



Wiltshire Police

Stop and Search Overview

Fiscal Quarter 3 2022-2023

Stop and Search

Stop and search is an important tactic in preventing and detecting crime and, when it is used appropriately, lawfully and proportionately, it can have a positive impact on keeping our communities safe and building confidence in local policing.

However, there are understandable concerns, both locally and nationally, about exactly how it is used and whether it disproportionately impacts people from ethnic minority backgrounds. This is something we take incredibly seriously in Wiltshire, and we are committed to the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme and regularly review its objectives to ensure continued compliance.

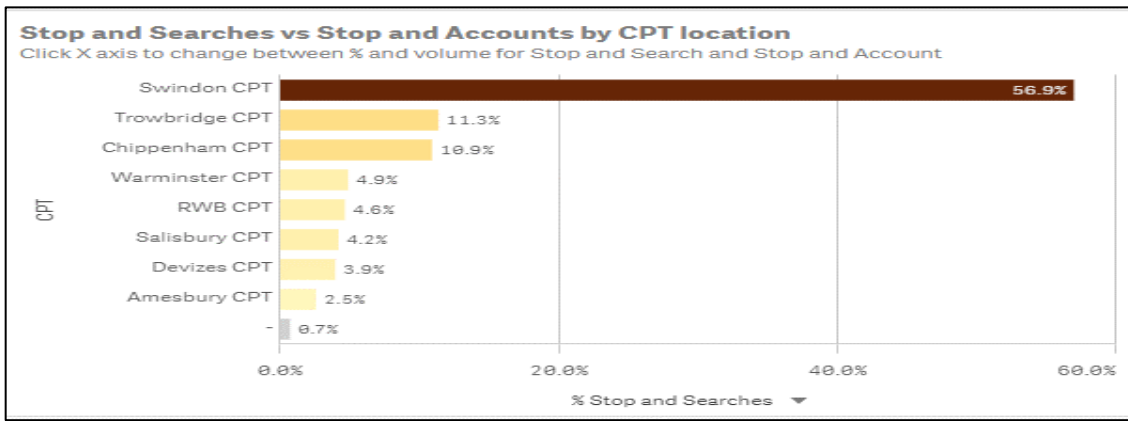
Anyone who is stopped and searched is invited to provide feedback on the encounter. We also review stop searches at our Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel. The results of which are considered in future training practices and processes and fed back directly to officers. The panel currently meets in person and is made up of a diverse representation of our local communities. They review Body worn videos and written records of searches conducted by our officers to ensure good practice.

We continue to promote transparency which includes the wearing of body worn cameras, sharing information on where our powers are used, and the introduction of independent scrutiny arrangements overseen by the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Key Findings

For the 3rd fiscal quarter of 2022-2023 (Oct - Dec 2022):

- Wiltshire Police have recorded 432 Stop and Searches.
- The highest proportion of Stop and Searches were conducted within the Swindon Community Policing Team (CPT) area, contributing to 56.9% of the total. This is followed by Trowbridge CPT which contributed 11.3% to the total.
- Of the total volume of Stop and Searches, 58.6% involved the search for a controlled drug. Of the same total, 13.9% had multiple search reasons attached to the record.
- The proportion of Stop and Searches resulting in police action was 25.5%, with 17.8% of the total resulting in an arrest. Those that resulted in no further action equated to 68.1%.
- Of the total volume of Stop and Searches, 69.2% of cases resulted in no object being found and with 30.8% resulted in an object being found. Of the searches resulting in an object found, 28.5% were objects related to the reason for the Stop and Search.
- Data to the 12 months ending Dec-22 demonstrates that those belonging to an ethnic minority group are 0.7 times more likely to be stopped (per 1,000 population) than those identifying as White ethnicity.
 - Asian Ethnicity Group – 0.5 in every 1,000;
 - Black Ethnicity Group – 2.1 in every 1,000;
 - Arab or 'other' Ethnicity Group – 0.0 in every 1,000;
 - Mixed Ethnicity Group – 0.7 in every 1,000;
 - White Ethnicity Group – 0.4 in every 1,000.
- Wiltshire Police are heavily involved in proactive operations to tackle youth violence and County Lines and as a result 59% of those people stopped were under the age of 25. The youngest person Stop and Searched during this period was 12 years old and the oldest was 66 years old;
- Of the 432 Stop and Searches recorded, 12.3% (52) were conducted between the hours of 11pm and midnight.



