

STOPS AND STOP SEARCH: ANNUAL REPORT 2008/09

BACKGROUND

1. Stops and Stop Search data is reviewed on a quarterly basis at the Diversity Monitoring Review Group (DMRG). Representatives from the Authority and the Independent Advisory Group are members of the DMRG. All data presented is broken down into each of the 18+1 ethnicity categories, in addition to resident and non-resident subgroups (when appropriate). This enables the Group to scrutinise the information presented to them and identify any potential disproportionality which may exist across each of the ethnicity categories.
2. The information presented in Appendix 1, represents a quarter-by-quarter and annual breakdown of Stop and Stop Search data for both the Force and the three Areas. A resident/non-resident breakdown has been provided in Appendix 2.

STOPS

3. During 2008/09 a total of 56,446 Stops were conducted within the Force area, this equates to 17,946 fewer Stops (-24.12%) when compared to the 74,392 Stops conducted in 2007/08. A number of contributory factors have been identified for this reduction. The procedure for recording stops changed in several ways during the year. In September 2008, the Constabulary began rolling out mobile data to all frontline staff, and this is now used to record details of stops.
4. On 1 January 2009, the procedure for recording stops changed nationally in line with the Green Paper recommendations to reduce bureaucracy and improve the quality of police engagement with the public. Officers are no longer required to complete a lengthy Stop record. However, there remains the requirement to record the ethnic classification of the person stopped which in effect still requires officers to fill in a reduced record for every stop made. Unfortunately, the software supplier for mobile data terminals has so far not changed the forms available on the mobile data terminals. It is fair to say that there is probably some degree of confusion now as to what format should be used to record a stop, and how that information should be submitted. It is intended to address this issue through clarification of procedures and recording requirements, during the coming year and to push for the provision of the new forms on mobile data.
5. Officers have continued to exercise their powers to hold people to 'Stop and Account' but have not been recording all occasions. Of the total number of Stops conducted in 2008/09, 53,190 (94%) of people chose

to self-define their ethnicity as 'White', 737 (1%) as 'Not Stated' and 2519 (4%) defined themselves within a 'Black and Minority Ethnic' (BME) category. This is a similar breakdown to 2007/08. These figures equate to a total of 54.5 Stops per 1000 White population and 150.7 Stops per 1000 BME population. The proportionality of stops continues to be monitored by the Diversity Monitoring Review Group. Due to the low number of Cheshire residents who are Black and Minority Ethnic the level of stops carried out on Black and Minority Ethnic persons (although numerically small compared to the number of stops of white people) has continued to be disproportionately high. When the data is examined, the disproportionality has been found to reflect a number of factors, including the number of Black and Minority Ethnic persons who travel through Cheshire but who are not resident, and specific operations targeting crime problems which tend to focus on travelling offenders. For example, operations aimed at vehicle offences on the motorway have tended to lead to disproportionate numbers of BME persons being stopped while travelling through Cheshire, and operations aimed at criminals travelling into Cheshire from Manchester or Liverpool have also tended to lead to disproportionate levels of stops. It is important to note that these remain numerically small, and that the levels are monitored to identify and address any significant trends.

6. The highest total number of Stops conducted during 2008/09 were recorded by the Northern Area, (25,507) followed by Eastern (16,403 Stops) and Western with (14,536) Stops. These figures equate to the following per 1000 population figures:-
 - Northern; 76.2 stops per 1000 white population and 156.0 per 1000 BME population
 - Eastern; 43.2 stops per 1000 white population and 181.4 per 1000 BME population
 - Western; 44.9 stops per 1000 white population and 103.3 per 1000 BME population

STOP SEARCHES

7. During 2008/09 a total of 8457 Stop Searches were conducted within the Force. Of the total number of Stops Searches conducted, 8,014 (95%) of people chose to self-define their ethnicity as 'White', 388 (5%) defined themselves within a 'Black and Minority Ethnic' (BME) category and 105 (1%) chose 'Not Stated'. These figures equate to a total of 8 Stop Searches per 1000 White population and 20 Stop Searches per 1000 BME population. Again, the relatively low BME population within Cheshire and the relatively high proportion of Stop Searches of people from BME groups who are non Cheshire residents, is an explanatory factor for the apparent disproportionate ratio. This is set out in Appendix 2 where 81% of white persons Stop Searched were residents in Cheshire compared to 48% of Black and Minority Ethnic. This is monitored by the Diversity Monitoring Review Group.

