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STOP SEARCH



JULY 2022 - JUNE 2023 (12 MONTHS)

Corporate Research and Analysis

[07\$23801]

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CAVEATS

The data in the following report only includes data that have 'Cheshire Constabulary' recorded as the owning agency.

The data in the following report was run on 12/07/2023 and will therefore be subject to change in line with updates made to the source system.

There are a number of other caveats specific to this data set. These have been referenced throughout the report where appropriate and should be taken into consideration when reviewing the information presented.

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS

This information has been provided for a specific policing purpose: please consider this when making decisions about further dissemination.

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STOP SEARCH REPORT: 1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023 (i.e. 365 calendar days)

INTRODUCTION

The Force records the total number of stop search reports added to Niche per month. For the purposes of this report, stop search data is separated into two sections: Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE), Code A and Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (Section 60) stop searches. The information has been provided for the Police Accountability Meeting.

METHOD

The data in this report was extracted from Cheshire Constabulary's crime recording system (Niche) via Power Bi on 12/07/2023.

The data is then processed in Microsoft Excel and analysed for trends and exceptions.

SUMMARY

a) Part 1 – All Stop Searches

- There were 13,262 stop searches.
- Police Action was taken in 38.7% (5,137) of stop searches.
- 15.4% (2,047) of stop searches with an outcome resulted in Arrest.
- 62.4% (8,276) of stop searches were for Controlled Drugs.
- The highest number of stop searches were conducted in Warrington LPU (2,316, 17.5%).
- Of the individuals stop searched, 80.2% (10,630) were Male; 76.2% (10,112) self-defined as White; and 24.8% (3,294) were aged 18-24.
- The stop search rate per 1,000 population is highest for individuals whose Self Defined Ethnic Group was Black or Black British (34.2 Stop Searches/1,000 pop). This is 3.5 times greater than the equivalent rate for individuals defined as White (9.7 per 1,000 pop).
- Where the object of search was for Offensive Weapons, Police Action Taken (31.6%) was the lowest. This is due to the Northern Area only recording Police Action in 27.1% of Offensive Weapon searches lower than the East (35.2%) & West (34.1%).

b) Part 2 – Section 60 Stop Searches

- There were 44 stop searches which were conducted under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994, these were conducted in:
Western Area: Ellesmere Port (13) & Chester (4)
Northern Area: Warrington (27)

PART 1

1. PACE CODE A STOP SEARCH NUMBERS AND RATES

Between July 2022 and June 2023, there were 13,262 Stop Search reports recorded on NICHE. There has been an overall upward trend over this time, despite a reduction in volume recorded in the latest quarter (3,607) compared to the previous quarter (4,371). The latest quarter is an increase in volume (+47.9%, +1,169) compared to the same period last year (Apr 22- Jul 22, 2438).