By Area

The above bar chart gives a visual representation of the volume of Stop and Searches recorded across Wiltshire's police force area. The bar chart shows that Swindon CPT have recorded the largest proportion of Stop and Searches, followed by Trowbridge CPT, Chippenham CPT and Salisbury CPT.

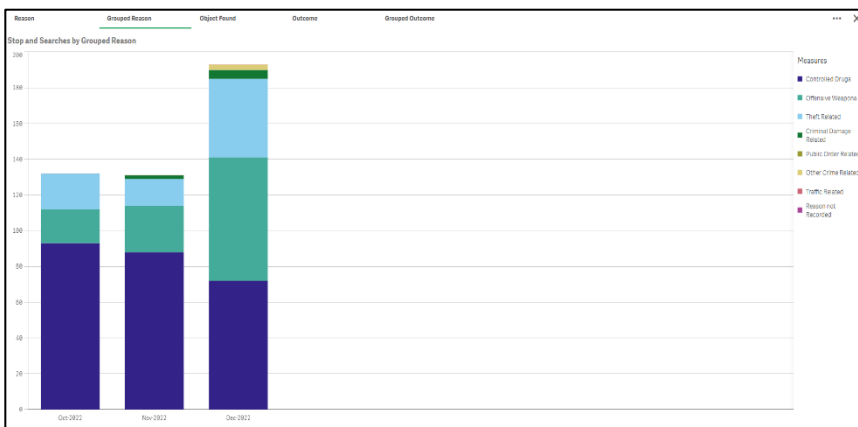
Swindon continues to be the most impacted by County Lines due to its location on the M4 corridor and its transport connections to London. Of the Stop and Searches in the Swindon CPT area, 57.1% were related to controlled drugs. In 32.4% of these cases, the object searched for was found and 14.9% of these resulted in an arrest.

In this last quarter section 60 search powers were used for the first time in 3 years in the response to an incident of serious violence. The decision was not taken lightly and the views of our independent advisory group were sought before taking action. The use of this power was then reviewed by our external scrutiny panel who supported this action.

In the Trowbridge area, 67.3% of Stop Searches were related to controlled drugs. In 45.5% of cases, the object searched for was found and 45.5% of these resulted in police action.

Salisbury has seen an increase in County Lines activity and Stop and Searches continue to increase, most significantly in the city centre.

By Reason for the Search



For each recorded Stop and Search, there is the option to have multiple reasons for why the Stop Search was conducted. This results in a larger volume of recorded search reasons compared to the total volume of Stop and Searches.

For the most recent quarter, this has resulted in 13.9% of Stop and Searches being connected to more than one search reason. 58.6% of Stop and Searches involved the search for a controlled drug.

By Object Found

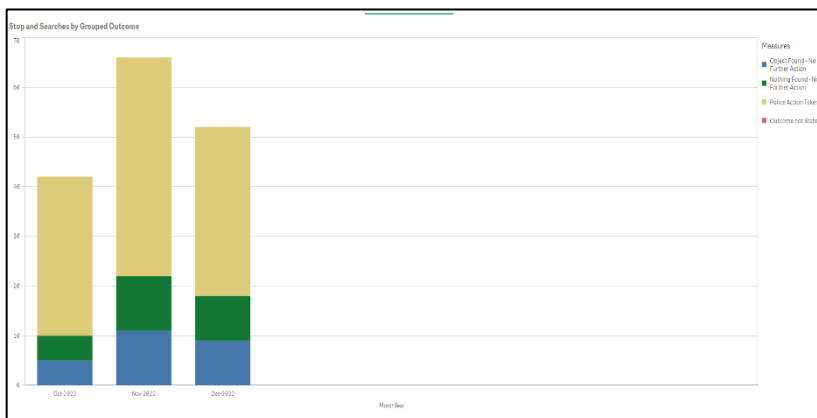
As part of a Stop and Search, we must define whether any object was found as part of that search.

Of the 432 Stop and Searches recorded, 69.2% resulted in no object being found and 30.7% resulted in an object found.

28.5% related to the intended object that was being searched for, meaning that 2.3% of searches found an object not of the original search.

At present we are developing the ability to report on the results of those objects found through data extraction software and hope to report on this soon.

By Police Action Taken



It should be noted that one Stop and Search can have multiple outcomes.

Of the 432 Stop and Searches recorded, 68.1% ended with no further action to be taken. 25.5% resulted in police action, 52.4% of which resulted in arrest.

