

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

Interim Stop and Search Dip Sample Exercise – May 2020

Due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place, and following consultation with Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel members, a decision was made to suspend the regular stop and search scrutiny activity scheduled for May 2020. In its absence, and to provide some continuity for Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) scrutiny processes, a random selection of Gwent Police stop and search records from the period 1st October 2019 to 31st March 2020 were dip sampled and reviewed by the OPCC policy lead for stop and search. Whilst it is acknowledged that this does not provide the same level of independent scrutiny as the Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel, it supports and enables the Police and Crime Commissioner to hold the Chief Constable to account for the delivery of an effective police service at this time.

Due to the limited resources undertaking the dip sample, it was agreed within the OPCC that a reduced number of entries would be reviewed with an equal number of BAME and White records examined. Once formally re-established, future scrutiny exercises will look to temporarily increase the percentage of entries dip sampled to compensate for the reduction with the COVID period.

Dip Sample of Records

The dip sample is based on the total number of entries available. Of the 2036 entries, 276 related to individuals that had self-identified as having a Black, Asian or minority ethnic (BAME) background. Table 1 provides the analysis of the dip sampled records alongside the analysis for the total number of entries. 102 entries were dip sampled.

Table 1: Analysis of records		Dip sample (102 records)				Total (2036 entries)			
Category		# White	# BAME	% White	% BAME	# White	# BAME	% White	% BAME
Gender	Male	47	45	46.0	44.1	1357	266	66.6	13.0
	Female	0	2	0.0	1.9	144	10	7.0	0.5
	Other 'I' (Indeterminate)	0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	<0.1	0
	Unknown 'U'	0	0	0.0	0.0	4	0	0.2	0
Self-Defined Ethnicity	Asian Indian	0	1	0.0	0.9	0	5	0	0.2
	Asian Pakistani	0	12	0.0	11.7	0	68	0	3.3
	Asian Bangladeshi	0	3	0.0	2.9	0	12	0	0.6
	Other Asian Background	0	11	0.0	10.7	0	53	0	2.6
	Black Caribbean	0	15	0.0	14.7	0	27	0	1.3
	Black African	0	6	0.0	5.8	0	36	0	1.7
	Other Black Background	0	2	0.0	2.2	0	20	0	1.0
	White/Black Caribbean	0	2	0.0	1.9	0	9	0	0.4
	White/Black African	0	1	0.0	0.9	0	6	0	0.3
	White/Asian	0	2	0.0	1.9	0	15	0	0.7
	Other Mixed Background	0	1	0.0	0.9	0	17	0	0.8
	Officer Called Away	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
	Any Other Ethnic	0	1	0.0	0.9	0	8	0	0.4

