

Stop and Search Scrutiny Report

1st July – 30th September
2016

Date: 18/10/2016

Unit: Local Policing Support Unit

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Introduction

This document reports on the period between the 1st July and 30th September 2016 and looks at three fundamental areas of scrutiny and public satisfaction relating to stop and search in Essex.

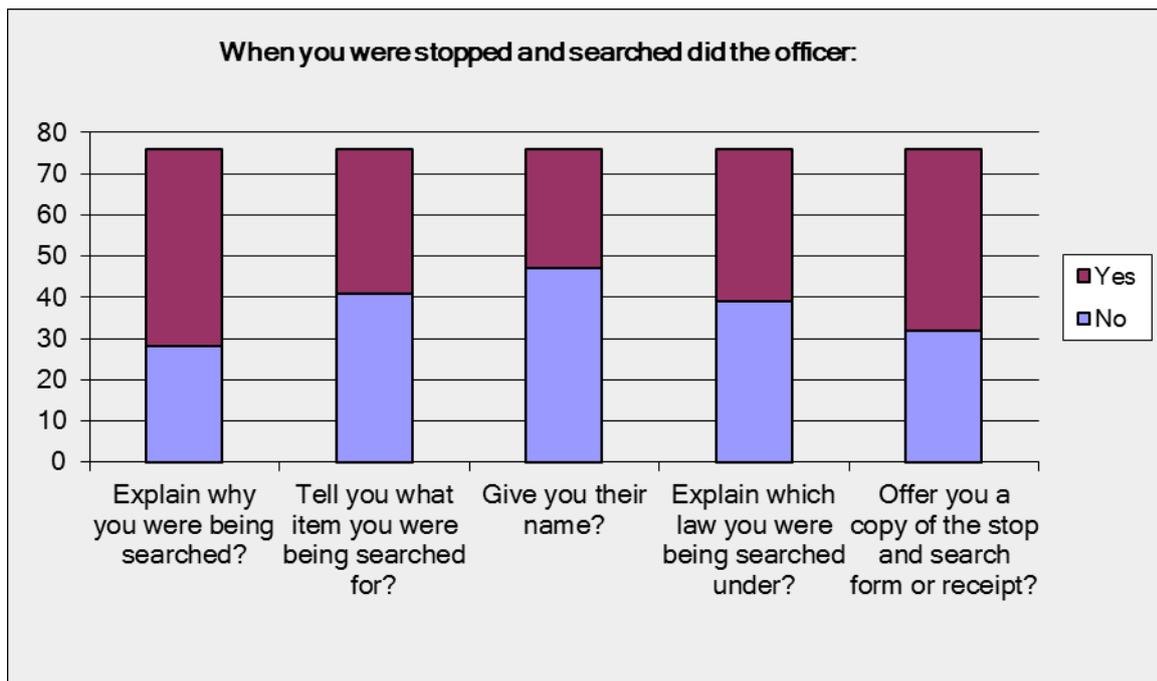
Complaints

During the period of the 1st July and 30th September 2016 there were **no complaints** made to Essex Police Professional Standards Department in relation to stop and search encounters.

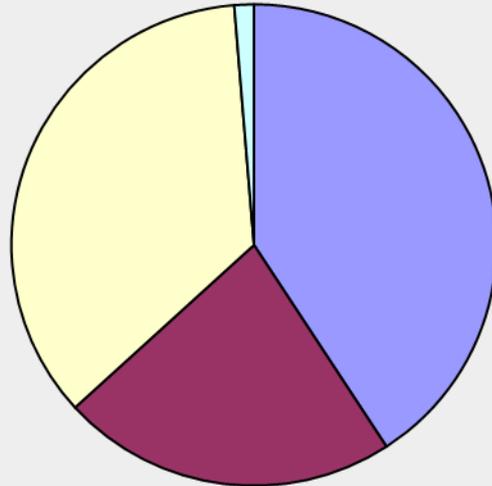
Anonymous Public Survey

It is noted that participation in the anonymous public survey is low, with few 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:

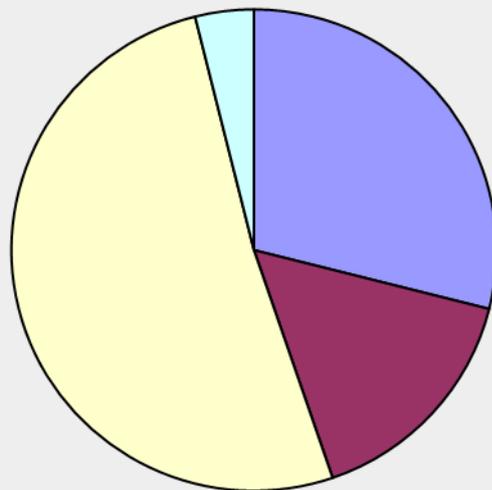


Did the officer treat you with respect?