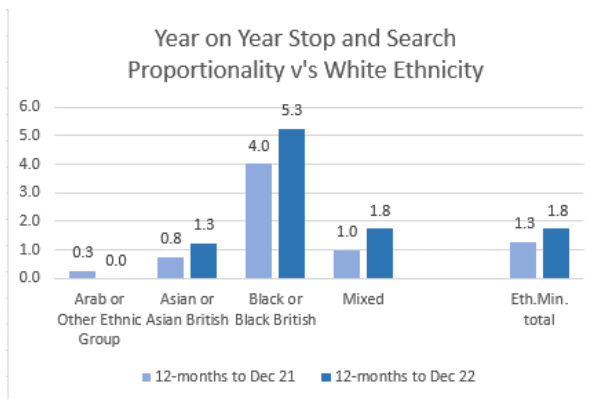
By Disproportionality

Disproportionality refers to a situation in which racial or ethnic groups are represented at a higher proportion than other racial or ethnic groups. It looks at the relative ratios of those people Stop and Searched as a proportion of the resident population in the specified area.

Wiltshire population data is based on the 2021 Census

During this fiscal quarter, on average 0.7 in every 1,000 of Wiltshire's population who identify as belonging to an ethnic minority group were Stop and Searched. This further breaks down into the following ethnicity categories:

- Asian Ethnicity Group – 0.5 in every 1,000;
- Black Ethnicity Group – 2.1 in every 1,000;
- Arab or 'other' Ethnicity Group – 0.0 in every 1,000;
- Mixed Ethnicity Group – 0.7 in every 1,000;
- White Ethnicity Group – 0.4 in every 1,000.



The 12 months to Dec-22 reports that those belonging to an ethnic minority group are 1.8 times more likely to be stopped than those of white ethnicity. It is recognised that individuals of Black ethnicity have a higher chance of being stopped (based on stops per 1,000 population), which is reflected nationally.

We are bound by home office rules to report disproportionality using figures based on per 1,000 population. This figure is based on the population of Wiltshire from birth to death and so many will not be subject of stop and search. This also does not take into account searching of non-residents. When we look at the actual numbers of searches by ethnicity you will see that the figures are actually very low and so small fluctuations can have a huge impact on disproportionality and find rates.

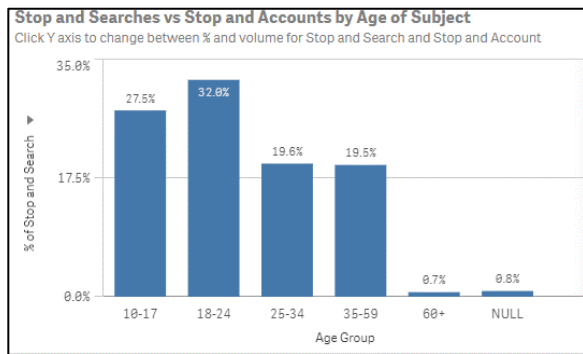
Year on Year breakdown available below

	Resident Population	12-24mths (to Dec-21)		Prev 12mths (to Dec 22)		YoY Num. Change	YoY Variance	Find Rate	Arrest Rate (of find rate)
		Stop Search Volume	Per 1000 Population	Stop Search Volume	Per 1000 Population				
Arab or Other Ethnic Group	7,027	3	0.4	3	0.0	0	0.0%	100.0%	66.7%
Asian or Asian British	38,049	43	1.1	65	0.5	22	51.2%	29.2%	26.3%
Black or Black British	11,909	72	6.0	101	2.1	29	40.3%	25.7%	23.1%
Mixed	15,204	23	1.5	60	0.7	37	160.9%	30.0%	38.9%
Ethnic Min. Total	72,189	141	2.0	229	0.7	88	62.4%	187.8%	34.2%
White	670,758	1,010	1.5	1,205	0.4	195	19.3%	30.5%	35.1%

Breakdown by Area

12 months (to Dec-22)	Amesbury	Chippenham	Devizes	RWB	Salisbury	Swindon	Trowbridge	Warminster
CPT								
Arab or Other Ethnic Group				2		1		
Asian or Asian British			3		1	58	2	1
Black or Black British	2	15	6	3	5	63	8	1
Mixed	1	3	7	1		46	4	2
Not stated	18	19	25	6	41	212	45	13
Ethnic Min. Total	3	18	16	6	6	168	14	4
White	68	110	77	52	76	624	182	57

