via INFOLINK pages via the Website.</p>
3.	<u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u>

3.1

1. Ride Along Scheme

The Ride Along Scheme is now into its fifth year and its popularity continues.

Since 1st October 2019 there have been 123 applicants. Once again applications have peaked around times coinciding with recent recruitment campaigns e.g. PC and Force Control Room (FCR). This means in total we have had 1656 applicants since we launched the scheme in August 2015.

Shared Resource Services (SRS) are working on creating a system to replicate previous Performance Data in relation to the scheme. This will then be provided to the quarterly Operational Tactics Board.

Members of the Public can provide feedback of their experiences. The feedback gathered is reported to the LPA command teams via the board, unless it requires immediate attention when processes are in place to report directly to command teams.

There have been no reports of any adverse experiences during the period.

The Community Cohesion Team continue to carry out targeted work to attract people from BAME communities, utilising the Ride Along Scheme to promote Gwent Police as an employer of choice.

2. The Best Use of Stop Search Scheme

Since being introduced in August 2014, Gwent has voluntarily participated in this scheme.

We have recently conducted a review of this scheme to ensure we have maintained our compliance, particularly around the ease of access to the complaint procedure.

National Lead DCC Hancock of British Transport Police endorsed compliance with this voluntary scheme at the Stop Search Continuous Professional Development day. This event was attended by Superintendent Fernquest (Gwent Polices Strategic Stop Search Lead).

Professional Standards Department (PSD) continue to ensure that complaints regarding Stop Search are managed in a transparent and smooth manner following the implementation of the new digital format. A representative from PSD attends the Operational Tactics meetings, where there is a standing agenda item of 'Stop and Search Complaint Review'.

During the last 12 months there has been no complaints relating to stop and search.

All stop and search encounters are now recorded electronically on Officers' Personal Devices. Officers are no longer able to provide a hard copy of the form at the time of the 'stop', which means that members of the public no longer have guidance on how to make a complaint. This has been mitigated by the pro-active work of our Corporate Communications and Professional Standards Departments who have ensured that the public are aware of the different methods and processes of how to make a complaint.

In March and September 2019 all members of the Operational Tactics Board (including IAG members) have led on Op. Sceptre II & III. This supported the national campaign to educate the public about the dangers of using and carrying knives and knife surrender bins were available at several police stations across Gwent. Part of the Operation was to encourage Police Officers to use their stop and search powers.

Op. Sceptre IV was due to run for a week at the end at end of March 2020. This was also due to incorporate a Force Day of Action focusing resources on stop and search and knife crime.

Due to the Covid-19 outbreak and “lockdown” on 23rd March 2020 only a very limited element of the Operation was able to progress in any meaningful format. With school and shop closures, this negated the school inputs and “secret shopper test purchase “.

Op. Sceptre IV was also due to focus on addressing any concerns of Student Officers around stop and search and the associated use of Body Worn Video.

The Op. Sceptre activities have contributed to a noticeable increase in our number of stop and searches. We have utilised the specialist skills of licenced search trained officers who have accompanied Student Officers to provide ‘on the street’ training and guidance in the appropriate use of stop and search.

This experience has provided our Student Officers with the necessary support and guidance in the use of these powers and has helped to remove negative misconceptions around stop and search.

Data clearly shows that the majority of stops take place in the East sector, primarily Newport. The LPA commander in the West is aware and is scrutinising the reasons for the lack of activity in this area.

Positive feedback for ‘Op. Sceptre’ has been circulated both internally and externally to address the public fears over knife crime, continue to educate the public about the dangers of knives and to make our communities safer.

While “bladed weapons” has been identified as a key search reason on the stop and search record (7.4%) it still trails behind drugs (72.7%), which remains the primary object of searches.

Table 1 below shows the Legislation used and number of Stop Searches in Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 2019/20

Legislation	Number of persons stopped during Q3 2019/20	Number of persons stopped during Q4 2019/20	Percentage change in person stopped
-	2	2	0.0
S1 PACE 1984	235	221	-6.0
S139B CJA 1988	5	0	-100
S23 Drugs 1971	559	635	13.6
S47 Firearms 1968	13	14	7.7
S6(3) PACE 1984	0	2	n/a

Table 1

3.2 Operational updates of note

Chart 1 below, shows stop and search data for the previous 12 months, with Quarter 4 for 2019/20 being the highest number of stops for 2 years.

