

Stop and Search Scrutiny Report

1st April – 30th June 2017

Date: 03/12/2017

Unit: Local Policing Support Unit

Author: Dawn Woollcott



**ESSEX
POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex

Introduction

This document reports on the period between the 1st January and 31st March 2017 and looks at three fundamental areas of scrutiny and public satisfaction relating to stop and search in Essex.

Complaints

During the period of the 1st April and 30th June 2017 there has been 2 complaints recorded in relation to Stop & Search.

The complaint recorded from the last quarter is still under investigation and at this stage cannot be reported on further.

Anonymous Public Survey

It is noted that participation in the anonymous public survey is low, with only **2** additional responses being received during the reporting period.

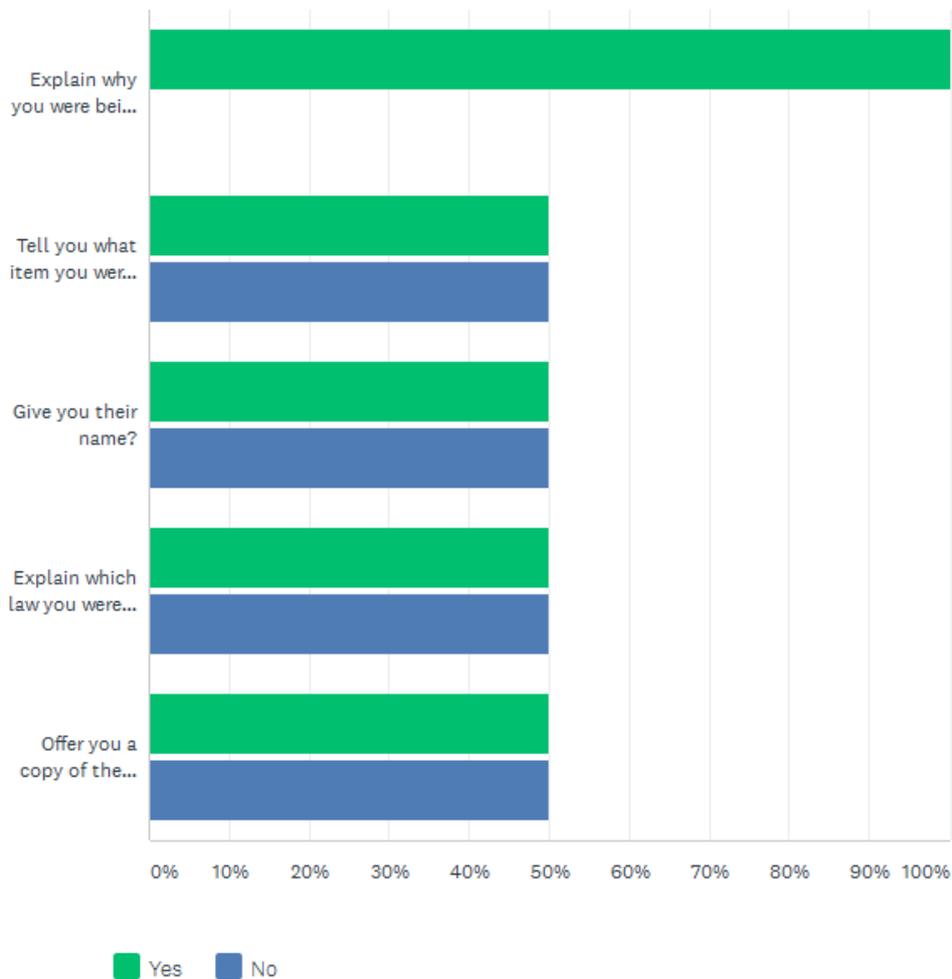
The below tables focus on the survey responses relating to the legal requirements of stop and search and officer civility:

Customize

Q1

When you were stopped and searched did the officer:

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

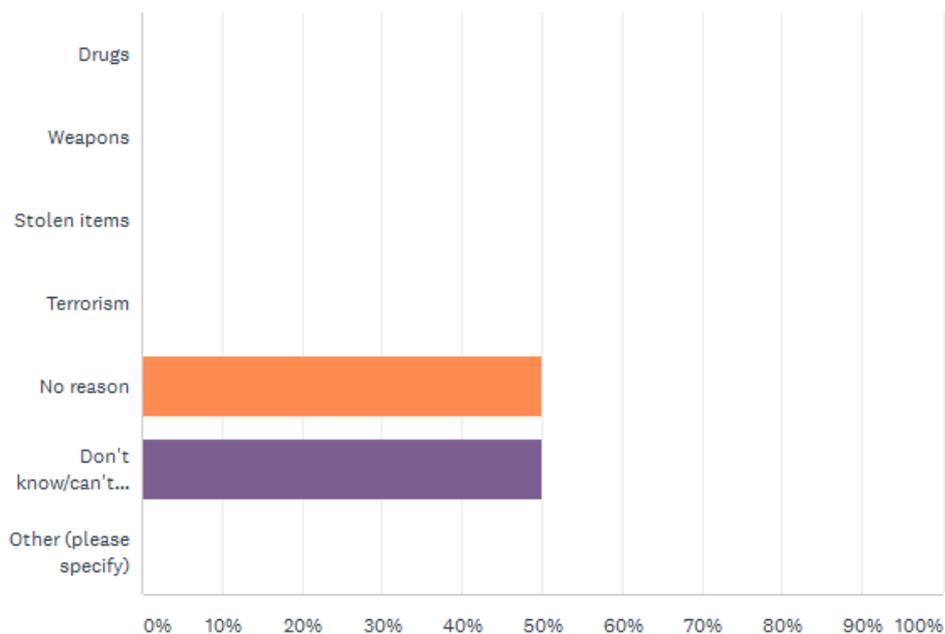


Q2

Customize

Why do you think the officer stopped and searched you?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

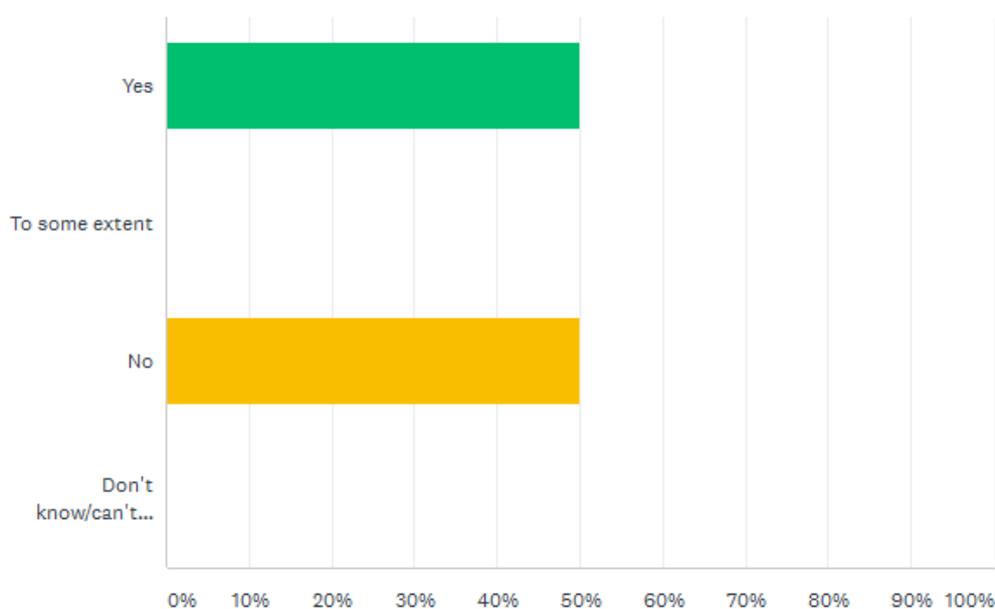


Q3

Custom

Did the officer treat you with respect?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