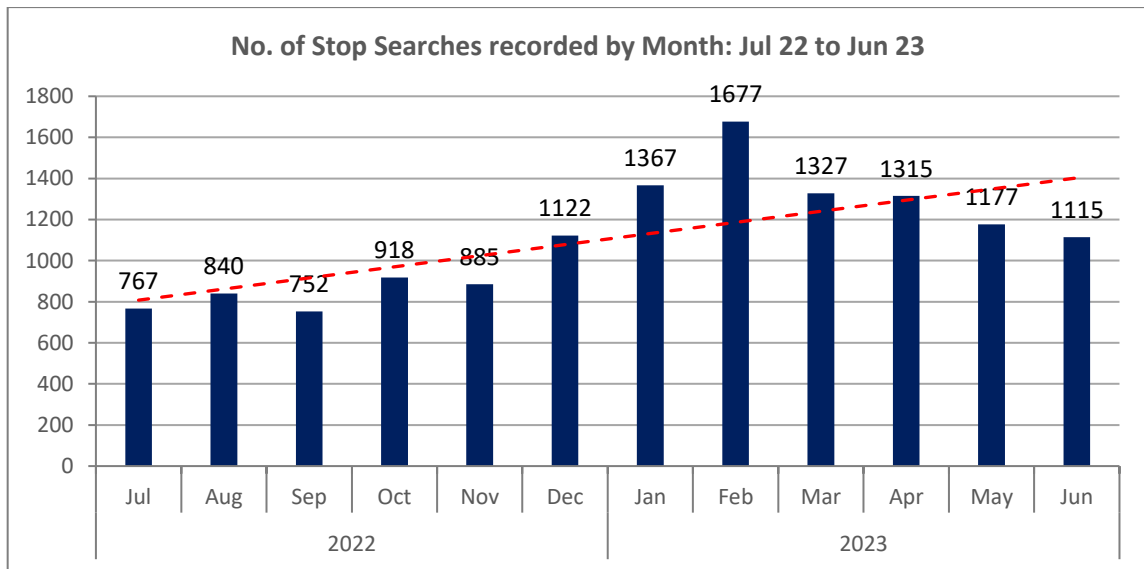


Figure 1: PACE Code A stop search volumes Jul 22 – Jun 23

a) FORCE STOP SEARCH TREND

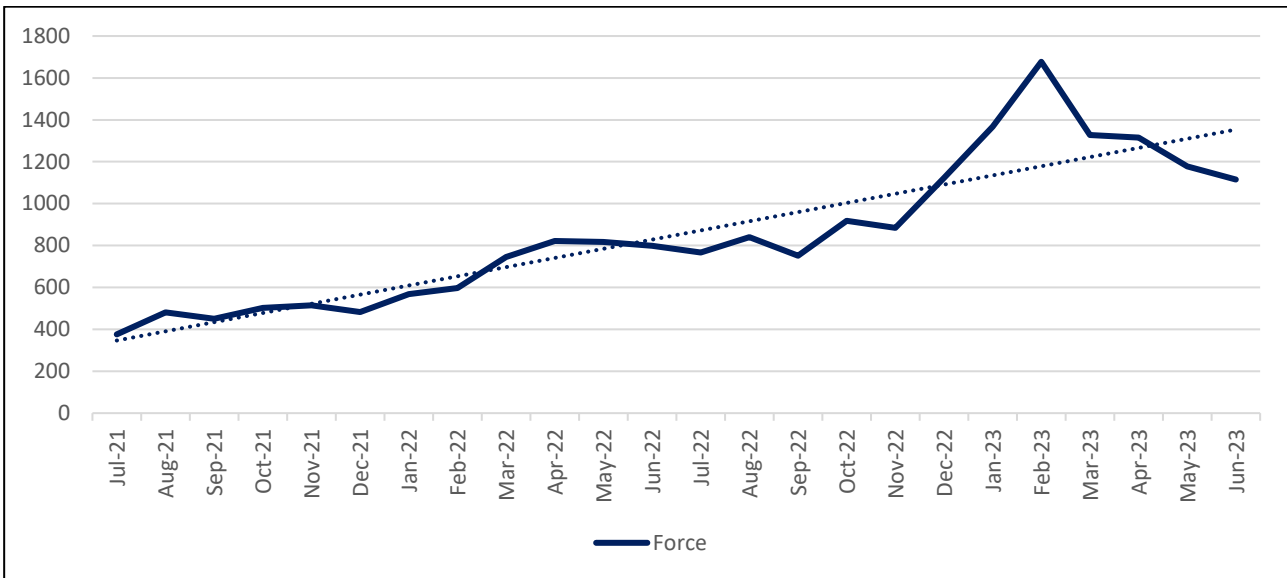


Figure 2: Stop Search Volumes trend over time (Jul 21-Jun 23)

The total number of PACE Code A stop searches recorded has increased (+85.3%, +6,106) when comparing 12 months to Jul 2023 with 12 months to Jun 2022.

b) AREA STOP SEARCH TREND

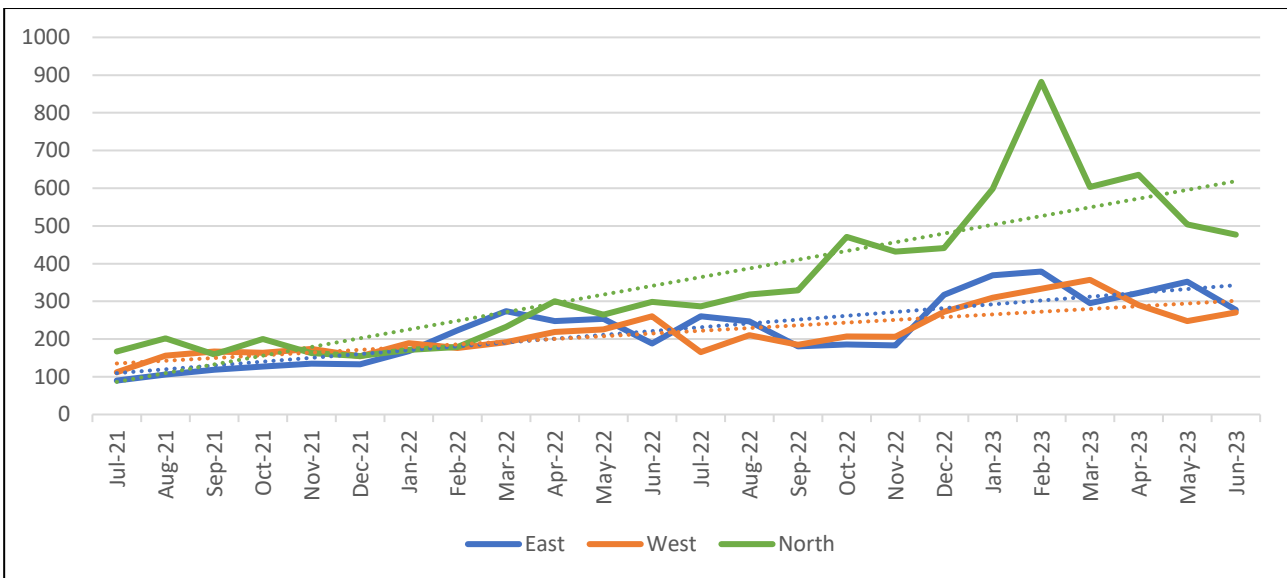


Figure 3: Stop Search Area Volumes trend over time (Jul 21-Jun 23)

All Areas have seen increases over the previous 12 months, most notably the North (+3,486, +139.9%).