8. The highest volume of Stop Searches conducted during 2008/09, was recorded by the Northern Area (3,695), followed by Western (2,460) and Eastern (2,302).
9. The number of Stops Searches recorded during 2008/09 (8,457) has increased by 106 (+1.3%) when compared to 2007/08 when a total of 8,351 Stop Searches were recorded. This increase relates to all ethnic categories (i.e. white, Black and Minority Ethnic and not stated). The number of arrests from stop / searches has fallen in line with a reduction in arrests overall. The proportion of arrests made as a result of a Stop Search (Appendix 3) is the same for both white (15.4%) and Black and Minority Ethnic (15.4%) groups.
10. National guidance has continued to encourage forces to reduce the amount of data that is recorded in relation to stops. Whilst there remains a need to monitor disproportionality and compliance with legislation, the level of detail that was collected until recently is no longer available. This has reduced the Constabulary's ability to analyse trends, but it has also helped reduce the workloads of officers and staff.

APPENDIX 1

Stops (Volume)

STOPS		Apr - Jun 08	Jul - Sep 08	Oct - Dec 08	Jan - Mar 09	TOTAL
Northern	White	7845	5790	6431	4168	24234
	Black & Minority Ethnic	311	170	218	202	901
	Not Stated	95	90	122	65	372
	TOTAL	8251	6050	6771	4435	25507
Eastern	White	4475	3660	3833	3126	15094
	Black & Minority Ethnic	320	267	260	287	1134
	Not Stated	51	26	41	57	175
	TOTAL	4846	3953	4134	3470	16403
Western	White	4020	3337	3571	2934	13862
	Black & Minority Ethnic	108	163	119	94	484
	Not Stated	24	34	63	69	190
	TOTAL	4152	3534	3753	3097	14536
FORCE	White	16340	12787	13835	10228	53190
	Black & Minority Ethnic	739	600	597	583	2519
	Not Stated	170	150	226	191	737
	TOTAL	17249	13537	14658	11002	56446

Stops (Per 1000 population)

STOPS		Apr - Jun 08	Jul - Sep 08	Oct - Dec 08	Jan - Mar 09	TOTAL
Northern	White: per 1000 white pop.	24.7	18.2	20.2	13.1	76.2
	Black & Minority Ethnic: per 1000 BME pop.	53.8	29.4	37.7	35.0	156.0
	Total Stops: per 1000 Northern pop.	25.5	18.7	20.9	13.7	78.8
Eastern	White: per 1000 white pop.	12.8	10.5	11.0	8.9	43.2
	Black & Minority Ethnic: per 1000 BME pop.	51.2	42.7	41.6	45.9	181.4
	Total Stops: per 1000 Eastern pop.	13.6	11.1	11.6	9.7	46.1
Western	White: per 1000 white pop.	13.0	10.8	11.6	9.5	44.9
	Black & Minority Ethnic: per 1000 BME pop.	23.0	34.8	25.4	20.1	103.3
	Total Stops: per 1000 Western pop.	13.2	11.3	12.0	9.9	46.4
FORCE	White: per 1000 white pop.	16.7	13.1	14.2	10.5	54.5
	Black & Minority Ethnic: per 1000 BME pop.	44.2	35.9	35.7	34.9	150.7
	Total Stops: per 1000 Force pop.	17.4	13.6	14.8	11.1	56.8

Stop Searches (Volume)

