



Stop Search Bi-Annual Report

March 2022



1. PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is for information and to note progress around the force's approach to stop and search.
- 1.2 There are no recommendations made requiring a decision.

2. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 2.1 This report provides an update on the use of stop and search powers between April – September 2021 and will present separate data sets for Quarter 1 and 2 offering opportunity for data comparison.
- 2.2 The force continues to engage closely with HMICFRS to demonstrate its continued effort to strengthen the scrutiny and transparency of stop and search. This is via dedicated meetings with the Force Liaison Lead (meeting on Sept 21 to review progress against national recommendations and Areas for Improvement) and regular HMICFRS attendance at the force quarterly scrutiny board.
- 2.3 Since the last biannual report, published in July 2021, the force has commissioned a former HMICFRS associate and stop search policy lead to support its development of stop and search. This ongoing support has included:
 - Independent review of the force dataset used for monthly, quarterly and biannual monitoring for stop and search;
 - In-depth assessment of 400 stop and search records, including all BAME searches in the time period (further details are presented in this report);
 - Review of independent scrutiny panel minutes and associated documentation for stop and search;
 - Review of dataset used for monitoring use of force;
 - Review previous month's records to identify possession versus supply drug searches, strength of grounds and motivation (an area that has previously been raised for further scrutiny by the OPCC);
 - Developing surveys to understand officer's awareness and knowledge of stop and search issues;
 - Reviewing the force website;
 - Developing Body Worn Video (BWV) review processes,
 - Review of independent scrutiny panel minutes and associated documentation for use of force.
 - Developing stop and search training material for Sergeants development days, commencing in February 2022.

3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION



3.1 Performance Data Highlights/Summary since last report:

- Total Stops decreased during Quarter 2 by 29%, this is the third quarter in a row a decline has been recorded (reasons for this will be discussed later in this report);
- 'No Location Recorded' still accounted for 5.4% of all Stops in Quarter 2, a slight increase on the 4.9% seen during Quarter 1;
- Stops conducted within the Newport area accounted for 36.2% of the Force total, which is still lower than the 40%+ seen over the past few years;
- The number of BAME individuals stopped as a percentage of total stops remained constant at 8.8%;
- The overall Race Disproportionately Rate (RDR) fell to 2.7 in Quarter 2, down from 2.9 in Quarter 1. This is the second lowest RDR recorded since the inception of performance reporting;
- In Quarter 2, 25.4% of all Stop Searches resulted in a positive outcome being achieved, including an arrest or caution, down slightly from 26.3% in Quarter 1;
- The find rate in Quarter 2 for the Force was 23.6%, down from 28.5% in the previous quarter. This figure was highest in Monmouthshire, with a 46% find rate;
- The number of BAME individuals stopped for the reason of drugs fell from 75.9% in Quarter 1 to 53.3% in Quarter 2
- The use of Body Worn Video (BWV) increased across the Force in Quarter 2, rising from a compliance rate of 92.8% in Quarter 1 to 96.1%;

3.2 Independent Review of stop search records:

In response to national HMICFRS recommendations, the force has commissioned an independent in-depth review of 400 stop and search records. The sample included all search records involving BAME people occurring between 4 August 2020 and 2 May 2021, a total of 200, and a sample of 200 records involving white people for comparison.

The review considered a number of elements:

- The reasonableness of the recorded grounds;
- The strength of those recorded grounds that were considered reasonable;
- The proportion of searches for drugs;
- For drug searches, whether the suspicion was possession-only or some other supply-type offence (supply, possession with intent to supply, concerned in the supply, importation etc);
- For drug searches, whether the recorded grounds are based solely on the smell of cannabis;
- The motivation for the search - whether the suspicion for each search was based on information from a third party (ie a call from a member of the public or CCTV operator), or intelligence or the officer's own observations;
- The proportion of subjects that are resident of Gwent;



- The proportion of subjects that are connected to an OCG, a PPO, connected to a dangerous drugs network or county lines or has relevant intelligence to suggest he/she is currently criminally active.