In the most recent quarter, the Northern Area (1,617) has seen the largest volume of Stop searches. All Areas have seen a decrease in the volume of searches in the most recent quarter compared to the previous quarter: East (-92, -8.8%), North (-466, -22.4%) & West (-191, -19.1%).

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c) DAILY PACE CODE A STOP SEARCH RATES

As expected from the total volumes of stop searches during this period, the trend of the daily stop search rate per month has increased over the previous 12 months. For the 12 months to July 2023, the number of stop searches per day was 36.3 compared to approximately 19.6 stop searches per day during 12 months to July 2022. As can be seen below, this ranged from 24.7 at its lowest in July 2022 to 59.9 at its peak more recently in February 2023.

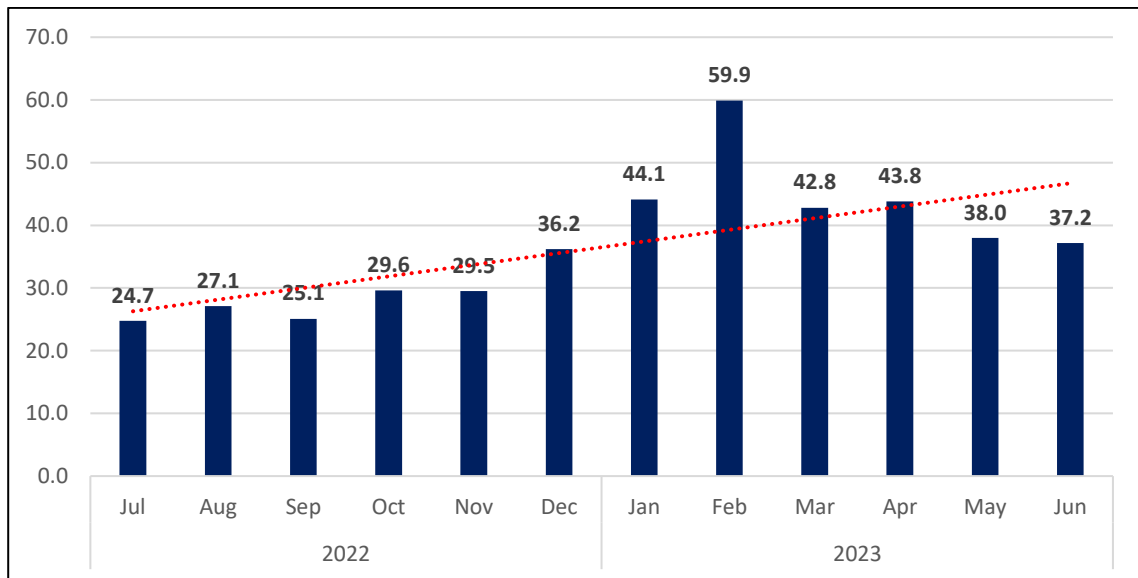


Figure 4: Daily stop search rate per month Jul 22 – Jun 23

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2. STOP SEARCH LOCATION & DAY OF WEEK

a) LOCATION OF PACE CODE A STOP SEARCHES

Stop search location is recorded as free text within NICHE. The locations derived from these are as follows below. The largest number of Stop Searches occurred in Warrington (2,316, 17.5%), Runcorn (2,176, 16.4%) and Crewe (1,642, 12.4%).

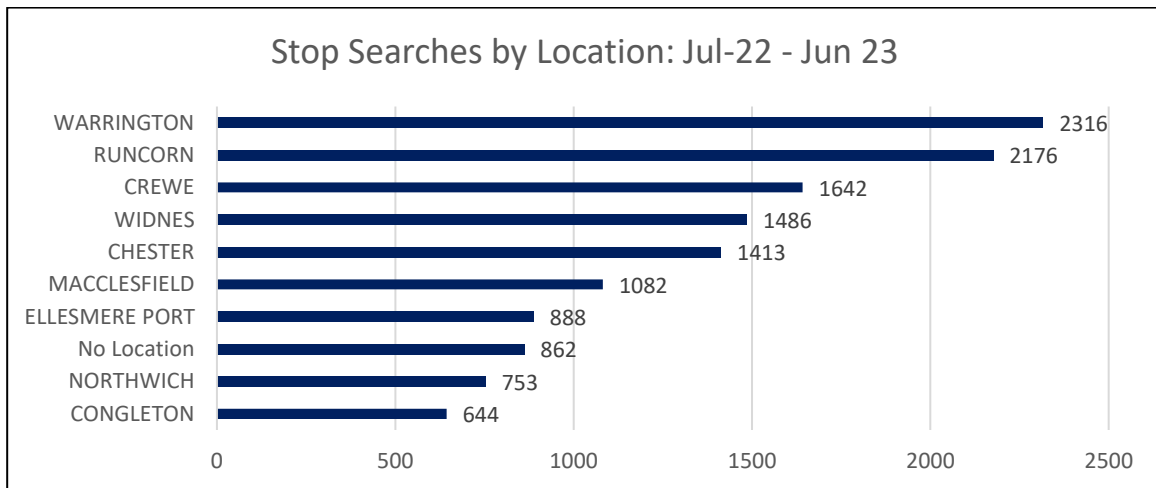


Figure 5: Location of PACE Code A stop searches Jul 22 – Jun 23

b) PACE CODE A STOP SEARCHES BY DAY OF WEEK

The most Stop Searches took place on a Saturday (2,558, 19.3%) followed by a Friday (2,155, 16.2%). The least number of stop searches were conducted on a Monday (1,582, 11.9%).