STOP SEARCHES		Apr - Jun 08	Jul - Sep 08	Oct - Dec 08	Jan - Mar 09	TOTAL
Northern	White	845	814	1060	788	3507
	Black & Minority Ethnic	48	23	33	29	133
	Not Stated	11	10	23	11	55
	TOTAL	904	847	1116	828	3695
Eastern	White	462	447	616	597	2122
	Black & Minority Ethnic	35	22	45	47	149
	Not Stated	4	3	5	19	31
	TOTAL	501	472	666	663	2302
Western	White	597	486	631	671	2385
	Black & Minority Ethnic	15	14	11	16	56
	Not Stated	4	4	4	7	19
	TOTAL	616	504	646	694	2460
FORCE	White	1904	1747	2307	2056	8014
	Black & Minority Ethnic	98	59	89	92	338
	Not Stated	19	17	32	37	105
	TOTAL	2021	1823	2428	2185	8457

Stop Searches (Per 1000 population)

STOP SEARCHES		Apr - Jun 08	Jul - Sep 08	Oct - Dec 08	Jan - Mar 09	TOTAL
Northern	White: per 1000 white pop.	2.7	2.6	3.3	2.5	11.0
	Black & Minority Ethnic: per 1000 BME pop.	8.3	4.0	5.7	5.0	23.0
	Total Stop Searches: per 1000 Northern pop.	2.8	2.6	3.4	2.6	11.4
Eastern	White: per 1000 white pop.	1.3	1.3	1.8	1.7	6.1
	Black & Minority Ethnic: per 1000 BME pop.	5.6	3.5	7.2	7.5	23.8
	Total Stop Searches: per 1000 Eastern pop.	1.4	1.3	1.9	1.9	6.5
Western	White: per 1000 white pop.	1.9	1.6	2.0	2.2	7.7
	Black & Minority Ethnic: per 1000 BME pop.	3.2	3.0	2.3	3.4	12.0
	Total Stop Searches: per 1000 Western pop.	2.0	1.6	2.1	2.2	7.8
FORCE	White: per 1000 white pop.	1.9	1.8	2.4	2.1	8.2
	Black & Minority Ethnic: per 1000 BME pop.	5.9	3.5	5.3	5.5	20.2
	Total Stop Searches: per 1000 Force pop.	2.0	1.8	2.4	2.2	8.5

APPENDIX 2

Force Totals (April 2008 to March 2009 inclusively)

STOPS AND STOP SEARCHES

		Stops	% Residency / Non residency	Stop Searches	% Residency / Non residency
White	Resident	42036	79.0%	6473	80.8%
	Non Resident	9945	18.7%	1309	16.3%
	Unknown	1209	2.3%	232	2.9%
	Force	53190	100.0%	8014	100.0%

		Stops	% Residency / Non residency	Stop Searches	% Residency / Non residency
BME	Resident	1114	44.2%	163	48.2%
	Non Resident	1337	53.1%	165	48.8%
	Unknown	68	2.7%	10	3.0%
	Force	2519	100.0%	338	100.0%

NB: These figures do not include **737** Stops and **105** Stop Searches where the ethnic group was recorded as 'Not Stated'

Force Totals (April 2008 to March 2009 inclusively)

STOP SEARCHES PERCENTAGE ARRESTED

2007/08

	No of Stop Searches	No of SS Arrests	% of those Stop Searched that were subsequently Arrested
White	7702	1410	18.31%
BME	315	62	19.68%
Overall	8017	1472	18.36%

NB1: These figures do not include **93** Stop Searches where the ethnic group was recorded as 'Not Stated'

NB1: These figures do not include **241** Stop Searches where the residency status was not available

2008/09

	No of Stop Searches	No of SS Arrests	% of those Stop Searched that were subsequently Arrested
White	8014	1232	15.37%
BME	338	52	15.38%
Overall	8352	1284	15.37%

NB: These figures do not include **105** Stop Searches where the ethnic group was recorded as 'Not Stated'