The full details of this review will be published in line with HMICFRS national recommendations. The Key Findings of this review identify:

- 74% (296) of total searches had reasonable grounds;
- 70% of BAME searches had reasonable grounds;
- 78% of White searches had reasonable grounds;
- 23.5% of BAME searches had weak grounds;
- 20.5% of White searches had weak grounds;
- 12.5% of BAME searches had strong grounds;
- 16% of White searches had strong grounds.
- 53.5% of BAME searches were based on weak or unreasonable grounds;
- 42.5% of White searches were based on weak or unreasonable grounds

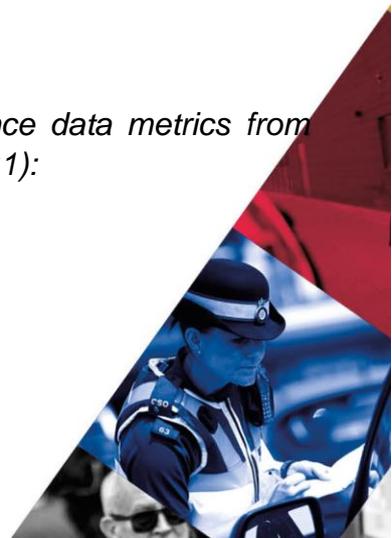
The above findings indicate that BAME searches are by proportion more likely than white searches to be based on weak or unreasonable grounds – and less likely to find the item.

This analysis has been shared at the force stop and search scrutiny board and presented at the force Operational Performance Board, Chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable. A series of recommendations are in progress to address the identified issues. As stated above, to comply with HMICFRS' 2017 recommendation, the force will publish the findings of this research together with the actions it is taking to further understand or mitigate the identified disparities. After a suitable time has elapsed, this review will be repeated to assess any progress.

3.3 Performance Data:

This section of the report will examine various performance data metrics from Quarter 1 (Apr – June 2021) and Quarter 2 (July – Sept 2021):

- **Total Stop Search Numbers:**



	Q2 20/21	Q2 21/22	% Diff.
Person Stops	1028	512	-50.2%
Vehicle Stops	256	105	-59.0%
Total	1284	617	-51.9%

Table 1 – Total Stops Comparison Q2 20/21 & Q2 21/22

	Q1 21/22	Q2 21/22	% Diff.
Person Stops	713	512	-28.2%
Vehicle Stops	156	105	-32.7%
Total	869	617	-29.0%

Table 2 – Total Stops Comparison Q1 21/22 and Q2 21/22

As can be seen in the tables above the total number of stops conducted has fallen significantly year on year during Quarter 2 by 51.9%. This follows another big reduction seen in Quarter 1.

The table highlights that stops have also declined between Quarter 1 and Quarter 2 21/22 by 29%. The reasons behind this further large drop have been discussed in detail at various scrutiny and performance boards with a number of reasons for the drop:

- Firstly, numbers of stops increased during the lockdown periods, as officers were trying to prevent any Covid breaches, so as restrictions have been relaxed and more freedoms become available, the number of stops linked to Covid has naturally decreased. This is in line with national trends;
- Second, demand has increased during quarter one and two leading to a Forcwide Gold Group being established to manage calls for service. This has required changes to be made to the student officer tutor pod structure to support front line service delivery. This potentially has resulted in less capacity for proactive stop and search;
- Third, there has been a restructure of the force Area Support Unit (ASU) with a renewed focus on Roads Policing. The ASU was historically a department where a large proportion of searches were conducted. This team has now been restructured to become the Roads Policing and Specialist Operations (RPSO) team. The RPSO representative at the stop and search scrutiny board updated the meeting that increase demand and a change of focus has resulted in less proactive stop and search activity. This is evidenced by the analysis of which teams are conducting most stop searches;
- Fourth there has been an increase on the scrutiny of the grounds for searches. It is feasible that previous searches that relied on weaker grounds may have stopped because of the spotlight in this area;
- Finally, some large-scale operations targeting specific individuals and areas, that were being run in the East LPA, and which led to an increase in stop search activity, have now come to an end. As a result of the above reasons outlined above stop search numbers have significantly declined, but it is hoped that they are now becoming more

targeted and intelligence led, which will ultimately lead to an increase in positive results.