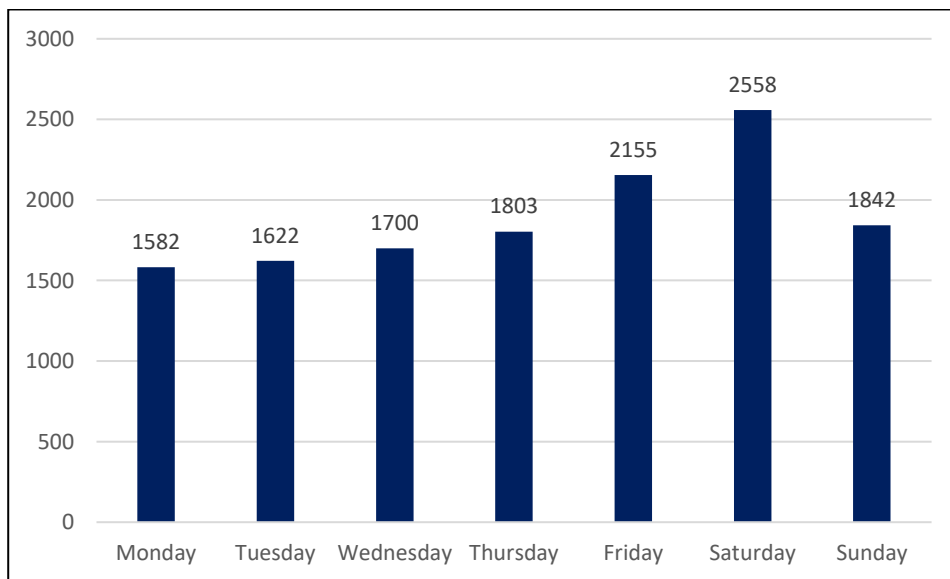


Figure 6: Weekday of PACE Code A stop searches Jul 22 – Jun 23

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3. OBJECT OF SEARCH, LEGISLATION, OUTCOMES and POSITIVE OUTCOMES

a) OBJECT OF SEARCH & LEGISLATION USED

The majority of Stop Searches recorded during this period were for Controlled Drugs (8,276, 62.4%).

Object of Search	Legislation Used							Grand Total
	Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (\$23)	Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (\$1)	Firearms Act 1968 (\$47)	Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 (\$60)	(blank)	Terrorism Act 2000 (\$43)	Other	
Controlled Drugs	8213	58			1		4	8276
Offensive Weapons	3	1826	1	43			1	1874
Articles intended for use in connection with theft	3	1497		1				1501
Stolen Property	3	756					1	760
Articles intended for use in connection with Criminal Damage	6	659						665
Firearms	2	28	97					127
Fireworks		25						25
Terrorism Act 2000 (\$43) only		1				8		9
Intoxicating liquor	1	7						8
No Object Recorded					8			8
Goods on which duty has not been paid		3					1	4
Evidence of wildlife offences		2					2	4
Bladed article		1						1
Grand Total	8231	4863	98	44	9	8	9	13262

Figure 7: PACE Code A stop search volumes by Object of Search and Legislation Jul 22 – Jun 23

b) OUTCOMES

In most cases (8,104, 61.1%) nothing was found and no further action was taken. Police action was taken in 38.7% of cases (5,137) with 15.4% (2,047) of stop searches resulting in Arrest. In 21 Stop Searches no outcome was recorded which can affect police action taken.

Stop Searches by Outcome: July 2022 to June 2023		Total	% Split
Generalised Outcome	Detailed Outcome		
Police action Taken	Arrest	2047	15.4%
	Item found - No Further action / advice given	1309	9.9%
	Community Resolution	1183	8.9%
	Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	284	2.1%
	Summons / charge by post	137	1.0%
	ASB Warning	75	0.6%
	ASB Dispersal	47	0.4%
	Caution (simple or conditional)	25	0.2%
	Other *	30	0.2%
No Outcome Recorded	No Outcome Recorded	21	0.2%
Nothing found - NFA	Nothing found - No further action	8104	61.1%
Grand Total		13262	

Figure 8: PACE Code A stop search volumes by Outcome Jul 22 – Jun 23

*Other = Khat or Cannabis warning (11), Alcohol seized (9), ASB removal of u16 (8), Police discretionary resolution (1) & Postal requisition/postal charge/summons (1).

c) POSITIVE OUTCOMES

For the period of Jul 22 to Jun 23, the percentage of PACE Code A stop searches which resulted in police action was 38.7%, although this ranged from 33.3% in Feb to 45.2% in Aug. Overall, the percentage has fluctuated slightly month to month showing an overall downward trajectory, despite some outliers within a selection of different months.