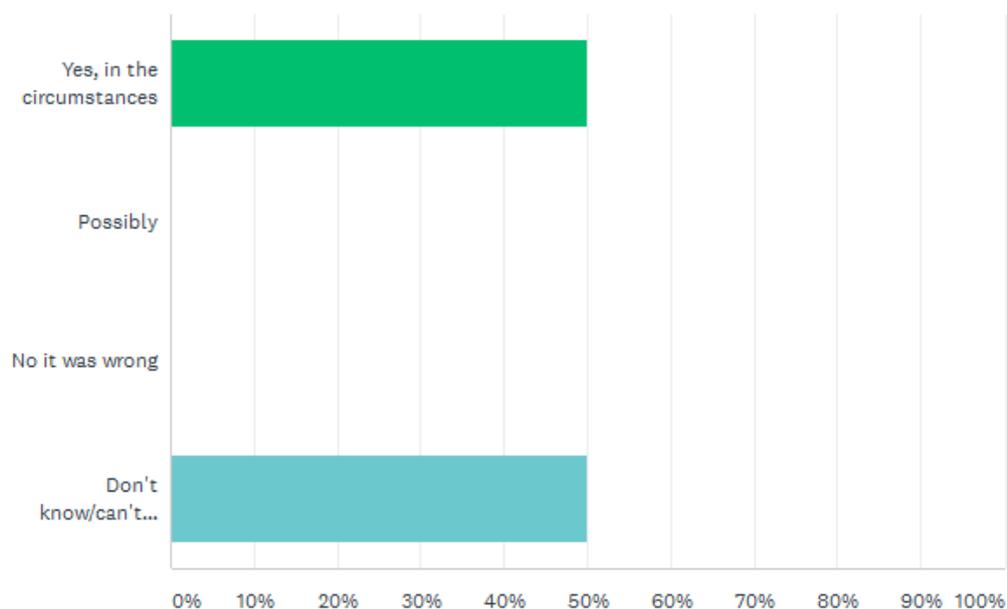


Q4

Custo

Was it the right decision to stop and search you?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

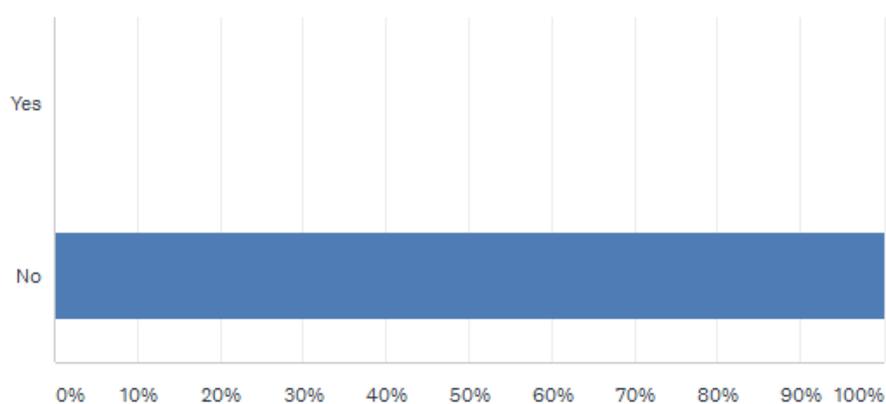


Q5

Custo

Have you been stopped and searched by the police before?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