21/22 by Total Person Monthly Stops								
	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Total	%
East LPA	130	87	61	96	93	59	526	45.0%
West LPA	123	140	67	70	87	57	544	46.6%
No Location Recorded	15	9	10	13	8	8	63	5.4%
Outside Force	4	6	4	5	9	7	35	3.0%
Total	272	242	142	184	197	131	1168	

Table 3 – Total Stops by April – Sept 2021

- Table 3 illustrates how monthly stop and search rates have continued to drop off during 2021, falling to a two year monthly low of just 131 in September. This reinforces the picture seen in the quarterly figures illustrated above.
- Table 3 also highlights a significant number of stop and searches continue to record no location and therefore cannot accurately be included in analytical reports. This figure has increased slightly, rising from 4.9% in Quarter 1 to 5.4% in Quarter 2.

Total Stops Legal Power Used - Q2 21/22				
	East LPA	West LPA	Other	Total
S1 PACE 1984	71	82	31	184
S139B CJA 1988	0	0	0	0
S23 Drugs 1971	171	130	17	318
S47 Firearms 1968	6	1	2	9
S6(3) PACE 1984	0	0	0	0
Not Recorded	0	1	0	1
Total	248	214	50	512

Table 4 – Total Stops Legal Power Used Q2 20/21

- The Commissioner has previously asked the force for some reassurance about the proportion of searches which are conducted under Misuse of Drugs Act, this was an area that was reported on in the previous biannual report. The above table indicates that S23 Drugs 1971 continues to be the most used power for stopping people, accounting for 62% of total Stop Searches carried out. However, this figure has declined from 69% the Quarter 1 2020/21 and steadily declined from over 70% in 2019/20.

- Person Stops by Section/Ward**



Total Person Stops by Section - Q2 21/22		
Section	Total Person Stops	% of Total Stops
Blaenau Gwent	21	4.1%
Caerphilly Central	35	6.8%
Caerphilly North	48	9.4%
Caerphilly South	27	5.3%
Monmouthshire	63	12.3%
Newport City Centre	41	8.0%
Newport East	50	9.8%
Newport West	94	18.4%
Torfaen	83	16.2%
Outside Force	21	4.1%
No Location	29	5.7%
Total	512	

Table 5 – Person Stops by Section

The above table shows all Person Stops by section where a known location is recorded. As can be seen, for Quarter 2, Newport accounts for 36.2% of all stops conducted within the Force area, which is a slight increase from 34.9% recorded in Quarter 1. Stop searches in Newport West fell by 46%. Torfaen continued to be the section with the second highest percentage of stops (16.2%), but Blaenau Gwent saw its share of stops fall from 7.3% to just 4.1%. No location was listed for 5.7% of all stops.

Table 6, below, illustrates the ages of those stopped in each section for Quarter 2. It shows the largest proportion of people searched continues to be aged between 18 and 25, although there has been a decline in this category, as it accounted for 37% in Quarter 1. The average age of a person stopped also fell from 25 to 24.

Section	Total Person Stops by Age by Section - Q2 21/22						
	Under 17	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65
Blaenau Gwent	6	4	5	2	2	0	0
Caerphilly Central	11	7	7	3	6	1	0
Caerphilly North	14	17	10	6	1	0	0
Caerphilly South	4	11	5	2	2	1	1
Monmouthshire	16	22	17	6	2	0	0
Newport City Centre	14	7	10	3	5	1	0
Newport East	5	16	6	10	10	1	0
Newport West	9	36	27	13	6	1	0
Torfaen	25	38	8	5	1	3	0
Other	9	16	12	6	5	0	0
Total	113	174	107	56	40	8	1
Percentage of Total	22.6%	34.9%	21.4%	11.2%	8.0%	1.6%	0.2%

Table 6 – Age of Person Stopped by Section

Table 7 below shows the wards where the most Person Stops have occurred during Quarter 2. Four of them appeared in the top 5 in Quarter 1, with the only change being Alt-Yr-Yn replaced Pontnewydd. The number of stops these top five wards accounted

for has risen significantly from 18.1% in Quarter 1, to 30.3% in quarter 2, meaning that almost a third of all stop searches for the force have taken place in just 5 wards.