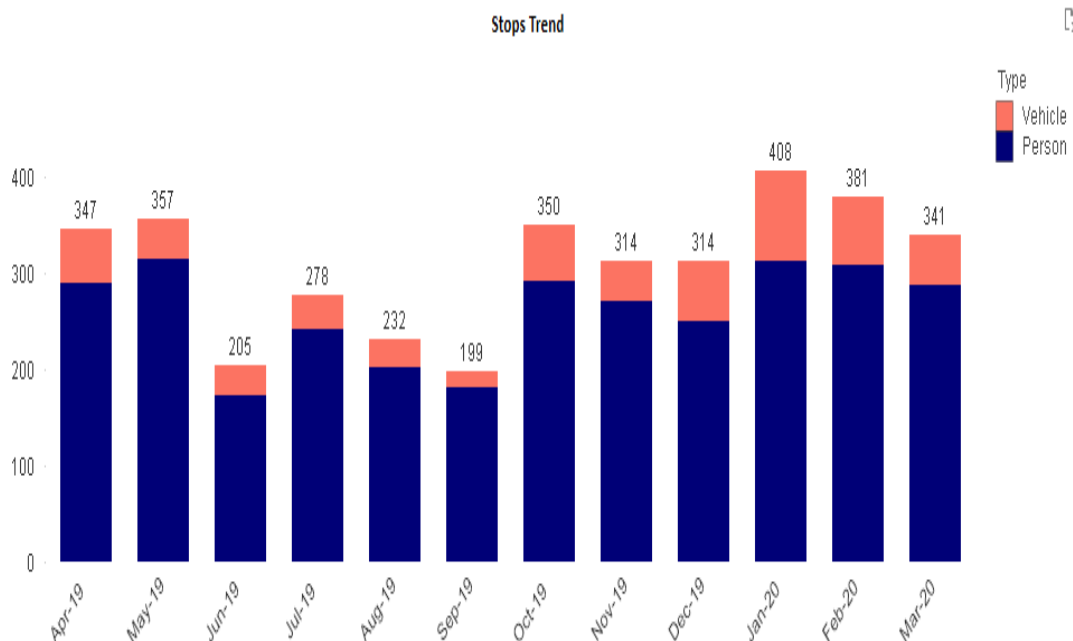


Chart 1

Quarter 4 has seen a 7.4% increase on Quarter 3, with 874 people and 256 vehicles being stopped and searched. A total of 1130 stops.

A new Performance Pack has recently been designed and introduced following the introduction of a Stop & Search Working Group and discussions that were held at the Operational Tactics Board. This was following the HMICFRS inspection where several areas were identified for improvement and enhanced scrutiny.

This Performance Pack covers the following areas:

- **Key Statistic & findings** (An overview of top line data of stop and searches of people and vehicle during the Quarter, this covers legislation used (see **Table 1** above), ethnicity, gender and age of the people stopped, and body worn video usage)

The report is then broken down into more detailed information:

Section One - Persons stopped and searched (Section one highlights the numbers of persons stopped and searched by legislative powers, by Local Policing Area and Section. Along with breakdown of age, gender and ethnicity).

Section Two – Frequency and Use of Powers (Section two shows the number of times each legislative power has been used to stop and search a person by Local Policing Area and Section).

Section Three – Object of search (Section three details the object of search, find rates and subsequent arrests).

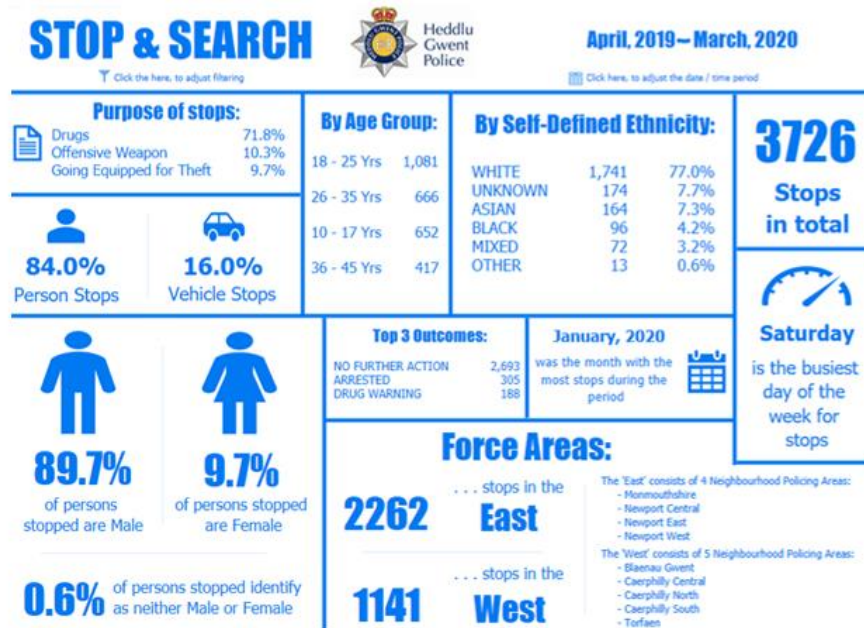
Section Four – Body Worn Video (Section four highlights the usage of Body

Worn Video by Local Policing Area and Section).