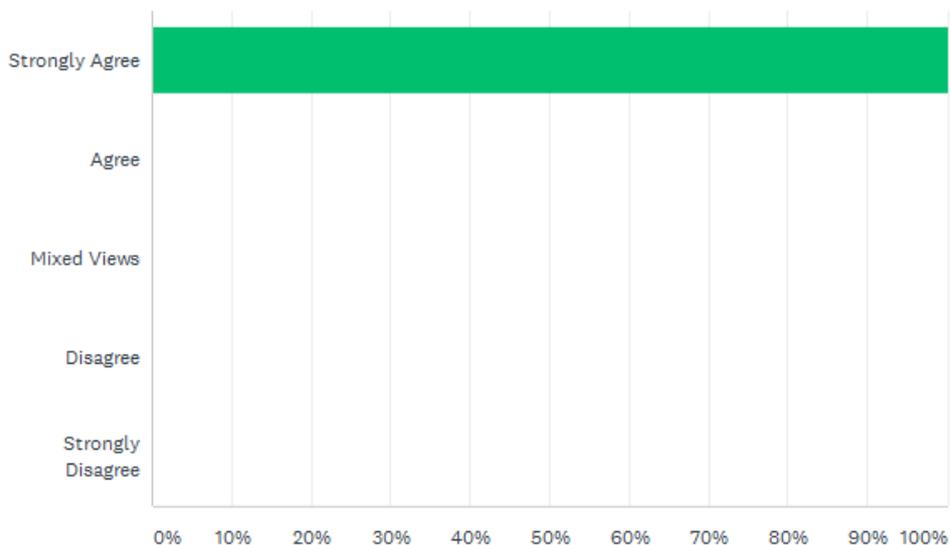


Q7

Customize

To what extent do you believe that the police should conduct stop search?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

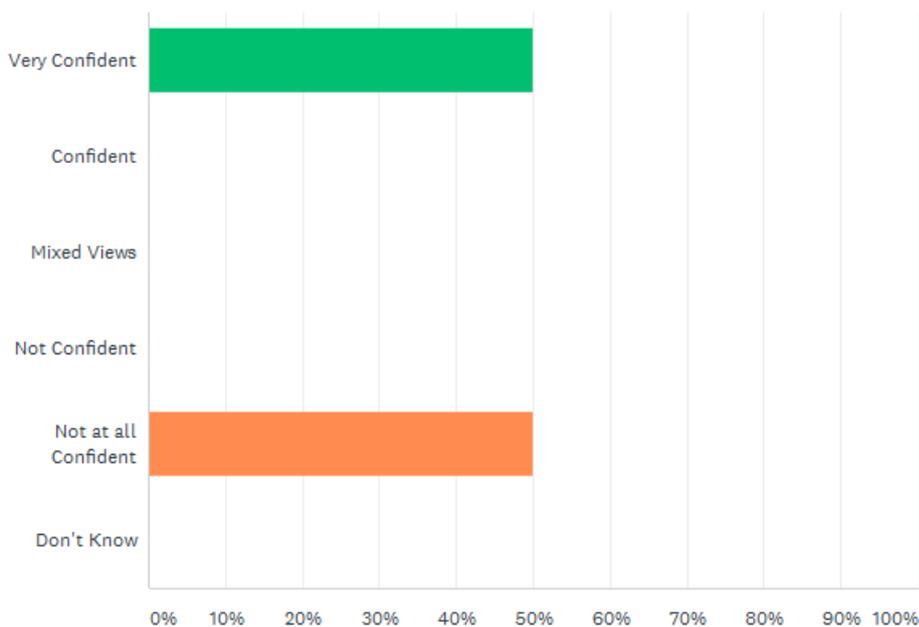


Q8

Customize

How confident are you that the police in your area use their Stop and Search powers fairly?