Total Person Stops by Ward (Top 5) - Q2 21/22		
Ward	Total Person Stops	% of Total Stops
Pillgwenlly	45	8.8%
Stow Hill	41	8.0%
Victoria	27	5.3%
Llantarnam	23	4.5%
Allt-Yr-Yn	19	3.7%
Total	155	30.3%

Table 7 – Top 5 Wards Based on Total Person Stop Numbers

- **Ethnicity Breakdown**

Total Person Stops v BAME Stops by Section - Q2 21/22			
Section	Total Stops	BAME Stops	% of BAME Stops
Blaenau Gwent	21	1	4.8%
Caerphilly Central	35	3	8.6%
Caerphilly North	48	1	2.1%
Caerphilly South	27	0	0.0%
Monmouthshire	63	1	1.6%
Newport City Centre	41	8	19.5%
Newport East	50	8	16.0%
Newport West	94	15	16.0%
Torfaen	83	2	2.4%
Outside Force	21	5	23.8%
No Location	29	1	3.4%
Total	512	45	8.8%

Table 8 – Number of BAME Person Stops Against Total Person Stops

As can be seen in the table above the highest numbers of BAME persons Stop Searched occurred within Newport West. In total, 31 stops took place within Newport, which is a significant reduction from the 106 seen during Quarter 4 2020/21. Only 14 took place in all other locations.

The overall force ratio of BAME individuals stopped remained static at 8.8%.



Total Stops and RDR by Section - Q2 21/22						
Section	Total Stops	Total White Stops	Total BAME Stops	White Population	BAME Population	RDR Rate
Blaenau Gwent	21	17	1	68750	1054	3.8
Caerphilly Central	35	30	3	64717	959	6.7
Caerphilly North	48	45	1	54961	792	1.5
Caerphilly South	27	26	0	54494	1173	0.0
Monmouthshire	63	54	1	92072	1796	0.9
Newport City Centre	41	23	8	3608	1165	1.1
Newport East	50	33	8	61915	6481	2.3
Newport West	94	71	15	65502	7065	2.0
Torfaen	83	64	2	88213	1796	1.5
Total	462	363	39	554232	22281	2.7

Table 9 – RDR for Q2 20/21 by Section

Above is the breakdown of BAME Stops and White Stops by section during Quarter 2 21/22, providing the RDR rating for each section. It shows that overall, the Force has an RDR of 2.7 for the quarter, which is a further decrease from the 2.9 recorded in Quarter 1. This means that a person from the BAME community was 2.7 times more likely to be Stop Searched in Gwent during Quarter 2 than someone from a white background. This, however, continues to be a positive directional trend, and represents the second lowest quarterly RDR figure recorded within Gwent since the inception of reporting on this area.

During the quarter only two sections, Monmouthshire and Caerphilly South, showed no evidence of disproportionality based on the RDR. However, as explained previously, some other areas such as Caerphilly Central, Caerphilly North and Torfaen, can see relatively low numbers of stops have a big impact on their RDR ratio.

Table 10, below, shows the same data for Quarter 1 21/22. It shows the slightly higher RDR rate, alluded to above.

Total Stops and RDR by Section - Q1 21/22						
Section	Total Stops	Total White Stops	Total BAME Stops	White Population	BAME Population	RDR Rate
Blaenau Gwent	47	34	3	68750	1054	5.8
Caerphilly Central	53	49	1	64717	959	1.4
Caerphilly North	79	71	3	54961	792	2.9
Caerphilly South	37	32	0	54494	1173	0.0
Monmouthshire	54	47	4	92072	1796	4.4
Newport City Centre	26	18	4	3608	1165	0.7
Newport East	75	56	12	61915	6481	2.0
Newport West	123	79	22	65502	7065	2.6
Torfaen	114	78	5	88213	1796	3.1
Total	608	464	54	554232	22281	2.9