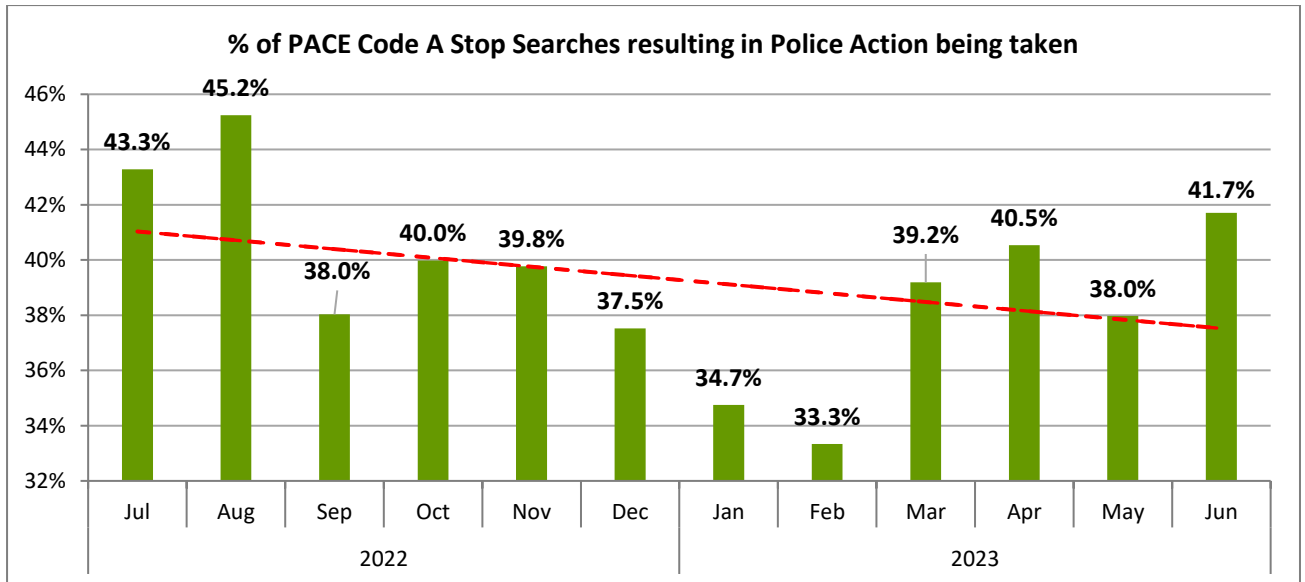


Figure 9: Percentage of PACE Code A stop searches resulting in Police Action Taken Jul 22 – Jun 23

Overall, there is a downward trend for stop searches resulting specifically in arrests (15.4% for the 12-month period) which is like police action overall. The lowest percentage for arrests specifically was in February 22 (12.6%) with Arrest Rates increasing in the latest quarter as the volume of stop searches have decreased.

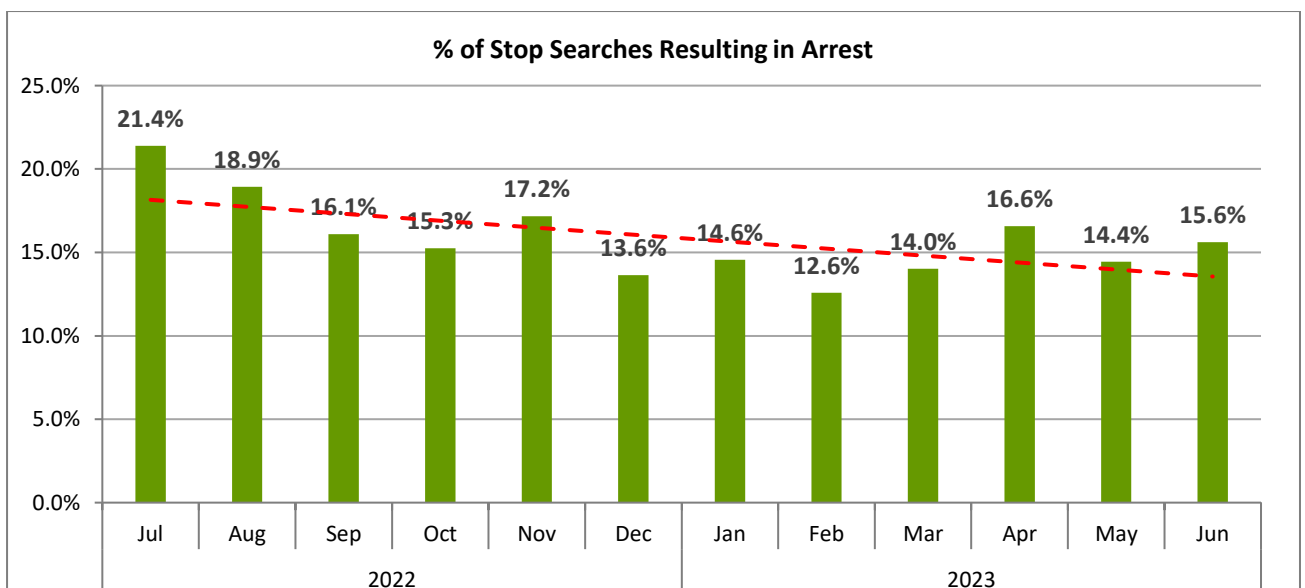


Figure 10: Percentage of PACE Code A stop searches resulting in Arrest Jul 22 – Jun 23