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

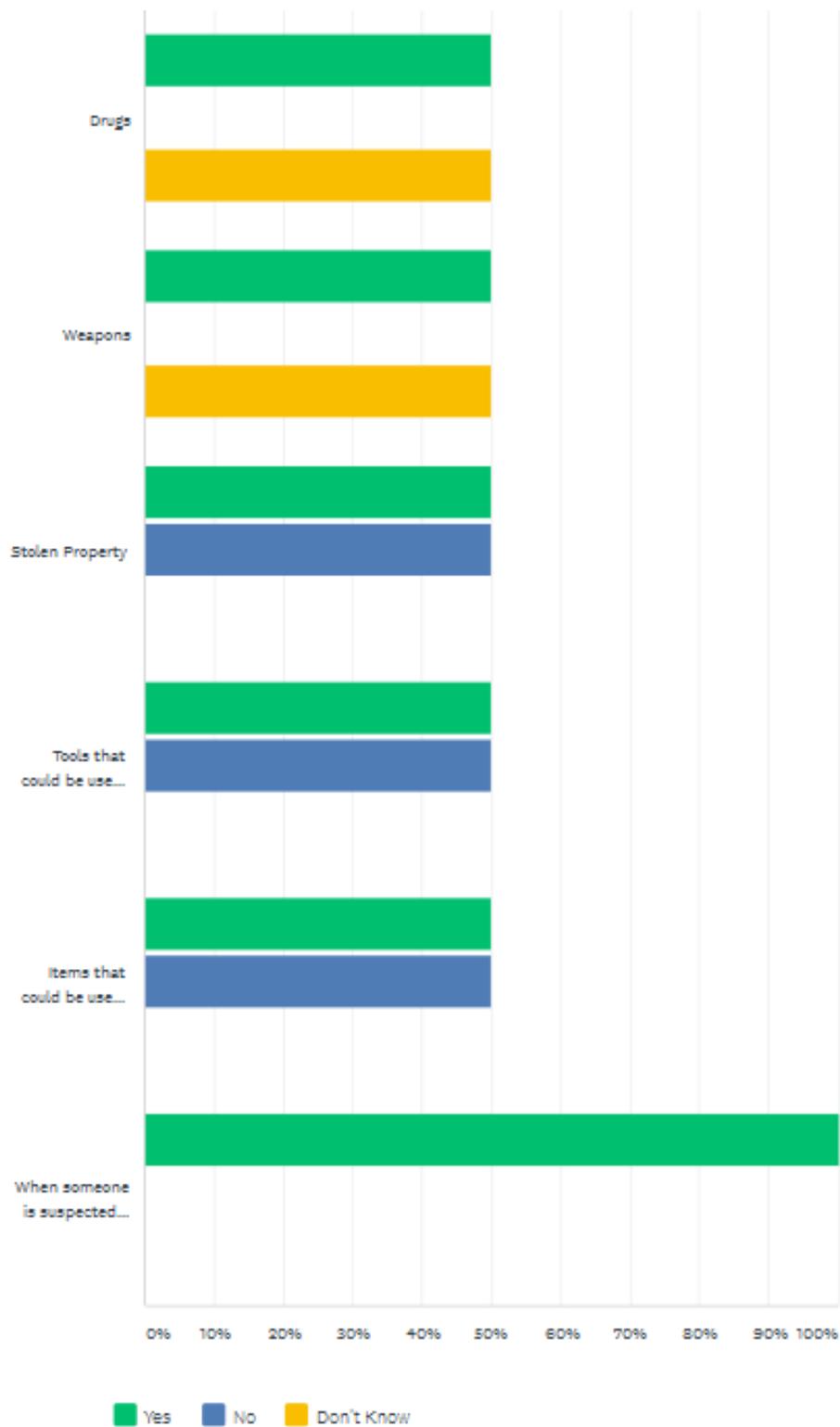


Custom

Q9

Should the police be able to search people for the following:

Answered: 2 Skipped: 0

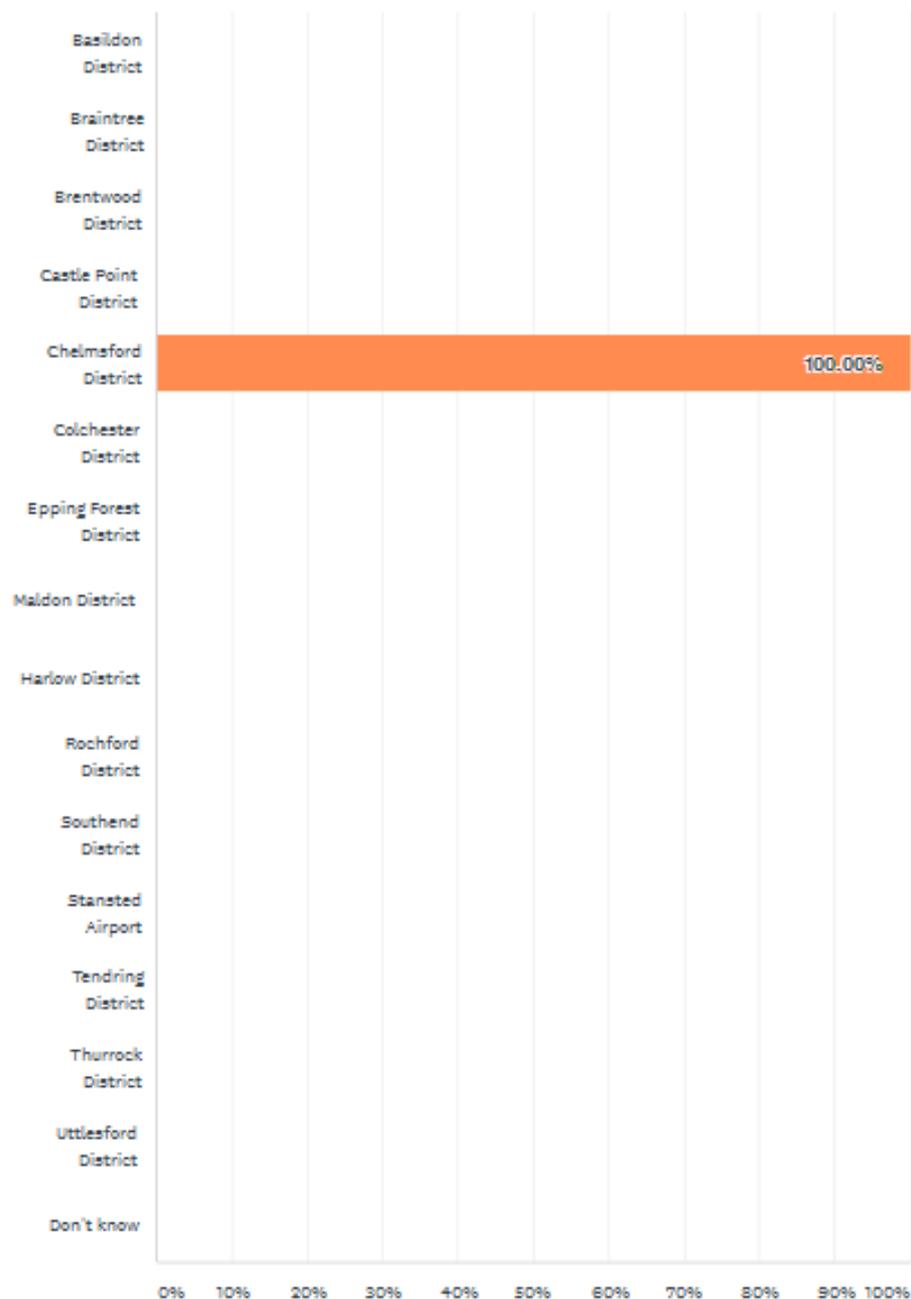


Q10

Custom

In which district were you stop and searched in?

Answered: 1 Skipped: 1

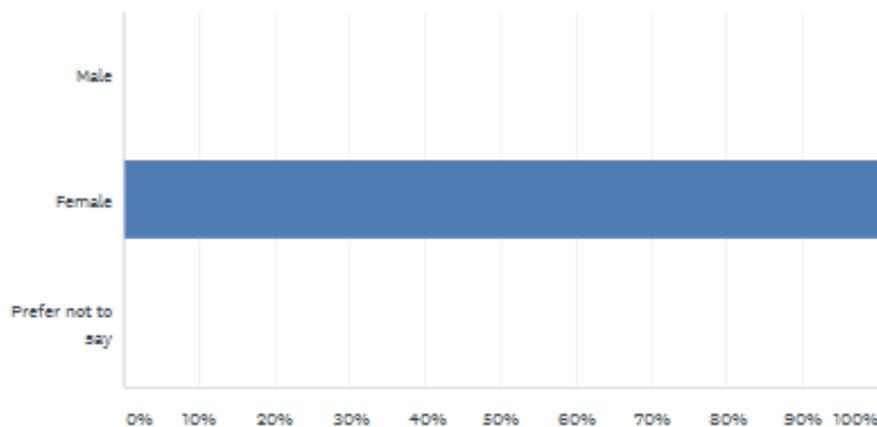


Q12

Custom

Are you? (please tick one)