Table 10 – RDR for Q1 21/22 by Section

- **Arrest, Positive Outcome and Find Rates**

Persons Arrested/Positive Outcome as a Result of a Stop - Q2 21/22				
Section	Total Person Stops	Arrest	Total Positive Outcome	% of Positive Outcome
Blaenau Gwent	21	0	2	9.5%
Caerphilly Central	35	2	6	17.1%
Caerphilly North	48	6	15	31.3%
Caerphilly South	27	4	7	25.9%
Monmouthshire	63	5	23	36.5%
Newport City Centre	41	4	13	31.7%
Newport East	50	10	12	24.0%
Newport West	94	7	18	19.1%
Torfaen	83	5	22	26.5%
Other	50	6	12	24.0%
Total	512	49	130	25.4%

Table 11 – Persons Arrested/Positive Outcome as a Result of a Stop

The table above shows that during Quarter 2, 25.4% of all stops resulted in a positive outcome, down slightly from 26.3% during Quarter 1, with 9.6% of those stopped being subsequently arrested. For the second quarter in a row Monmouthshire recorded the highest positive outcome ratio (36.5%), with Newport City Centre and Caerphilly North also recording figures of over 30%. Blaenau Gwent recorded the lowest ratio at just 9.5%, which is the lowest seen by an individual section in the past year.

Item Found Against Item Searched For by Section - Q2 21/22					
Section	Total Person Stops	Item Searched for Found	Other Item Found	Total Finds	% Total Find Rate
Blaenau Gwent	21	1	1	2	9.5%
Caerphilly Central	35	5	2	7	20.0%
Caerphilly North	48	12	1	13	27.1%
Caerphilly South	27	6	1	7	25.9%
Monmouthshire	63	29	0	29	46.0%
Newport City Centre	41	11	1	12	29.3%
Newport East	50	6	2	8	16.0%
Newport West	94	18	3	21	22.3%
Torfaen	83	16	6	22	26.5%
Other	50	10	1	11	22.0%
Total	512	114	18	121	23.6%

Table 12 – Find Rates by Section



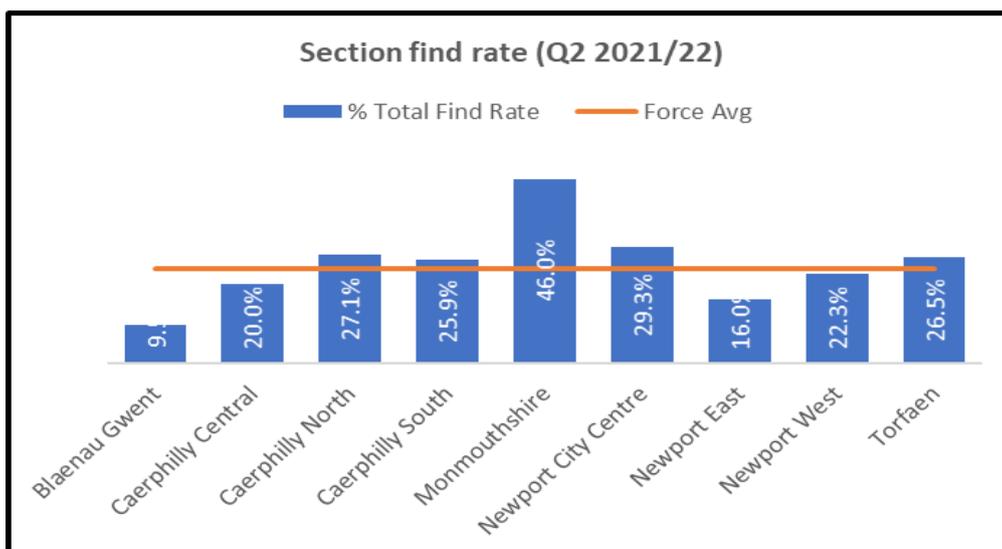


Table 12 and the above chart highlight the find rate for all Stops carried out during Quarter 2 and indicates that overall on 23.6% of occasions the item searched for was recovered. However, this is a decrease from the annual high percentage of 28.8% seen during quarter 1.

The two sections with the highest find rates were Monmouthshire (46%), which was also the best performing section last quarter, and Newport City Centre (29.3%). Blaenau Gwent recorded a find rate figure of just 9.5%, which is a decline in its recent performance, and would suggest that the intelligence led approach is not working in this section.

