

Stop and Search Scrutiny Report

1st January – 31st March 2017



Date: 03/05/2017

Unit: Local Policing Support Unit

Author: PS 70528 Zoe INSULL



Introduction

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POLICE**

Protecting and serving Essex

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 January and 31st March 2017 there has been no 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.

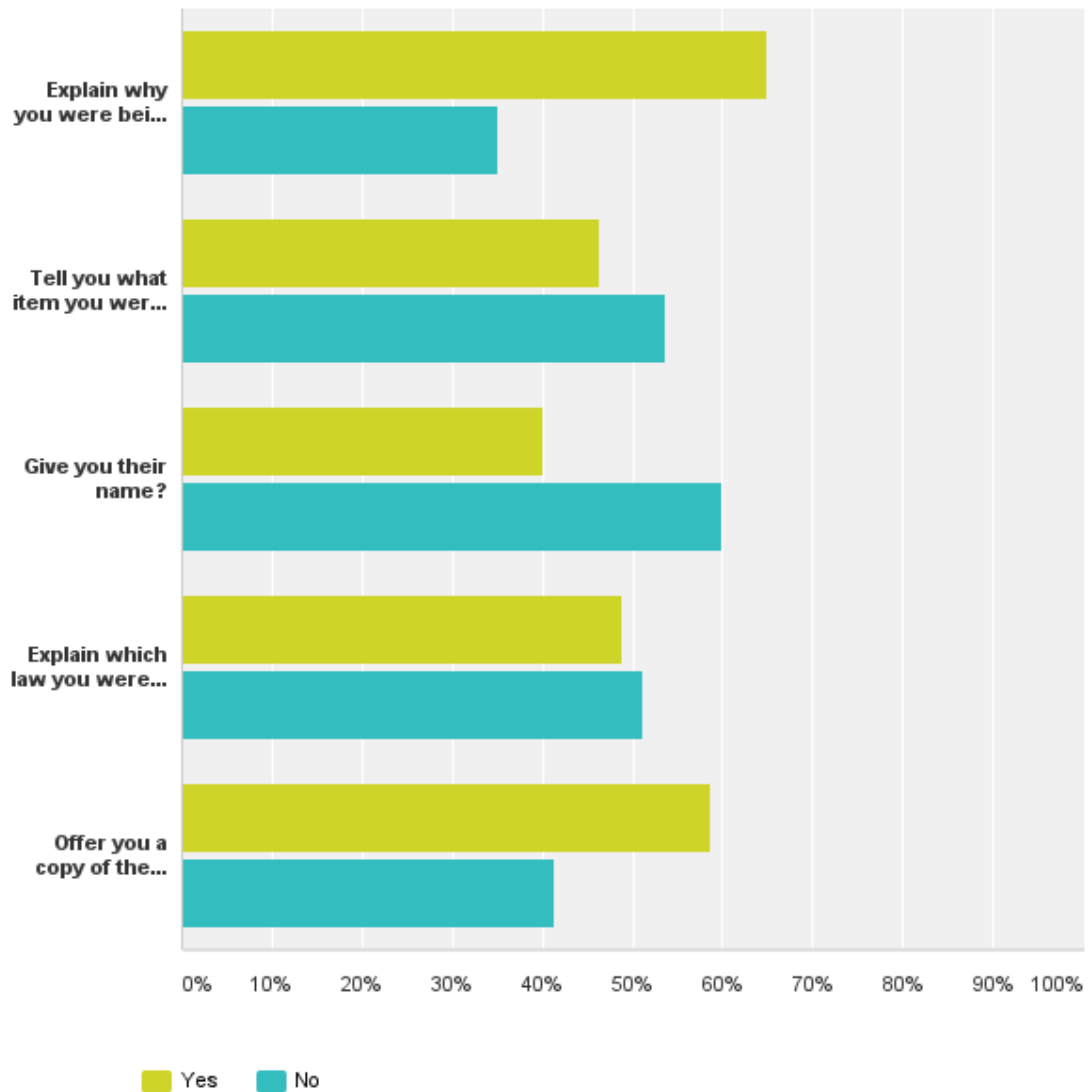
Anonymous Public Survey

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:

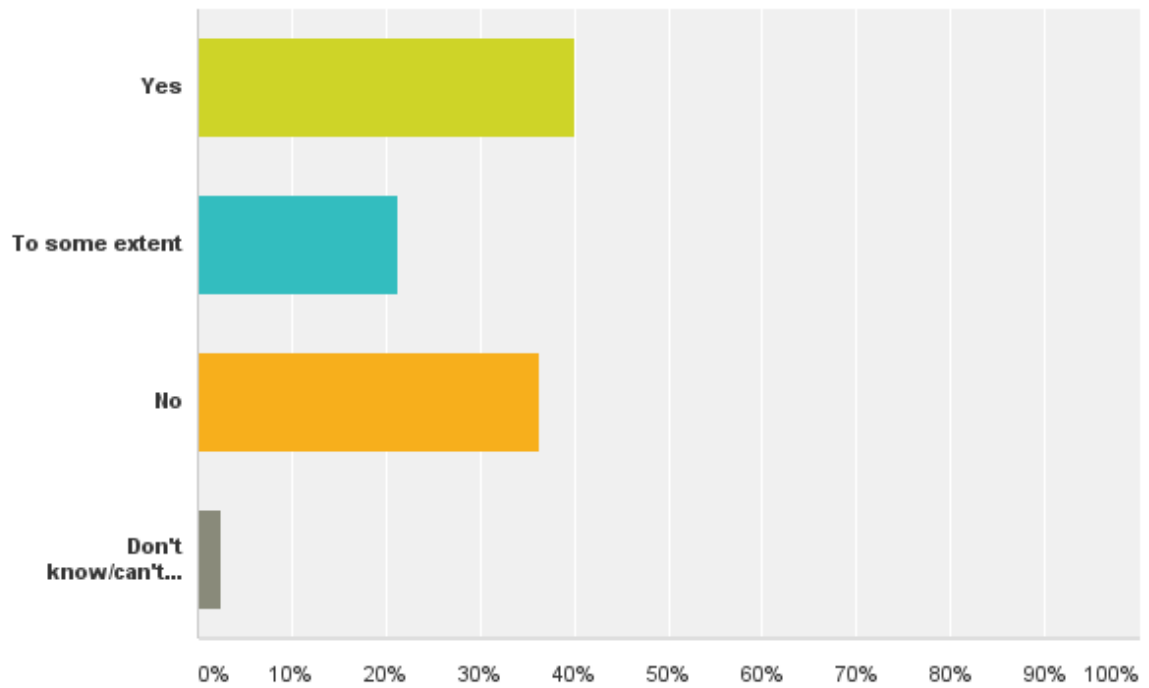
Q1 When you were stopped and searched did the officer:

Answered: 80 Skipped: 0



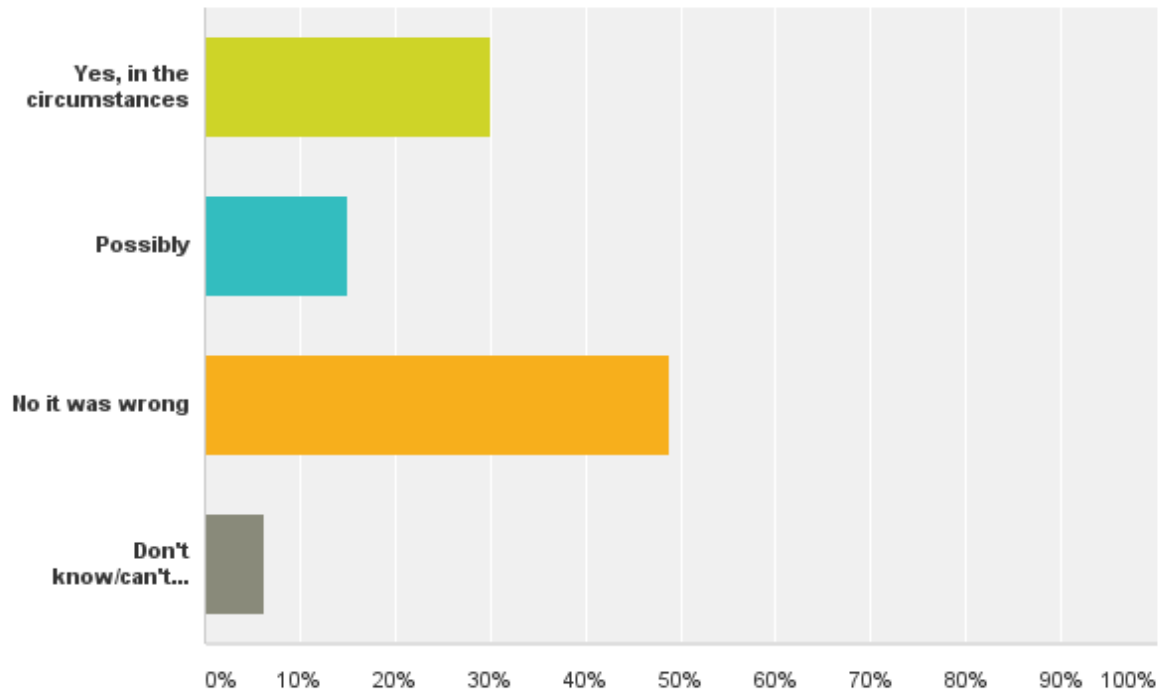
Q3 Did the officer treat you with respect?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 0