	Background								
	White British	44	0	43.1	0.0	1483	0	72.8	0
	White Irish	0	0	0.0	0.0	4	0	0.2	0
	White Other Background	1	0	0.9	0.0	23	0	1.1	0
	Not Stated	8		7.8		251		12.3	
Age	Under 17	7	11	6.8	10.7	242	77	11.9	0.6
	18 to 25	14	17	13.7	16.6	639	106	31.2	5.2
	26 to 35	22	11	21.5	10.7	321	51	15.8	2.5
	36 to 45	1	5	0.9	4.9	210	33	10.3	1.6
	46 to 55	3	2	2.9	1.9	103	7	10.0	0.3
	56 to 65	0	0	0.0	0.0	23	0	1.1	0.0
	Not stated	0	0	0.0	0.0	5	1	0.2	<0.1
Purpose	Articles for Use in Theft	3	1	2.9	0.9	95	6	4.6	0.3
	Articles to Cause Damage	3	1	2.9	0.9	35	2	1.7	<0.1
	Bladed Article	3	4	2.9	3.9	94	18	4.6	0.9
	Criminal Damage	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
	Drugs	27	35	28.7	36.2	914	219	44.9	10.7
	Evidence of Offences Under the Act	2	0	1.9	0.0	28	0	1.4	0.0
	Firearms	0	0	0.0	0.0	20	3	1.0	0.1
	Fireworks	0	0	0.0	0.0	6	3	0.3	0.1
	Going Equipped	2	1	1.9	0.9	76	3	3.7	0.1
	Intoxicating Liquor	0	0	0.0	0.0	1	2	<0.1	<0.1
	Not Purpose Recorded	1	0	0.9	0.0	7	1	0.3	<0.1
	Offensive Weapons	0	2	0.0	1.9	46	6	2.2	0.3
	Other	0	0	0.0	0.0	9	0	0.4	0
	Public Order	0	0	0.0	0.0	1	1	<0.1	<0.1
	Seizure of Alcohol or Tobacco	0	0	0.0	0.0	2	1	<0.1	<0.1
	Stolen Property	5	3	4.9	2.9	116	4	5.7	0.2
	Suspect Crime/Disorder/ ASB	0	0	0.0	0.0	6	1	0.3	<0.1
	Threat or Harm	1	0	0.9	0.0	44	6	2.2	0.3
	Traffic Violation	0	0	0.0	0.0	10	0	0.5	0
	Warrant Bail Check	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0
Outcome	Arrested	5	8	4.9	7.8	147	24	7.2	1.8
	Caution (Simple or Conditional)	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0	0
	Community Resolution	0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	<0.1	0
	Drug Warning	2	2	1.9	1.9	94	12	4.6	0.6
	Item Seized	0	0	0.0	0.0	3	0	0.1	0
	No Further Action (NFA)	35	35	34.3	34.3	1104	230	54.2	11.3
	No Outcome Recorded	1	1	0.9	0.9	30	4	1.5	0.2
	Other	0	0	0.0	0.0	2	0	<0.1	0
	Penalty Notice for Disorder	1	1	0.9	0.9	32	3	1.6	0.1
	Police Discretionary Resolution	3	0	2.9	0.0	39	2	1.9	<0.1
	Summonsed	0	0	0.0	0.0	10	0	0.5	0
	Voluntary Attendance	0	0	0.0	0.0	48	1	2.3	<0.1

Data Quality

As previously stated, 2036 entries were provided for the scrutiny exercise; however, 1367 'person' stops were recorded for the scrutiny period (i.e. 1367 individuals were stop-

searched). The difference in numbers mainly relates to occurrences where the officer has provided more than one purpose for the stop-search. This shows as a corresponding number of single line entries in the scrutiny information, linked back to the Niche record and thereby being identifiable as belonging to a single record. For example, an officer might search one individual for the purposes of concealing a 'bladed article', 'offensive weapon', and the intention of causing 'threat or harm'. These will show as separate entries against the same record number. However, it is possible that some duplicates are present within the record set.

Gwent Police has continued to focus on improving the overall quality of stop and search data. Having previously acknowledged data discrepancies (duplicate submissions) due to user and technological error, work has been ongoing by the Digital Services Division (DSD) to explore a solution to this issue. This has been largely successful with the number of duplicates recorded now greatly reduced; however, a small number are still being logged. The DSD has been working with the relevant software developers to implement a fix for the issue, which will go live in July following the planned upgrade to Niche. The DSD will also continue to actively monitor any ongoing issues through data quality and scrutiny processes. Future Scrutiny Panel exercises will also monitor the issue to support these activities.

In reviewing the whole data set, blank information continues to be present within the grounds, purpose, self-defined ethnicity (SDE) and outcome fields. Whilst fewer in number than in previous exercises, blank fields contribute to overall gaps in data where the subject has not provided information, such as SDE. It is acknowledged, however, that outcome data might not always be completed in cases when the subject has been arrested and transferred to custody.

Recommendation: Gwent Police should monitor data transfer processes through the Operational Tactics Meeting, thereby providing a greater focus on reliable and consistent data and making improvements where needed.

Grounds

All of the 102 entries dip sampled had completed grounds fields, consistent with the previous exercise. In an improvement from the previous exercise, no entries were found with 'Test' grounds. Of the dip sampled entries, 39.2% of those for BAME and 40.2% of those for White subjects were believed to provide reasonable grounds. This is a slight change to the previous exercise, where encounters for 46.1% of BAME and 39.3% of White subjects were believed to have reasonable grounds. The remainder of grounds were queried during the exercise due to either ambiguous or limited details. Observations for these records (ranked in order of prevalence) included:

1. Where smell of cannabis is given as grounds for a search linked to a vehicle stop but the original reason for engagement is not clearly stated
2. No reason provided for stopping specific individuals
3. Lack of detail provided to support reasons for suspicion or provide more background; e.g.:

- “Information received that persons dealing drugs”
 - “Male seen sat on park bench on mobile phone. On seeing police male had hands in pocket and walked off as if to avoid police contact”
4. No original reason for the stop provided to link to the purpose of the search

Previous Scrutiny Panel reports have provided recommendations regarding ensuring training provides a consistent and appropriate focus on legitimate grounds. Whilst the standard of grounds continues to improve, there are still some ongoing considerations such as those linked to cannabis searches, which has provided the most consistent query across scrutiny exercises. However, it should be noted that, on this occasion, the queries relate to a very small proportion of the dip sampled records. A greater number of entries were found to have provided good and, in some cases, excellent grounds that were comprehensive and thorough. These have been noted and appropriate feedback will be given to Gwent Police’s operational lead for stop and search.

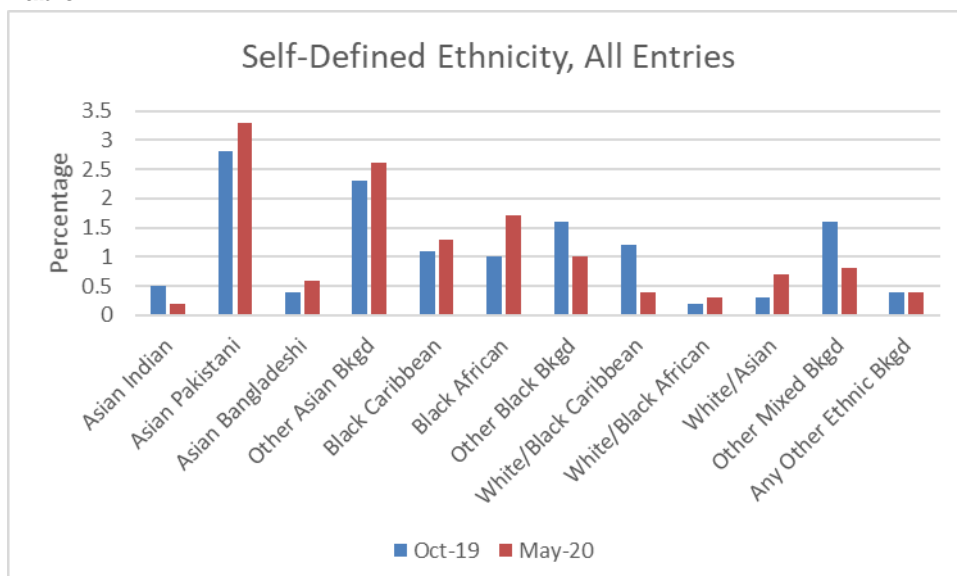
Recommendation: To further improve the quality of grounds being recorded and mitigate any risk of unjustifiable or questionable grounds being provided as the basis for stop-searches, Gwent Police should ensure that stop and search training and wider messaging provides a consistent and appropriate focus on what constitutes legitimate and justifiable grounds for encounters. This should be further supported by Supervisor checks and internal performance management processes, including monitoring at the Operational Tactics Meeting.

Ethnicity

All SDE fields for both the BAME and the ‘White’ dip sampled records were completed. Of the dip sampled, 43.1% of subjects identified as ‘White British’. 7.8% of the selected records did not state any ethnicity (e.g. the subject declined to self-identify), an increase from 5.0% as compared to the previous exercise.

Table 2 provides a comparison of the total SDE data across BAME categories for the October 2019 and May 2020 exercises. Small increases were seen for just over half the ethnic groupings. However, the number of entries with no ethnicity stated had decreased from 13.0% to 0.8% across all entries. In addition, there was a zero number of entries for ‘Officer Called Away’ during this period.

Table 2:



The majority of BAME activity was recorded in the Pillgwenlly and Stow Hill wards of Newport. In each instance, the greater number of searches were performed on Asian people, consistent with previous exercises. Since the last stop and search Scrutiny Panel report, Gwent Police has planned work to better understand ethnicity and population demographics at a ward level. Once undertaken, this will be shared at the Stop and Search Gold Meeting, which has OPCC representation.

Previous internal scrutiny work suggested that the stop-search activity recorded in these areas is not found to be disproportionately high due to the levels of BAME resident population and also the highest proportion of organised crime and drug dealing occurring in these wards. Therefore, there continues to be an assumption of the impact of operational activity linked to serious and organised crime and other targeted operations. There is an increased likelihood of stop and search being used in these areas and disproportionality occurring in areas with higher BAME populations. In addition, there is an increased likelihood that Asian individuals will be most affected by stop and search activity within these areas. It is anticipated that this will be examined within the ongoing internal work by the force.