Answered: 1 Skipped: 1

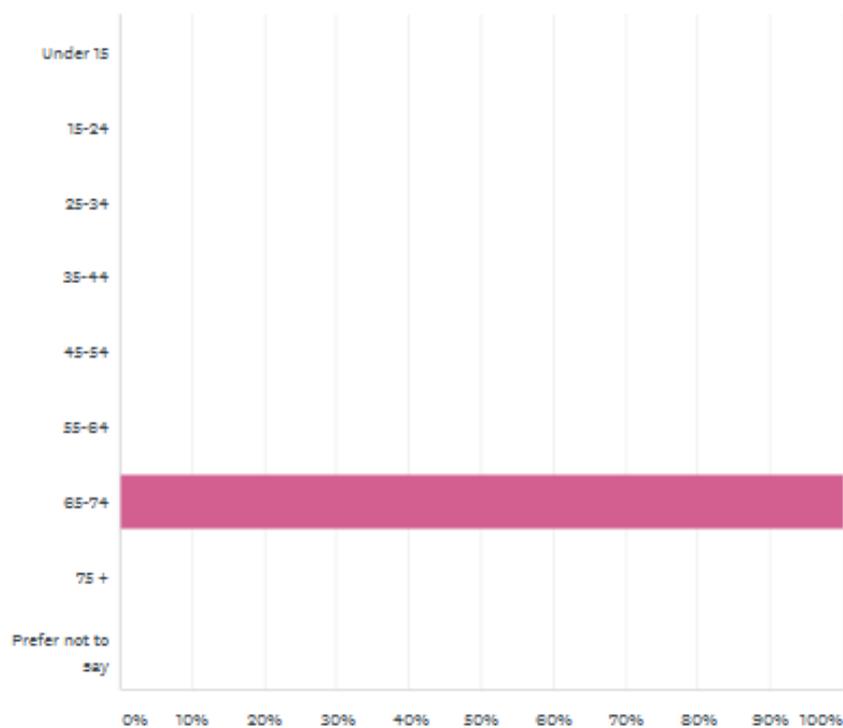


Q13

Custom

Which of the following age bands do you fall into?