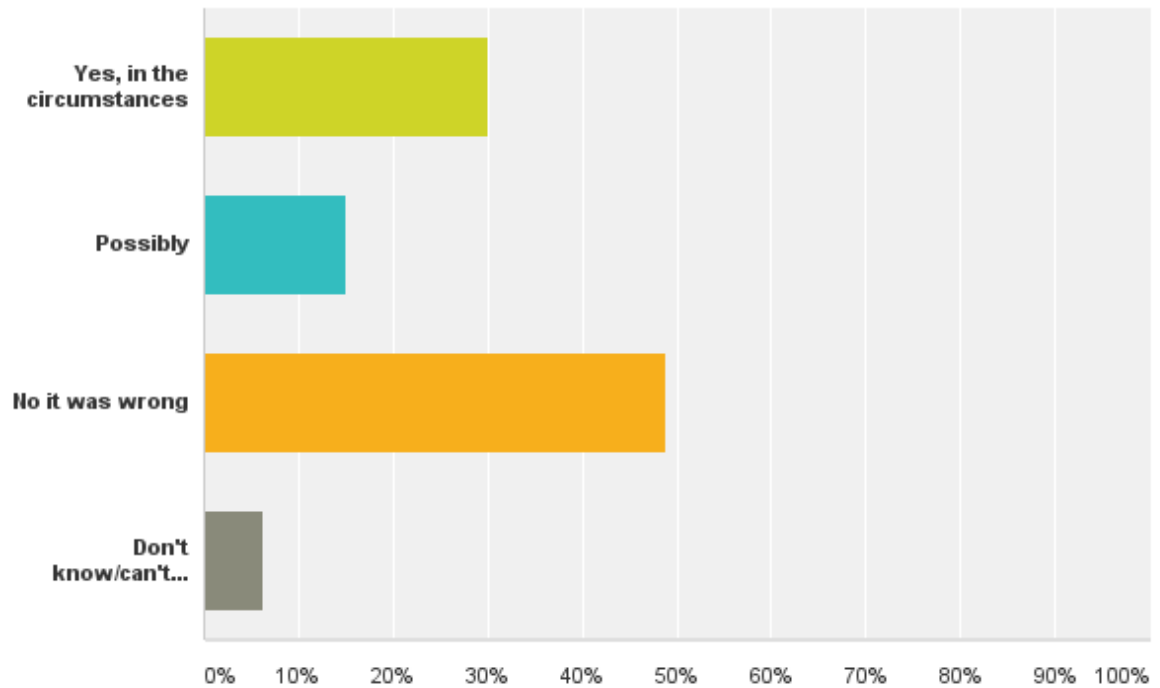
Q4 Was it the right decision to stop and search you?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 0