The race disproportionality ratio (RDR) helps indicate whether different groups of people are being stop and searched more disproportionately than others. Table 3 provides comparisons across the total stop and search data within the last three years.

Table 3: Three-year comparison

Stop and Searches	# of Stops (Total)	# of Stops ('White')	# of Stops (BAME)	% of Stops ('White')	% of Stops (BAME)	RDR
2017/18	950	757	84	79.7%	8.8%	2.9
2018/19	2323	1811	338	78.0%	14.63%	4.7
2019/20	3146	1812	328	57.6%	10.4%	4.5

In line with national trends, Gwent has experienced an increase in the number of recorded stops encounters since 2017/18. The 2019/20 period showed a 26% increase in overall stop-searches compared to 2018/19; however, the number of encounters recorded for the period is consistent with the previous year and provides a slight reduction in the proportion of BAME people stop-searched. In March 2020, the COVID lockdown period commenced in the UK, and this is anticipated to have an effect on the number of encounters recorded during for April onwards.

In calculating the RDR based on the current data, BAME people in Gwent are stop-searched at 4.5 times the rate of White people. In the year ending March 2019, across the UK, BAME people were of 4.3 times as likely to be stopped as those who are White¹.

¹ Home Office Police powers and procedures, England and Wales, year ending 31 March 2019 www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-powers-and-procedures-england-and-wales

National data for 2020 is yet to be published. Gwent Police currently operates just above this threshold. However, the national rate of stops for those identifying as Black or Black British stood at 9.7 times the rate of White people; in Gwent, for 2019/20, Black people were stopped at less than 0.1 times the rate of those identifying as White. However, people from Asian groups were more affected by stop and search activity, at 1.8 times the rate of those identifying as White although this is below the national figure of around 2.8 times.

As stated in previous reports, it is important that the impact of Gwent Police's targeted operational campaigns on stop and search usage is clearly understood and made publicly available, as most of the activity has occurred mainly within geographic areas of higher BAME populations, thereby contributing to RDR levels.

However, these figures have been based on known ethnicity and a percentage of error should be recognised within the data where this has not been successfully recorded. Therefore, it is possible that there is greater proportionality than the RDR suggests. Ensuring that publication of Gwent Police stop and search and related quality information is up-to-date will support transparency and public confidence, and contribute to public awareness of the use of stop and search powers in Gwent.

Where appropriate and relevant, commentary regarding ethnicity proportionality will be included within the analysis of each of the following subject areas.

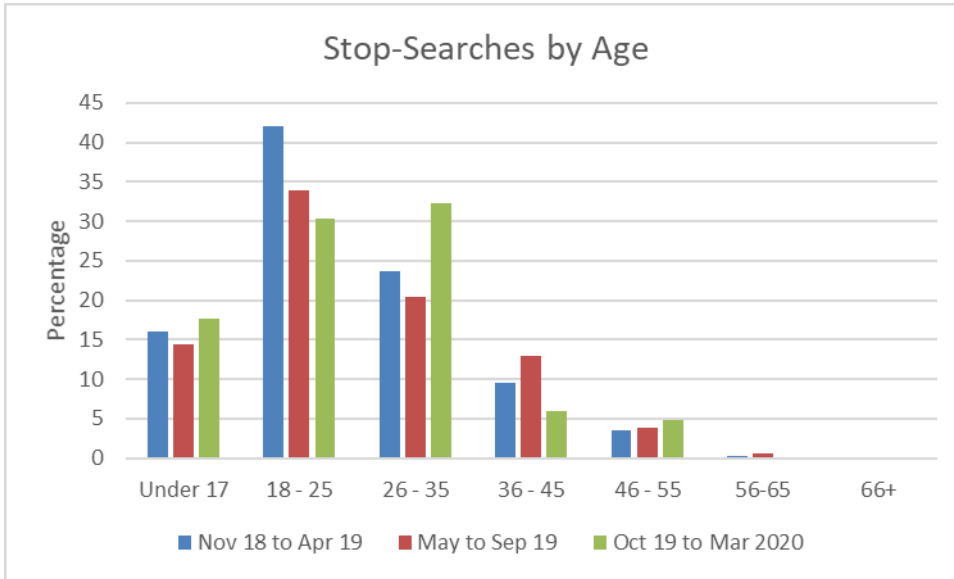
Recommendation: Gwent Police should evidence the connections between operational activity on stop and search activity relating to age and ethnicity as a minimum. Comparing activity with demographic data will help to provide public reassurance that certain groups are not targeted for stop and search and that activity is supported by appropriate intelligence.