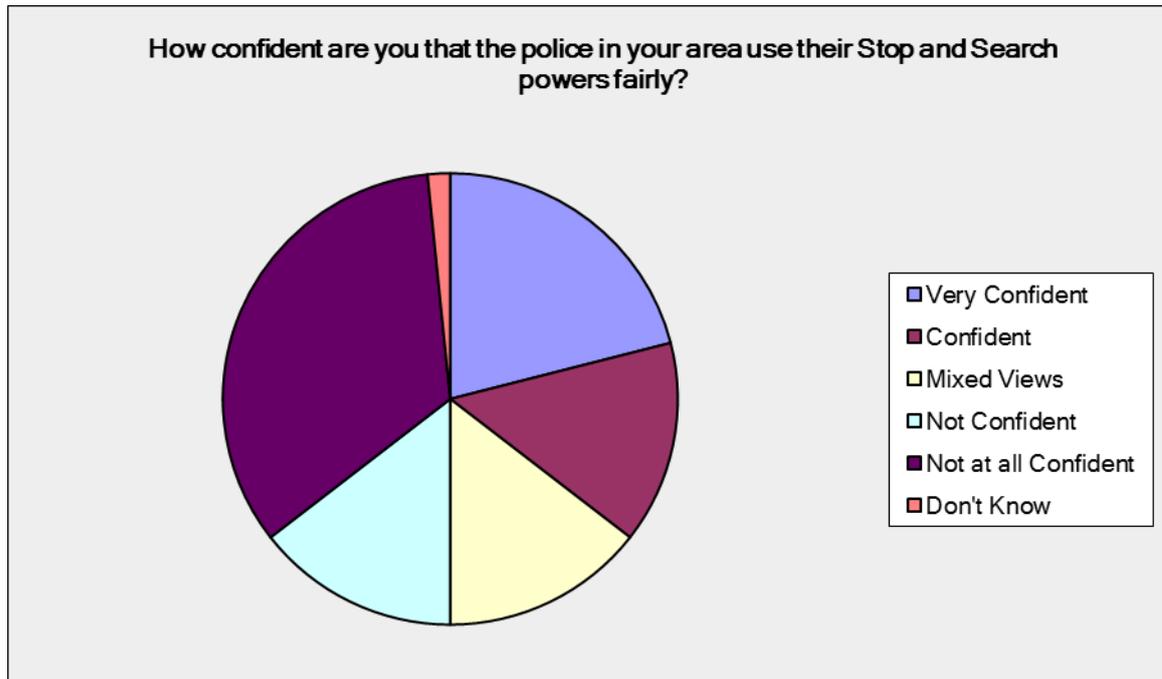


- Yes
- To some extent
- No
- Don't know/can't remember

Was it the right decision to stop and search you?



- Yes, in the circumstances
- Possibly
- No it was wrong
- Don't know/can't remember



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 the reporting period, Essex Police have carried out 2 Ride-Alongs and feedback was received as follows:-

Person 1: Date of Ride-Along – 21/07/2016, Location – Southend.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated that the Ride-Along had 'definitely' increased their confidence in the Police and 'definitely' increased their knowledge of the police. They would recommend this to others and stated that every incident they witnessed was "dealt with sympathetically" by the officers concerned.

Person 2: Date of Ride-Along – 02/10/2016, Location – Chelmsford.

No Stop & Searches were observed on this occasion however they stated 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. They raised questions and concerns in relation to the Stop & Search Legislation and Policy and did not fully understand police powers therefore thought that the Stop & Search power was not being used in incidences where they believed it could be.

All concerns/queries and issues raised within the feedback are being addressed.

Reasonable Grounds

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

The results for the reporting period 1st July 2016 – 30th September 2016 are as follows:-

Of the 691 reviewed:

- **577 (83.50%)** had reasonable grounds recorded.
- **70 (10.13%)** did not have reasonable grounds recorded.
- **44 (6.37%)** were deemed borderline acceptable however feedback was required and provided.
- Of the 70 which did not have reasonable grounds, **13** were BME totalling 18.57%, a **reduction of 8.6%** from the last quarter.

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

Conclusion

Whilst the internal audit has produced a good compliance rate of 83.50%, 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 and this work is ongoing. A new training package is anticipated for all front line officers in the near future.