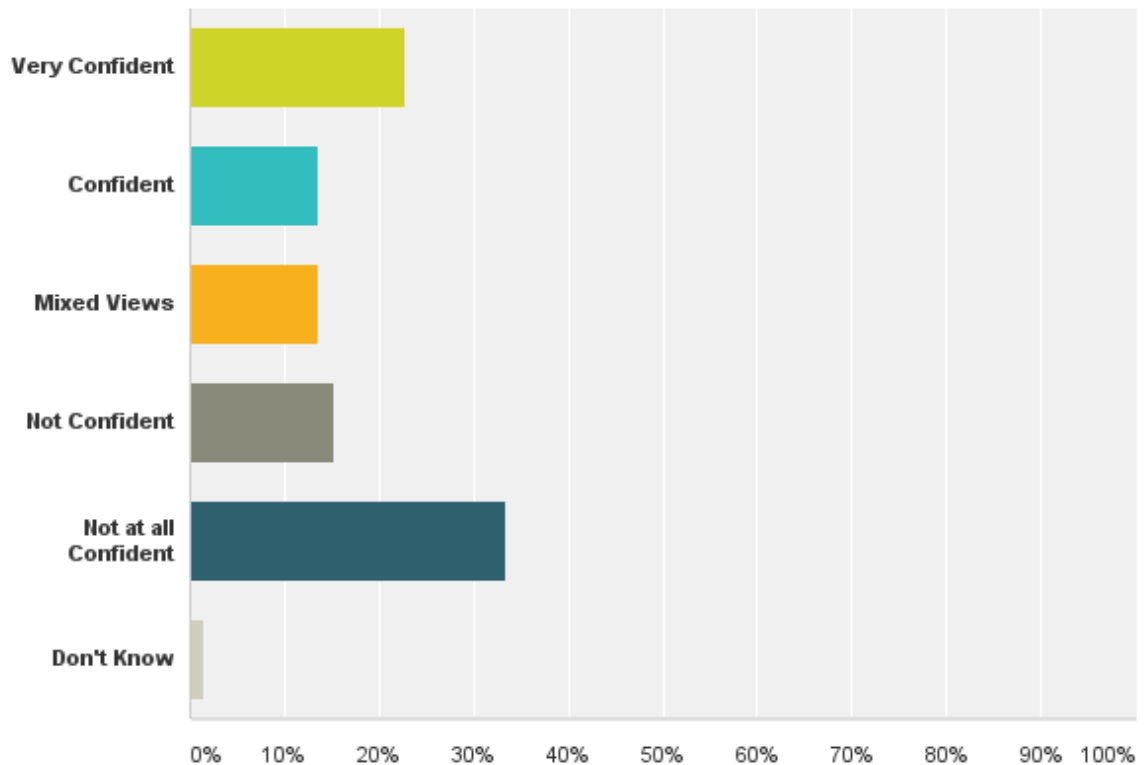
Q4 Was it the right decision to stop and search you?

Answered: 80 Skipped: 0



Q8 How confident are you that the police in your area use their Stop and Search powers fairly?

Answered: 66 Skipped: 14



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 – 04/01/2017, Chelmsford.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it gave them “extra enthusiasm to follow their dream career choice”. The Ride-Along had ‘probably’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 2: Date of Ride-Along – 14/01/2017, Location – Southend.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they were “impressed with how the officers dealt with each incident calm, putting people at ease and at all times extremely considerate and courteous”. 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.

Person 3: Date of Ride-Along – 15/01/2017, Location – Loughton.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it was an “absolutely amazing experience”. 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.

Person 4: Date of Ride-Along – 24/01/2017, Location – Braintree.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it was an “excellent insight into modern police work” and that the Ride-Along had ‘probably’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 5: Date of Ride-Along – 20/01/2017, Location – Force Control Room.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they “learnt a lot and had a good day”. 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.

Person 6: Date of Ride-Along – 10/02/2017, Location – Harlow

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however 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.

Person 7: Date of Ride-Along – 25/02/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that the Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 8: Date of Ride-Along – 02/03/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it was a “very insightful” and that they were “grateful to have had the opportunity”. 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.

Person 9: Date of Ride-Along – 28/02/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated “amazing respect for all involved. The hard work and dedication is outstanding”. They also stated that “this is something more young people should do”. 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.

Person 10: Date of Ride-Along – 28/02/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that “everything was dealt with in a very professional manner which allowed them to see that the police cannot always deal with a problem but are always there for support”. 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.

Person 11: Date of Ride-Along – 03/03/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they had “really enjoyed their experience and it had been very insightful. The officers they were with had been really friendly and had given them a good experience of what it is like to police in Essex”. 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.

Person 12: Date of Ride-Along – 08/03/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they had “a really good time on the ride along. Learnt a lot about different aspects of policing”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘probably’ increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others.

Person 13: Date of Ride-Along – 09/03/2017

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that it was an “interesting insight into amount of paperwork/admin that goes into dealing with incidents”. 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.

Person 14: Date of Ride-Along – 09/03/2017, Location – Colchester

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that 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.

Person 15: Date of Ride-Along – 25/02/2017, Location – Force Control Room.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that they had a “brilliant day in the FCR, very friendly staff and it was really interesting to see what goes on behind the scenes”. The Ride-Along had ‘definitely’ increased their confidence in the police and that it had ‘probably’ 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 January 2017 – 31st March 2017 are as follows:-

Of the 892 reviewed:

- **609 (68.27%)** had reasonable grounds recorded, **a decrease of 6.62% from the last quarter.**
- **242 (27.13%)** did not have reasonable grounds recorded, **an increase of 10.5% from the last quarter.**
- **43 (4.82%)** were deemed borderline acceptable however feedback was required and provided, **a decrease of 3.65% from the last quarter.**
- Of the 242 which did not have reasonable grounds, **55** were BME totalling 22.73%, **a decrease of 0.2% from the last quarter.**

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. An online training package 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 31st May 2017.

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.