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4. PERSON ATTRIBUTES

a) AGE RANGE/GENDER (“Person”, and “Person & Vehicle” records only)

Of the total number of stop searches, 20.6% (2,737) were Males aged between 18 and 24. There were 2 stop searches where the person searched was aged under 10 years old. These were conducted on 08/10/22 and more recently on 14/05/23 both of which were in Ellesmere Port LPU. There were 2 additional stop searches that were recorded as being conducted on persons aged under 10 years old. These have been reviewed and found to be incorrectly recorded. These have been included in the N/A totals in the table below.

Age Range	Gender			Grand Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	
Under 10	2			2
10-17 Years Old	2663	395	95	3153
18-24 Years Old	2737	467	90	3294
25-34 Years Old	2296	291	42	2629
35-44 Years Old	1606	308	15	1929
45-54 Years Old	804	186	7	997
55-64 Years Old	233	20	4	257
65+	57	3	3	63
N/A	232	23	683	938
Grand Total	10630	1693	939	13262

Figure 11: PACE Code stop search volumes by Age Range and Gender Jul 22 – Jun 23

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b) SELF DEFINED ETHNICITY (“Person”, and “Person & Vehicle” records only)

Number of Stop Searches per 1,000 population

The overall highest stop search rate per 1,000 population was for individuals whose Self Defined Ethnic Group was Black or Black British (34.2 Stop searches/1000 pop). This is 3.5 times greater than the equivalent rate for individuals defined as White (9.7 searches/1000 pop). Most stop searches conducted on those with an SDE of Black or Black British were in the East (97, 42.9%).

Overall, the number of individuals stop searched from BME ethnic groups was low (624). However, 19.0% (2,526) of stop searched individuals were categorised as Not Stated and these individuals could fall into any of the Self Defined Ethnic groupings, thus impacting on the totals.

Self-Defined Ethnic Group	Self-Defined Ethnicities	Total	Population (2021 Census)	Stop Searches per 1000 pop
White	White - White British (W1)	9383	989198	9.49
	White - White Irish (W2)	144	7261	19.83
	White - Gypsy/Traveller (W3)	0	905	0.00
	White - Roma (W4)	0	874	0.00
	White - Any other White ethnic background (W9)	585	39947	14.64
White Total		10112	1038185	9.74
Asian or Asian British	Asian or Asian British - Indian (A1)	0	8540	0.00
	Asian or Asian British - Pakistani (A2)	0	3978	0.00
	Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi (A3)	0	1623	0.00
	Asian or Asian British - Chinese (A4)	0	4624	0.00
	Asian or Asian British - Any other Asian ethnic background (A9)	71	6387	11.12
Asian or Asian British Total		71	25152	2.82
Black or Black British	Black or Black British - Caribbean (B1)	47	1342	35.02
	Black or Black British - African (B2)	86	4355	19.75
	Black or Black British - Any other Black ethnic background (B9)	93	919	101.20
Black or Black British Total		226	6616	34.16
Mixed	Mixed - White and Black Caribbean (M1)	62	4448	13.94
	Mixed - White and Black African (M2)	27	2723	9.92
	Mixed - White and Asian (M3)	29	6099	4.75
	Mixed - Any other Mixed ethnic background (M9)	118	4206	28.06
Mixed Total		236	17476	13.50
Other Ethnic Group	Any other ethnic Group - Arab (O2)	0	1938	0.00
	Other ethnic group - Any other ethnic group (O9)	91	6005	15.15
Any Other Ethnic Group Total		91	7943	11.46
Not Stated	Not Stated (NS)	2526	0	0.00
Not Stated Total		2526	0	0.00
Grand Total		13262	1095372	12.11

Figure 12: Stop Search volumes by Self-Defined Ethnicity Jul 22 – Jun 23

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c) OFFICER DEFINED ETHNICITY (“Person”, and “Person & Vehicle” records only)

Number of Stop Searches per 1,000 population

Most searched persons had an officer defined ethnicity as ‘White’ (11,776, 88.8%). There was 794 persons (6.0%) who were subject to a stop search who had an officer defined ethnicity as from an Ethnic group.

Officer Defined Ethnicity	Total	%
White	11776	88.8%
Asian	278	2.1%
Black	392	3.0%
Chinese, Japanese or any other SE Asian	25	0.2%
Middle Eastern	99	0.7%
Not Stated	692	5.2%
Total	13,262	100.0%

Figure 13: PACE Code A stop search volumes by Officer Defined Ethnicity Jul 22 – Jun 23

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5. 'OUTCOMES' – STOP SEARCHES: 1 APRIL 2022 TO 31 MARCH 2023

a) 'FIND RATES' FOR STOP SEARCHES UNDER PACE CODE A

During the 12-month period ending June 2023, 21.9% (2,197) of all stop searches (13,262) resulted in an outcome that is linked to the Object of the Search.