Recommendation: Gwent Police should ensure that website publication of stop and search and related equality information is up-to-date and relevant. This will support transparency and public confidence and contribute to public awareness of the use of stop and search in Gwent.

Age

Within the dip sample, across all ethnicities, 48.0% of encounters were recorded for people aged 25 and under, 30.3% of encounters related to individuals aged between 18 and 25, and 17.6% to those aged 17 and under. 32.3% of stop-searches were recorded for those aged 26 to 35. Increases were seen by the 17 and under, 36 to 35, and the 46 to 55 age groups. Table 4 provides a percentage comparison by age across the last three dip samples.

Table 4: Stops comparison by age (all ethnicities)



In terms of Gwent’s population (as per the 2011 Census), 54.6% of individuals were aged under 25. Of this, 30.3% were recorded as aged between 18 and 25. Therefore, those aged between 18 and 25 continue to be over-represented in stop-search activity in Gwent.

Further analysis regarding the location of stops across the whole data set for the top three age groups identified that:

- 11.9% of the 17 and under stop-searches were located within the Pillgwenlly ward, and 9.2% in the Stow Hill ward (compared to 15.8% and 10.2% respectively during the previous period).
- 7.3% of the 18 to 25 stop-searches were located within the Pillgwenlly ward, and 7.5% within Stow Hill (compared to 7.5% and 5.3% respectively during the previous period). In addition, 6.3% of encounters were located within the Victoria ward.
- 7.0% of the 26 to 35 stop-searches were located within the Pillgwenlly ward, and 9.2% within Stow Hill (compared to 12.2% and 12.5% respectively during the previous period). In addition, 7.6% of encounters were located within the Victoria ward.

Therefore, during the six-month reporting period, stop and search activity decreased in Pillgwenlly for all three age groups, across all ethnicities. However, activity increased slightly in the Stow Hill area for the 18 to 25 age group. In addition, the Victoria area saw an increase in activity for the 18 to 25 and 26 to 35 age groups. This may be the result of the organised crime and targeted operational work continuing within the Newport area; however, this cannot be confirmed from the results of the scrutiny exercise.

Gender

46.0% of BAME records and 44.1% of the White dip sample identified subjects as male (compared to 53.7% and 36.0% respectively for October). There was a decrease in subjects identifying as female, with 0.0% BAME and 1.9% of White encounters recorded (compared to 2.0% and 6.5% respectively).

In considering the overall data set, 13.0% BAME and 66.6% White identified as male (compared to 13.0% and 64.0% for October), and 0.5% BAME and 7.0% White as female (compared to 0.5% and 8.6% for October). This area does not currently present any challenges or concerns for Gwent Police.

Purpose

Drugs remains the highest purpose for stop-searches in Gwent. The dip sample showed that 36.2% of BAME and 28.7% of White stop-searches were conducted on suspicion of drugs (compared to 41.6% and 27.9% respectively). When reviewing all records for the period, this reduces to 10.7% for BAME stop-searches and increases to 44.9% for White (compared to 10.0% and 44.2% respectively).

Searches for bladed articles provides the second highest recorded purpose in the dip sample. Bladed articles accounted for 3.9% (previously 4.1%) of BAME and 2.9% (previously 2.9%) of White activity, showing decreases compared to the previous exercise. Offensive weapons account for 1.9% (previously 1.8%) of BAME and 0.0% (previously 0.6%) for White activity, again providing decreases on both counts.

In terms of all records, 0.9% (previously 1.0%) of bladed article stop-searches relate to BAME encounters, a nominal reduction compared to the previous exercise, whereas this accounts for 4.6% of 'White' searches (previously 5.7%). 0.3% of BAME (previously 0.4%) and 2.2% of white searches (previously 2.1%) related to offensive weapons, once again showing small changes for both BAME and 'White' encounters.