Section Five – Effectiveness (Section five looks at some examples of the effectiveness of stop and search using an evidence-based approach).

Since December 2019, this report is now used to structure debate in the Operational Tactics meeting.

The INFO link below is an Internal and public facing document that shows the current trend of Stop Search within Gwent.



Successful outcomes of stop and searches remains steady at 22%, with a find rate of 17% and 9.4% (82) result in an arrest.

These statistics highlight a vast improvement, which indicates ‘grounds’ for search are being applied correctly. It also indicates that the ‘hot spot’ intelligence led approach identifies correct areas and individuals to stop and search.

Data Quality of the stop and search forms is an area of concern and as such is a focal point within the force. This has been addressed by ensuring effective messaging from the communication team to keep Officers up to date with any changes. This issue may be exacerbated by the frequent amendments to the national form.

Our Race Disproportionality Ratio (RDR) has decreased over the last 6 months, from 4.98 to 4.78. (73.4% White; 14.2% BAME). Although around half the national average, this decrease needs to be understood and linked to appropriate intelligence led operations where relevant, and in particular areas local demographics.

The Operational Tactics Board discusses in depth individuals who have been stopped on more than 3 occasions, taking into consideration, both diversity and Organised Crime Group (OCG) patterns to the ward area(s) concerned. The Board also reviews Officers’ who have conducted 10 or more stops in each period.

This performance pack gives a greater degree of scrutiny. In order to best prepare

attendees for the Operational Tactics Board the performance packs are circulated one week prior to the meeting with a narrative from the Chair of the areas that will be reviewed in depth.

This allows, the LPA Chief Inspectors in particular, to conduct in depth scrutiny with their LPA staff on key stop and search data so the meeting is furnished with detailed data around the statistics and the issues the performance packs appears to identify.

One of the current reviews from this data is the differential in stop and search activity between East and West, and in particular the low numbers of stops and positive outcomes from the northern area of the West LPA.

The Operational Tactics Board has been keen to widen its IAG membership with a particular focus to try to attract a representation of different age groups.

Brian Amos, GWP Positive Action Outreach Worker, has undertaken positive engagement in local communities with the objective of recruiting Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) representatives from younger age groups to the IAG to assist in the scrutiny of Gwent Police's stop and search activity.

We have sought to analyse stop and search data in conjunction with our Custody and arrest information to provide a more holistic picture, which will assist in identifying and understanding any disparity in the Criminal Justice process in respect of BAME members.

In March 2020 Chief Inspector Smith has begun a weekly Community Tensions phone in, which has an ever-increasing membership, and has seen some valuable feedback from communities around perceptions of Police activity, which includes stop and search. This also provides a platform for Gwent police to feedback the reasons and aims of those Police actions such as stop and search and Op. Sceptre.

The Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel, which is chaired by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), continues to involve BAME community members to independently scrutinise stop and search encounters by Gwent Police Officers. As part of this process the quality of search records, the grounds and outcomes of the stop and the body worn video footage of the encounter are all scrutinised and reviewed to identify best practice and areas for improvement. All BAME stop and search encounters are reviewed during this process and compared against all other stops.

The last Scrutiny Panel was in October 2019 with the next one planned for May 2020, but if this does not go ahead due to Covid19 then dip samples will be conducted by the OPCC office staff and results fed back into the Operational Tactics Board via the Chair.

ii. Use of Body Worn Video (BWV)

BWV are now issued personally to all Officers as part of their Personal Protection Equipment (PPE). Since this personal issue of BWV the number of stop and searches recorded has increased significantly and now stands at 76.2%.

To improve this figure, Inspectors are under scrutiny and they must complete dip samples of 20% or a minimum of 5 checks per month to ensure BWV is being used during the stop and search.

Table 2 below shows seven out of the nine Policing Sectors have seen an increase in use of BWV for stop and searches in Quarter 4.

This detailed breakdown of BWV data is discussed at the Operational Tactics Board where LPA commanders are held accountable.

Location	2018/19				2019/20			
	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar	Apr-Jun	Jul-Sep	Oct-Dec	Jan-Mar
East Area Policing	39.0	48.9	51.3	65.1	76.6	70.7	80.4	76.2
Monmouthshire	50.0	32.3	63.8	80.0	79.5	79.6	91.5	88.5
Newport City Centre	33.3	53.3	51.4	52.2	84.7	84.7	80.2	82.9
Newport East	42.6	65.3	61.9	76.6	79.1	57.7	79.7	80.8
Newport West	33.3	38.9	39.5	54.4	67.1	71.5	73.0	63.2
West Area Policing	30.6	37.4	44.0	57.1	68.1	74.3	78.2	83.8
Blaenau Gwent	16.7	33.3	35.5	27.6	55.0	70.8	78.9	81.5
Caerphilly Central	33.3	53.3	37.5	51.7	67.6	69.0	76.9	81.3
Caerphilly North	64.3	15.8	60.0	63.0	75.0	87.5	85.5	87.5
Caerphilly South	31.3	56.3	41.7	56.4	47.8	82.4	82.9	100.0
Torfaen	16.7	37.0	52.5	68.4	74.7	68.5	72.5	81.1
No location stated	70.0	68.8	74.4	75.6	77.1	75.0	85.0	84.2
Gwent	42.3	47.6	51.5	64.3	74.6	72.2	80.0	79.5