The number of stop searches that are linked to the Object of the Search are higher for those whose self-defined ethnicity is Mixed (28.4%) and Black or Black British (26.5%) compared to both White stop searched individuals (21.7%) as well as to the rate overall (21.9%).

PACE Code A Stop Searches	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	Other ethnic group	Not Stated	Grand Total
Number of Outcome Linked SS	2197	16	60	67	21	549	2910
Total Number of SS	10112	71	226	236	91	2526	13262
% Find Rate	21.7%	22.5%	26.5%	28.4%	23.1%	21.7%	21.9%

Figure 14: PACE Code A Stop Search Find Rate by Self Defined Ethnicity Jul 22 – Jun 23

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b) STOP SEARCHES BY OUTCOME & PURPOSE OF SEARCH

Arrest was highest when the object of search was for Stolen Property (28.0%) & Firearms (26.8%). Community resolutions were more likely to be the outcome of a stop search when the object of search was for Controlled Drugs (984, 11.9%). Where the object of search was for Offensive Weapons, Police Action Taken (31.6%) was the lowest. This due to the Northern Area only recording Police Action in 27.1% of Offensive Weapon searches lower than the East (35.2%) & West (34.1%).

Outcome	Controlled Drugs	Offensive Weapons	Articles for theft	Stolen Property	Articles for Criminal Damage	Firearms	Other	Total
Nothing found - No further action	5017	1280	917	350	438	69	33	8104
Arrest	1113	299	320	213	67	34	1	2047
Item found - No Further action / advice given	815	181	131	76	84	13	9	1309
Community Resolution	984	46	74	53	21	4	1	1183
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	177	28	20	38	16	2	3	284
Summons / charge by post	103	7	14	11	1		1	137
ASB Warning	9	7	18	12	23	5	1	75
ASB Dispersal	12	17	3	5	10			47
Caution (simple or conditional)	23	1		1				25
N/A	10	2					9	21
Khat or Cannabis warning	8	2	1					11
Alcohol Seized	3	4	1	1				9
ASB removal of U16	1		2		5			8
Postal requisition/postal charge/summons	1							1
Police discretionary resolution							1	1
Grand Total	8276	1874	1501	760	665	127	59	13262

Figure 15: Stop Search volumes by Outcome & Purpose Jul 22 – Jun 23

Outcome	Controlled Drugs	Offensive Weapons	Articles for theft	Stolen Property	Articles for Criminal Damage	Firearms	Other	Total
Nothing found - No further action	60.6%	68.3%	61.1%	46.1%	65.9%	54.3%	55.9%	61.1%
Arrest	13.4%	16.0%	21.3%	28.0%	10.1%	26.8%	1.7%	15.4%
Item found - No Further action / advice given	9.8%	9.7%	8.7%	10.0%	12.6%	10.2%	15.3%	9.9%
Community Resolution	11.9%	2.5%	4.9%	7.0%	3.2%	3.1%	1.7%	8.9%
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	2.1%	1.5%	1.3%	5.0%	2.4%	1.6%	5.1%	2.1%
Summons / charge by post	1.2%	0.4%	0.9%	1.4%	0.2%		1.7%	1.0%
ASB Warning	0.1%	0.4%	1.2%	1.6%	3.5%	3.9%	1.7%	0.6%
ASB Dispersal	0.1%	0.9%	0.2%	0.7%	1.5%			0.4%
Caution (simple or conditional)	0.3%	0.1%		0.1%				0.2%
N/A	0.1%	0.1%					15.3%	0.2%
Khat or Cannabis warning	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%					0.1%
Alcohol Seized	0.0%	0.2%	0.1%	0.1%				0.1%
ASB removal of U16	0.0%		0.1%		0.8%			0.1%
Postal requisition/postal charge/summons	0.0%							0.0%
Police discretionary resolution							1.7%	0.0%
Grand Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 16: Stop Search percentages by Outcome & Purpose Jul 22 – Jun 23

*Other= Fireworks, No Purpose Recorded, Anything which may constitute evidence that they are a terrorist (Terrorism Act 2000 (Section 43) only), Evidence of wildlife offences, Intoxicating liquor, Goods on which duty has not been paid, unlawful imports/exports & Bladed article.