Ethnicity Proportionality - Purpose

Table 5 provides the stop and search rates for BAME ethnicities in comparison to white ethnicities across the three main 'Purpose' categories. The figures in parentheses provide the disproportionality rates for the previous scrutiny exercise.

Table 5: Rate of stop-searches (all entries)

Rate of stop-searches compared to white ethnicities			
Ethnicity	Drugs	Bladed Articles	Offensive Weapons
Asian	3.1 (2.6)	1.9 (0.9)	1.1 (2.4)
Black	1.8 (1.4)	2.6 (2.2)	0.6 (1.6)
Mixed	0.9 (1.2)	0.8 (0.3)	0.4 (0.8)

In considering drug-related stop-searches for the period, Asian people remain most likely

to be stopped and searched, consistent with the previous scrutiny exercise. For bladed articles, Black people remain the most likely to be stopped and searched, whilst Asian people were less likely, also consistent with the previous exercise. However, the rates have increased for Asian and mixed ethnicities. For offensive weapons, Asian people remain more likely to be stopped and searched for this reason than Black or mixed ethnicities; however, rates of stop-searches for this purpose have decreased for each of the ethnic groupings. These changes may be linked to the focus of operational activity; however, it is anticipated that the in-depth analysis planned by Gwent Police will examine this further.

Outcomes

No Further Action (NFA) remained the most common outcome within the dip sample, accounting for 34.3% of both BAME and White encounters (previously 38.7% and 25.9% respectively). In terms of arrests, the dip sample showed that 7.8% (previously 8.0%) of BAME encounters and 4.9% (previously 6.2%) of White encounters were associated with this outcome. Drug warnings were issued in 1.9% of both BAME and 'White' stop-searches (previously 1.5% and 4.1% respectively). 'No Outcome Recorded' was shown for 0.9% of each ethnic category (previously 5.9 and 2.9% respectively).

Across all records, NFA accounted for 11.3% (previously 9.3%) of BAME and 50.1% (previously 54.2%) of White outcomes, an increase for BAME ethnicities compared to the previous exercise. Arrests accounted for 1.8% (previously 2.0%) BAME and 7.2% (previously 7.4%) of White outcomes. Drug warnings were issued in 0.6% (previously 0.3%) of BAME and 4.6% (previously 4.3%) of White encounters, marginal increases compared to the previous exercise. Changes in outcome rates may be directly affected by the use of other disposals for the scrutiny period.

'No Outcome Recorded' was shown for 0.2% (previously 1.4%) of BAME and 1.5% (previously 5.3%) of 'White' outcomes, reductions for both ethnic groupings compared to the previous exercise. These reductions may correspond to previous improvements made to the way data is drawn into QlikView from Niche.

Ethnicity Proportionality - Outcomes

Table 6 shows the proportion of BAME outcomes compared to White outcomes; previous percentages are shown in parentheses. There was a combined positive outcome rate of 22.7% for the current scrutiny period (compared to 19.1% for the previous period), which breaks down to 2.0% for BAME ethnicities and 18.5% for White (previously 2.7% and 16.4% respectively). Encounters with White subjects continue to yield a greater number of positive results than with BAME ethnicities. In addition, a wider range of disposals is seen for White ethnicities, although the use of alternative disposals will depend on the severity of the offence being committed.

For drug-related offences, Black people were arrested at 0.9 times the rate of White people (compared to 4.2 times the rate for the previous period), Asian people arrested at 2.6 times the rate (compared to 3.7 times for the previous period), and mixed race people

at 0.9 times the rate (compared to 2.3 times for the previous period). Whilst this shows a significant variation in the rates of positive outcomes for drug-related offences across BAME ethnicities, the trend reflects that of the April 2019 exercise.

Table 6: Outcome by ethnicity (all records)

Outcome	White %	BAME %
Arrested	7.2 (7.4)	1.8 (2.0)
Community Resolution	<0.1 (0.1)	0.0 (0.0)
Drug Warning	4.6 (4.3)	0.6 (0.3)
Item Seized	0.1 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)
NFA	54.2 (50.1)	11.3 (9.3)
Other	0.1 (0.1)	0.0 (0.0)
Penalty Notice for Disorder	2.1 (1.0)	<0.1 (0.1)
Police Discretionary Resolution	1.7 (0.8)	0.1 (<0.1)
Summoned	0.5 (0.4)	0.0 (<0.1)
Voluntary Attendance	2.4 (2.3)	<0.1 (0.1)

Further analysis shows that Asian people were 2.3 times more likely to receive an NFA outcome (compared to 2.4 times for the previous period), Black people 1.4 times more likely (compared to 1.3 times for the previous period), and people of mixed race 0.8 times more likely to receive an NFA outcome (compared to 1.1 times for the previous period).