- **Body Worn Video (BWV)**

BWV Breakdown by Section - Q2 21/22							
Section	Total Person Stops	Camera Used	Camera Faulty	Camera Out of Power	No Camera Available	Officer Discretion	Camera Used %
Blaenau Gwent	21	20	1	0	0	0	95.2%
Caerphilly Central	35	34	0	0	0	1	97.1%
Caerphilly North	48	47	0	0	1	0	97.9%
Caerphilly South	27	26	0	1	0	0	96.3%
Monmouthshire	63	63	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Newport City Centre	41	38	1	0	2	0	92.7%
Newport East	50	50	0	0	0	0	100.0%
Newport West	94	87	0	2	3	2	92.6%
Torfaen	83	79	0	1	3	0	95.2%
Unknown Location	50	48	1	0	0	1	96.0%
Gwent	512	492	3	4	9	4	96.1%
Percentage of Total		96.1%	0.6%	0.8%	1.8%	0.8%	

Table 13 – Body Worn Video Compliance Breakdown

As can be seen in Table 13 above, BWV compliance during Quarter 2 force wide was 96.1%, which is an increase from 92.8% in Quarter 1, and the second highest compliance figure for the past two years.

Monmouthshire and Newport East recorded 100% compliance rates, while every section reported a figure over 90% for the first time. The lowest compliance rate was in Newport West (92.6%).

In the small number of instances where BWV was not used, No Camera Available was the most prevalent (1.8%). Although it is now very small numbers across the force, there were still 20 stops conducted without a camera being used.

4. COLLABORATION

4.1 None.

5. NEXT STEPS

5.1

- The force will deliver bespoke training to all Sergeants during force training days starting in February 2022. The training will focus on the issues highlighted in this report and will be delivered personally by Supt Richards, the force portfolio lead.
- The force has worked closely with the OPCC to strengthen the independent community scrutiny of Stop Search and a new pilot Youth Scrutiny Panel has been launched in the John Frost Secondary School. This panel will be subject of review with a view to rolling out in other secondary schools.
- A community webinar is being planned to engage and highlight to the communities of Gwent the levels of scrutiny that is being applied to improve its use of Stop Search. This has been delayed in recent months due to organisational demand pressures from COP26 (mutual aid), increase in demand and COVID 19.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

6.1 There is no cost implication.

7. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 There is no specific staffing or personnel implication associated with this report.

8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 None.

9. EQUALITIES & HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS



- 9.1 This report has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Joint Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.
- 9.2 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.

10. RISK

- 10.1 The on-going work in relation to stop & 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.

11. PUBLIC INTEREST

- 11.1 In producing this report, has consideration been given to 'public confidence'? **Yes**
- 11.2 Are the contents of this report, observations and appendices necessary and suitable for the public domain? **Yes**
- 11.3 If you consider this report to be exempt from the public domain, please state the reasons: *N/A*

12. REPORT AUTHOR

- 12.1 Supt Mike Richards

13. LEAD CHIEF OFFICER

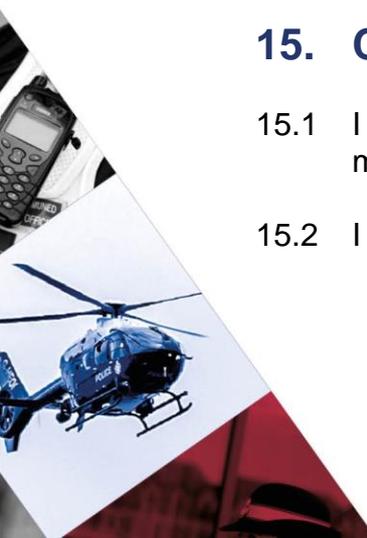
- 13.1 ACC M Hobrough

14. ANNEXES

- 14.1 None

15. CHIEF OFFICER APPROVAL

- 15.1 I confirm this report has been discussed and approved at a formal Chief Officers' meeting.
- 15.2 I confirm this report is suitable for the public domain.





Signature:

Date: 21.02.2022