Answered: 1 Skipped: 1

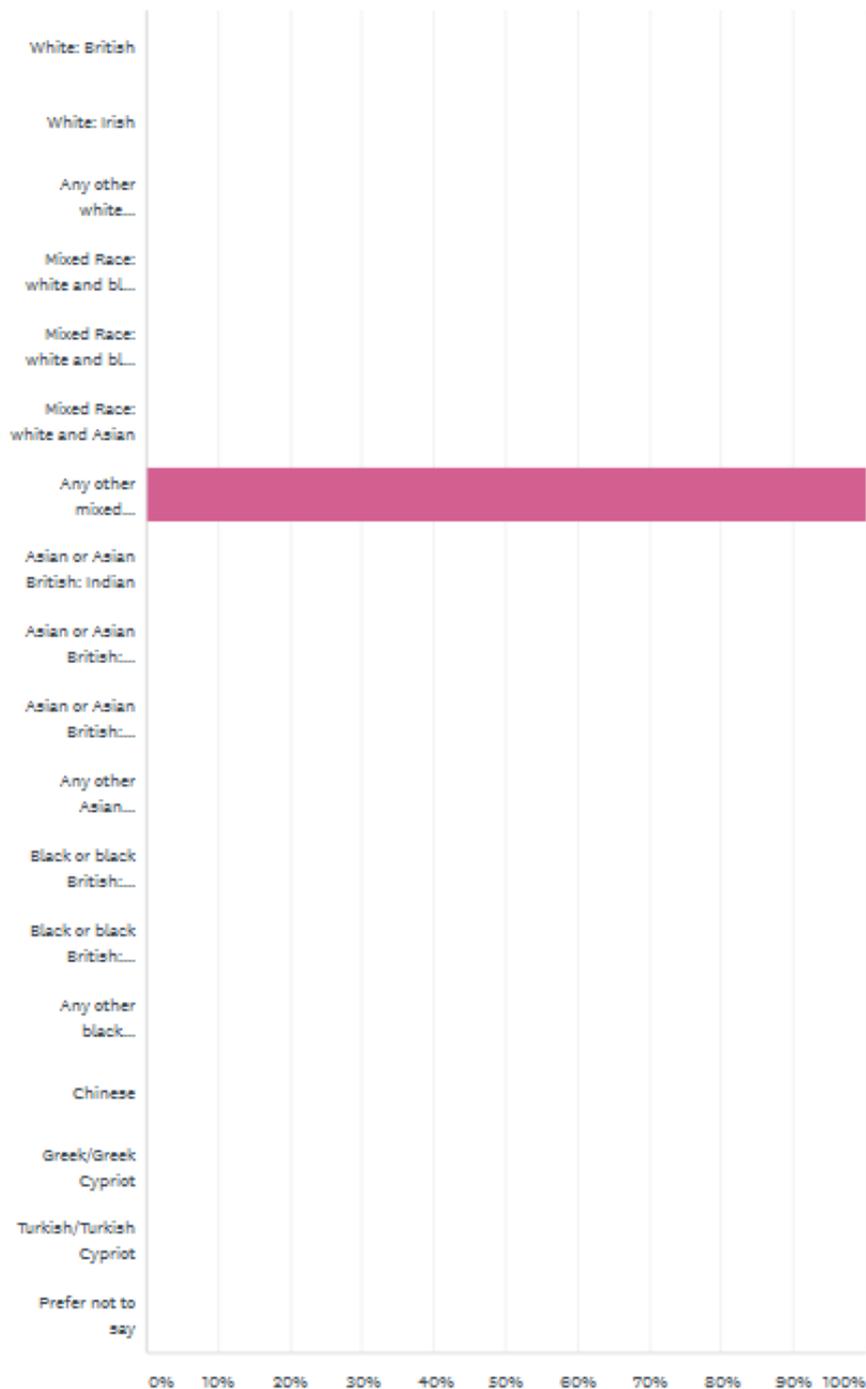


Q14

Customiz

How would you describe your race or ethnic origin? (please tick one)

Answered: 1 Skipped: 1



Ride-Along Feedback

In July 2016, Essex Police implemented a Ride-Along Scheme. This enables members of the public to accompany police officers on patrol to get a real insight into police work and to hopefully encounter stop and search live action.

During this reporting period, Essex Police have carried out 15 Ride-Alongs and have over 30 on-going applications. Feedback was received as follows:-

Person 1: Date of Ride-Along – 19.06.17 - Harlow

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it had been a really useful experience and had taught them a lot about the realities of frontline policing. They had observed highly skilled officers delivering a very professional service in very difficult circumstances.

Person 2: Date of Ride-Along – 05.08.17 - Southend

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion. The Ride-Along had 'definitely' increased their confidence in the police and that it had 'definitely' increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Reasonable Grounds

Reasonable grounds recorded by officers during each Stop & Search are now individually reviewed and analysed.

The results for the reporting period 1st April 2017 – 30th June 2017 are as follows:-

Of the 746 reviewed:

- **614 (82.30%)** had reasonable grounds recorded.
- **105 (14.08%)** did not have reasonable grounds recorded.
- **27 (3.62%)** were deemed borderline acceptable however feedback was required and provided.
- Of the 105 which did not have reasonable grounds, **26** were BME totalling 23.81%.

All of those with reasonable grounds not recorded have received individual feedback via their supervisors.

Conclusion

The internal audit of Reasonable Grounds has produced a compliance rate of 68.27% which has decreased since the last quarter. Extensive work is being done to improve these figures and it is evident that further training and information is required for officers to ensure that reasonable grounds for suspicion are sufficiently articulated and communicated to the person being searched. A new training package is currently being created for all front line officers and supervisors in

conjunction with the College of Policing. Training in “Best use of Stop and Search” is currently being completed by all front line police officers, PCSO’s and Specials and it is anticipated that all will have completed this by the summer of 2018.

The public survey results are an area of concern however there is a very small percentage of completions in relation to the number of searches actually carried out and therefore it is not anticipated that this gives an overly accurate review of searches completed by Essex Police.

Complaints are still very low in relation to Stop & Search which is very positive.