Recommendation: As a priority, Gwent Police should explore the reasons for the disproportionality in outcomes between ethnicities and provide feedback on the findings. This will enable internal work to address any identified issues within operational practices and activity and support enhanced scrutiny of these areas.

Access to Copy Information

Following a stop and search encounter, the Police and Criminal Evidence (PACE) Act Code A (section 3.8 (e)(i)) requires that a copy of the stop and search or a receipt is provided to anyone requesting it. Officers are required to advise individuals that they record are entitled to a copy of the search record and that this can be obtained on request at a police station. It is not possible to determine from record entries whether this information is provided; however, this is one of the specific requirements Panel members look for when reviewing BWV footage. Therefore, future BWV feedback in reports will highlight this requirement to ensure compliance with PACE requirements.

A previous recommendation was made for Gwent Police to work with communities to raise awareness of how to obtain copies of stop and search records and remains relevant for this report.

Recommendation: Gwent Police should work with communities to build confidence and trust in the way police powers are used in Gwent, raising awareness of how to obtain copies (including accessing police stations or provisions) and how to make

a complaint regarding their stop and search experience, if dissatisfied.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Overall, Gwent Police continues to demonstrate improvement in the recording of stop and search encounters during the scrutiny period. However, Gwent is above the national average for stop-searches of BAME subjects compared to White. In addition, Asian ethnicities continue to experience a higher rate of stop and searches for drugs, while Black ethnicities continue to experience higher rates for bladed article searches, with no clear explanation. The detailed research and analysis undertaken by the force should provide greater insights into the reasons for this inequality and the OPCC will monitor this activity closely.

The next Scrutiny Panel exercise might identify any impacts arising from the limitations to force monitoring and scrutiny during the Covid-19 period. The OPCC Policy Officer and Gwent Police's Head of Diversity and Inclusion continue to work together on stop and search matters during this period and will undertake additional engagement with the new force strategic lead for Operational Tactics to provide support as appropriate.

The recommendations aim to support Gwent Police's transparency around use of stop and search, improve public confidence in its use, and promote a better understanding by the organisation of the causes of any apparent disproportionality for BAME encounters. A number of recommendations from the previous scrutiny report are carried over to provide a continued focus on these areas.

- 1. As a priority, Gwent Police should explore the reasons for the disproportionality in outcomes between ethnicities and provide feedback on the findings. This will enable internal work to address any identified issues within operational practices and activity and support enhanced scrutiny of these areas.**
- 2. Gwent Police should monitor data transfer processes through the Operational Tactics Meeting, thereby providing a greater focus on reliable and consistent data.**
- 3. Gwent Police should ensure that stop and search training provides a consistent and appropriate focus on what constitutes legitimate and justifiable grounds for encounters. This should further improve the quality of grounds being recorded and mitigate any risk of unjustifiable or questionable grounds being provided as the basis for stop-searches.**
- 4. Gwent Police should evidence the connections between operational activity on stop and search activity relating to age and ethnicity as a minimum. Comparing activity with demographic data will help to provide public reassurance that certain groups are not targeted for stop and search and that activity is supported by appropriate intelligence.**
- 5. Gwent Police should ensure that website publication of stop and search and**

related equality information is up-to-date and relevant. This will support transparency and public confidence and contribute to public awareness of the use of stop and search in Gwent.

6. Gwent Police should work with communities to build confidence and trust in the way police powers are used in Gwent, raising awareness of how to obtain copies (including accessing police stations or provisions) and how to make a complaint regarding their stop and search experience, if dissatisfied.
7. Gwent Police should provide timely feedback to the OPCC against the recommendations from Scrutiny Panel exercises to highlight progress and ensure wider understanding of the reasons underlying continuing challenges to improvement.

Recommendations and observations from the Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel reports will continue to be provided to Gwent Police for follow-up as applicable. Progress will be monitored via the Operational Tactics and Equality Meetings as appropriate.

CONTACT OFFICER

Caroline Hawkins
Policy Officer, OPCC.