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c) POSITIVE OUTCOME STOP SEARCHES BY OUTCOME AND ETHNICITY

Outcome	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	Other ethnic group	Not Stated	Total
Arrest	1632	7	52	52	24	280	2047
Item found - No Further action / advice given	997	7	26	27	5	247	1309
Other:	1308	10	26	35	9	393	1781
Community Resolution	860	5	17	25	7	269	1183
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	218	3	2	4		57	284
Summons / charge by post	101	1	2	3	2	28	137
ASB Warning	63	1	2			9	75
ASB Dispersal	30		2	2		13	47
Caution (simple or conditional)	16					9	25
Khat or Cannabis warning	8					3	11
Alcohol Seized	7					2	9
ASB removal of U16	4			1		3	8
Police discretionary resolution	1						1
Postal requisition/postal charge/summons			1				1
Total	3937	24	104	114	38	920	5137

Figure 17: Positive outcome stop search volumes by SDE and outcome Jul 22 – Jun 23

Outcome	White	Asian or Asian British	Black or Black British	Mixed	Other ethnic group	Not Stated	Total
Arrest	41.5%	29.2%	50.0%	45.6%	63.2%	30.4%	39.8%
Item found - No Further action / advice given	25.3%	29.2%	25.0%	23.7%	13.2%	26.8%	25.5%
Other:	33.2%	41.7%	25.0%	30.7%	23.7%	42.7%	34.7%
Community Resolution	21.8%	20.8%	16.3%	21.9%	18.4%	29.2%	23.0%
Article found - Detailed outcome unavailable	5.5%	12.5%	1.9%	3.5%		6.2%	5.5%
Summons / charge by post	2.6%	4.2%	1.9%	2.6%	5.3%	3.0%	2.7%
ASB Warning	1.6%	4.2%	1.9%			1.0%	1.5%
ASB Dispersal	0.8%		1.9%	1.8%		1.4%	0.9%
Caution (simple or conditional)	0.4%					1.0%	0.5%
Khat or Cannabis warning	0.2%					0.3%	0.2%
Alcohol Seized	0.2%					0.2%	0.2%
ASB removal of U16	0.1%			0.9%		0.3%	0.2%
Police discretionary resolution	0.0%						0.0%
Postal requisition/postal charge/summons			1.0%				0.0%
Total	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%

Figure 18: Positive outcome stop search percentages by SDE and outcome Jul 22 – Jun 23

When just looking at only searches which resulted in Positive Police Action, 39.8% resulted in Arrest while 34.7% resulted in an 'Other' method being utilised. Arrest, however, was more likely to be the outcome for those whose self-defined ethnicity was Other ethnic group (63.2%) & Black or Black British (50.0%).

Alternatives to arrest were used at a higher rate for those whose ethnicity was Asian or Asian British (70.8%) & Not Stated (69.6%). It should be kept in mind that the outcomes for those whose self-defined ethnicity was White will be closer to the rates of the searches overall because they account for most of the overall searches and low volumes of other ethnicities will make the percentages more volatile.

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PART 2

1. CRIMINAL JUSTICE AND PUBLIC ORDER ACT 1994 (SECTION 60) STOP SEARCH NUMBERS AND RATES: 1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023

Section 60	Feb-23	Mar-23	Jun-23	Total
Chester		4		4
Ellesmere Port	13			13
Warrington			27	27
Total	13	4	27	44

Figure 19: Section 60 stop search monthly volumes by Location Jul 22 – Jun 23

There were 44 stop searches which were conducted under Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 all of which were conducted in Chester, Ellesmere Port & Warrington. Searches in Chester (4) were conducted on 04/03/2023 in relation to a medium risk Football match (Chester FC v Banbury United), none of which resulted in Police Action. Searches in Ellesmere Port (13) were conducted on 09/02/2023 in relation to a spate of knifepoint robberies. Searches in Warrington (27) were conducted on 15/06/2023 in relation to multiple reports of youths with weapons.

2. SECTION 60 STOP SEARCHES BY OUTCOMES

Section 60 Stop Searches by Outcome: July 2022- June 2023		Total	%
Police Action Taken	Item found - No Further action / advice given	3	6.8%
	Community Resolution	1	2.3%
Nothing found - NFA	Nothing found - NFA	40	90.9%
Total		44	100.0%

Figure 20: Section 60 stop search volumes by Outcome Jul 22 – Jun 23

In most cases (40, 90.9%), nothing was found and no further action was taken. Police action was taken in 9.1% of searches (4). This relate to the following:

- Ellesmere Port LPU- 2x Item found - NFA / advice given
- Warrington LPU- 1x Community Resolution, 1x Item found - NFA / advice given

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3. SECTION 60 STOP SEARCHES BY PERSON ATTRIBUTES

a) AGE RANGE/GENDER

Age Range	Gender			Total
	Male	Female	Unknown	
10-17 Years Old	11	7		18
18-24 Years Old	8	1		9
25-34 Years Old	5			5
35-44 Years Old	1			1
65+	1			1
N/A	5		5	10
Total	31	8	5	44

Figure 21: Section 60 stop search volumes by Age Range and Gender Jul 22 – Jun 23

The majority (31, 70.5%) of Section 60 searches were conducted upon Males with only a few conducted on Females (8, 18.2%). The most common age for those stopped was aged between 10-17 years old (18, 40.9%).

b) SELF-DEFINED ETHNICITY

Self-Defined Ethnic Group	Total
White	35
Asian or Asian British	2
Black or Black British	2
Mixed	
Other Ethnic Group	
Not Stated	5
Total	44

Figure 22: Section 60 stop search volumes by Self-Defined Ethnicity Jul 22 – Jun 23

Where the ethnicity was stated, most persons had an SDE of White (35, 79.5%) with 5 persons not having their SDE recorded.