By Age Range



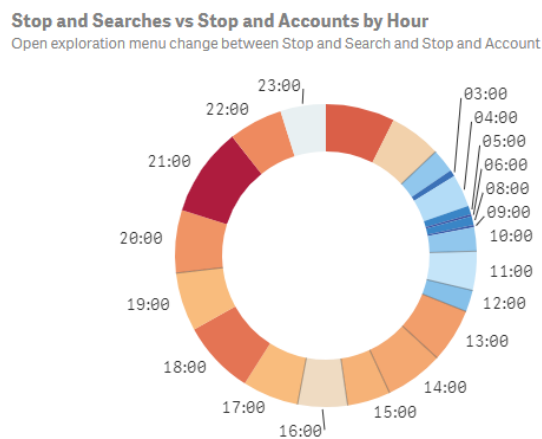
Of the 432 Stop and Searches recorded, 59% (257) were to stop a person under the age of 25.

As a breakdown of the age groups stopped:

- 10 to 17 year olds account for 26%;
- 18 to 24 year olds, 33.6%;
- 25 to 34 year olds, 19.4%;
- 35 to 59 year olds, 20.6%;
- Over 60 year olds, 0.2%
- Not Stated, 0.2%.

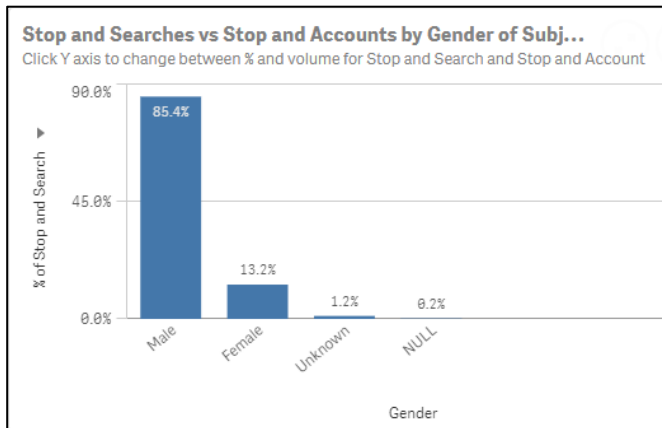
At present, Wiltshire Police are heavily engaged in proactive operations to tackle the increase in youth violence and County Lines. This is represented in the high proportions of those individuals stopped under the age of 25.

By Hour of the Day



The above heat map shows that 12.3% (52) of the 432 Stop and Searches in this period were conducted between the hours of 11pm and midnight.

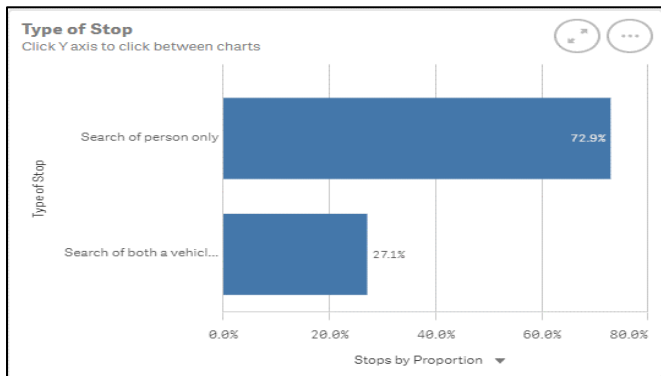
By Gender



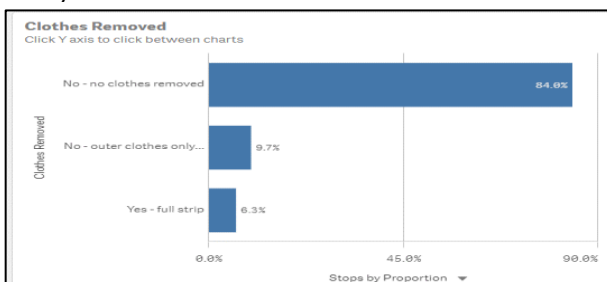
When looking at the breakdown of genders, Males feature as the most predominant gender Stop and Searched at 85.4%.

The proportion of Females stopped was 13.2%, with the remaining 1.4% Unknown or not recorded.

By Type of Search and Clothing Removed



72.9% of 432 Stop and Searches recorded during this fiscal quarter were recorded as a search of pedestrian only. In 84% of all cases, no clothes were removed from the person and 9.7% involved the removal of outer clothes only.



The above table identifies that 27 of Stop and Searches(6.3%) cases were a full strip search, 26 (96%) of which resulted in the exposure of intimate body parts. (22 identified as Male & 4 AS Female). 42.3% of these Stop and Searches resulted in an object of search being found.