Table 2

iii. Use of Section 60

During the previous 12-month period there has been no 'Section 60' authorisations.

(A 'Section 60' is a power to impose Search criteria on a specific area if we anticipate Disorder or Use of weapons).

Gwent Police is involved in the review of the 'Impact of Relaxing of Restrictions around Section 60 Searches'. This review is ongoing until April 2020.

iv. Involvement of the OPCC

To assist in understanding how our searches are conducted, the OPCC hosts a 6 monthly Scrutiny Panel to allow members of the community to review body worn video footage. Feedback from this review process over the last 12 months has been incredibly positive, with officers commended for:

- Communicating in a civil manner at all times, despite often highly charged situations.
- Treating vulnerable people with respect and dignity whilst carrying out their professional duties.
- Managing and de-escalating tense and often dangerous situations.
- Using force in a proportionate and reasonable way, ensuring the welfare of subjects.
- Ensuring the lawful use of their powers by complying with relevant legislation and guidance.
- Concerns have been raised regarding officer safety from some BWV footage. This has been fed back to the individual officers and is now incorporated into OST training scenarios.

4.	<u>NEXT STEPS</u>
4.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue progress with recommendations contained within the ACC Stop and Search Action Plan and HMICFRS review feedback. • Peer Review of Stop and Search by Wiltshire Police (planned for April 2020 but suspended due to Covid19 outbreak). • Monitor performance around reasonable grounds and ethnicity of persons stop and searched. Look for trends and focus on the data quality and depth of data available to the Operational Tactics Board. • Continue targeted community engagement initiatives, specifically those tasked to Diversity Leads (Brian Amos – Positive Action Outreach Worker and Gareth Hughes - Head of Diversity and Inclusion). • Continue and expand the Community Tensions phone in platform. • Monitor feedback and complaints received from people who have been stopped and searched. • Continue to review and action stop and search activity feedback from the Stop & Search Working Group. Reinforce to Officers' the need to adhere to the law and the guidance on the use of the stop and search powers and to ensure that forms are fully and accurately completed. • To further develop the Qlikview data capture as a tool for managers and supervisors. Seek to resolve any IT issues as they arise. • Continue to monitor and encourage the use of BWV in stop and search. • Continue to drive positive stop and search messages via internal and external Communications Strategy. • Continue to support all Operation Sceptre initiatives. • Continue to refine the stop and search performance packs in order to focus the debates and scrutiny at the Operational Tactics Board.
5.	<u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
5.1	There is no cost implication.
6.	<u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
6.1	There is no specific staffing or personnel implication associated with this report. Although the Operational Tactics Board requires representation from several work streams, it is not anticipated at that time that there will be any additional work generated.
7.	<u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u>
7.1	The implementation of the plan and Stop Search Policy with associated Equality Impact Assessment enhance the legal foothold in respect of stop and search and mitigate against the potential for any litigation which may be brought against the Force.
8.	<u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u>
8.1	<p>It is recognised that stop and search activities have the potential to have a significant impact on community confidence, particularly if the tactic is perceived to be used in a discriminatory manner.</p> <p>HMICFRS findings indicate no evidence of discriminatory or prejudicial practices,</p>

	influencing Gwent Police's approach to stop and search.
8.2	In preparing this report, consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.
9.	<u>RISK</u>
9.1	The on-going work in relation to stop and search is designed to minimise any risk to the Force in respect of failure to comply with legislation. It will also minimise the impact on public confidence when powers and procedures have not been correctly adhered to.
10.	<u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u>
10.1	Yes. The data contained would be in the Public Interest.
11.	<u>CONTACT OFFICER</u>
11.1	Supt Fernquest Tactical Lead Stop Search / Operational Tactics Board Chairperson.
12.	<u>ANNEXES</u>
12.1	None

For OPCC use only

Office of the Chief Constable

I confirm that **bi-annual stop and search report** report has been discussed and approved at a formal Chief Officers' meeting.

It is now forwarded to the OPCC for **approval / information / monitoring purposes.**

Signature:



Date: 11/05/2020

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct.

The above request has my approval.

Signature:

Date: