

GWENT POLICE AUTHORITY

Equality and Human Resources Committee

Date: 7th December 2009

Item No: 4d

Heading: Stops and Stop & Search

Report Author: Chief Constable

SUMMARY

This report provides information on:-

- The Force's Stops and Stop & Search activity for the period of 1st January 2008 and 31st August 2009.
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RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the members note the content of this report.

1. BACKGROUND

This report provides an overview of the Force's Stops, and Stop & Search data for the period of 1st January 2008 to 31st August 2009 (i.e. 20 months). This covers the whole period since the last report was made to the Police Authority up to the latest data available. Subsequent reporting will be conducted, in a similar form, at six monthly intervals.

1.1 STOP & SEARCH MONITORING DATA – 1ST JANUARY 2008 TO 31ST AUGUST 2009

The statistics for Stops and Stop & Search for the period 1st January 2008 to 31st August 2009 are presented in their entirety at the end of the report.

Timeliness of Data Availability

The Stops database does currently contain some 2009 data for September & October, but only a few hundred records (i.e. only about a tenth of the average number of stops for a month). This means that the analysis in this report cannot be as up-to-date as would be desired.

The average time elapsing from conduct of the stop to the entry of the details on the database is currently below the required standard. There are also some data quality issues raised by the fact that some records are showing an entry date prior to the date of the stop.

The following observations can be made from this data:

1.2 STOP & SEARCH

- Total number of Stops and Searches = 15125
- 1449 (9.6%) of all individuals subject to a Stop & Search are from Black and Minority ethnic (BME) backgrounds.
- The Minority Ethnic groups that are most likely to be Stopped & Searched are Asian Pakistani and Black Caribbean with 376 and 211 Stop & Searches respectively making up 23.7% and 25.9% of the total BME Stop & Searches.
- Five percent (5.6%) of individuals from a Minority Ethnic background were arrested following a Stop & Search compared to 8.6% of the white population.
- 87.7% of those subject to a Stop & Search are White British individuals.
- 209 (1.4%) of the total forms did not show ethnicity.

1.3 STOPS

- Total number of Stops = 20426
- 1136 (5.6%) of all individuals who are subject to a Stop are drawn from a Black and minority ethnic background.
- Individuals from Asian Pakistani background are more likely to be stopped, with 269 stops this makes up 23.7% of the total BME stops.
- 92.0% of those subject to a Stop are White British individuals
- 1.7% of all forms submitted did not record ethnicity.
- 4.2% of Stops of White persons result in an arrest but only 3.6% of individuals from a Minority Ethnic background were arrested.

1.4 DISPROPORTIONALITY

The figures indicate that there is a disproportionate impact of Stops and Stop & Search on individuals from a Black and Minority Ethnic background

According to the Census 2001, the resident population of the five local authority areas within the Gwent policing area in the 2001 Census was 552,428.

The minority ethnic profiles (taken from the 2001 Census) for each of these areas are presented in Table 1 below. Whilst mid-year estimates have been

made for total population since the census there is no more up-to-date breakdown by ethnicity.

The numerically dominant population in 2001 is recorded as White British. The largest measured minority ethnic community in the policing area was the Pakistani Community. (Source: Census 2001).

The minority ethnic population of Gwent as a whole is 1.9%.

Table 1: Minority ethnic population in the Gwent Policing area by local authority area, ranked by percentage of the population. (Source: Census 2001)		
	Minority ethnic population	
	Thousand	Per cent
Newport	6.6	4.8
Monmouthshire	1	1.1
Caerphilly	1.5	0.9
Torfaen	0.9	0.9
Blaenau-Gwent	0.6	0.8

The conventional method for ascertaining whether stop powers have been exercised in a proportionate way has traditionally involved comparing the percentage of those stopped or stopped & searched by ethnicity with the representation of these ethnic groups within the residential population.

Using Local Authority residential populations as the baseline measure, it appears that whereas the white population is under-represented in the population stopped, or stopped & searched, the Black and Asian populations appear over-represented.

However, it should be noted that over 40% of all stops in Gwent are carried out in the Newport LPU area, and this has by far the highest proportion of BME residents. Furthermore, if the ward level picture (for Newport) is looked at then these effects are less extreme (see Appendix 2).

Across Gwent, black and minority ethnic individuals are over three and half times more likely to be the subject of any stop compared to the total resident population, with Asian Pakistani individuals being more likely to be stopped and searched.

Thus, by Home Office standards, this indicates disproportionality. However great care should be taken before applying weight to these findings due to the very low numbers of stop, search and arrest of individuals from BME communities as well as the distribution of stops and BME residents mentioned above.

It should also be noted that the Census data is now eight years out of date. It does not reflect those individuals, who have settled in the area since this date, Individuals who are dispersed to the area through the asylum process, migrant workers, or Gypsy-Travelers who were not included in the original Census data collection methodology.

1.5 Trends

Number of Stop & Search checks have fallen over the 20 month period (average number of checks in Apr-Aug 2008 was 837 but for Apr-Aug 2009 the average is 744). Numbers of All Stops have increased over the same period (up from an average of 2116 to 2485). Most (over 75%) Stop & Search checks are recorded with a reason of "Other" and a purpose of "Drugs" and this is consistent throughout the 20 month period. For All Stops the most common reason is "Suspected Crime/Disorder/ASB" (at 38.5%) with "Other" being second (at 35.7%)

1.6 Arrests

The average arrest rates from Stop & Search checks are 8.6% & 5.6% for White and BME persons respectively. The trend for arrest rates is improving for both groups but the improvement for BME persons is not as rapid as that for White persons.

1.7 Crime by LPU

Breakdown by LPU shows the following:

LPU	Percentage of Force Total Crime over the 20 month period	Percentage of Force Total Stops over the 20 month period	Percentage of Force Total Stop & Searches over the 20 month period
Blaenau Gwent	12.7%	13.5%	13.2%
Caerphilly	26.3%	24.1%	18.4%
Monmouthshire	10.8%	10.2%	12.9%
Newport	35.1%	43.5%	46.7%
Torfaen	15.0%	8.7%	8.7%

1.8 Most Similar Forces (MSF) comparison data

MSF comparison data is not currently available. Previously, the iQuanta website provided comparative arrest rates resulting from Stop & Searches. However, this is no longer a statutory performance indicator and so the latest data available via iQuanta is for March 2007. Collection and analysis without the help of iQuanta will be a much more time/labour intensive task which can not be completed within the schedule for production of this report.

STAFFING/PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

2. There is no specific staffing or personnel implications associated with this report. However, if it is desired to address the timeliness issue, this would imply a review of staffing levels in the Data Entry Bureau.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3. There are no specific financial implications associated with this report.

CONSULTATION

4. This report has been considered by members of the Chief Officer team.

PROJECT ASSESSMENT FOR EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY MATTERS

5. This project/proposal has been considered against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Force's Equality Schemes, and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.

RISK ASSESSMENT

6. No additional risks have been identified which have not previously been reported upon.

STAYING AHEAD (2011 REVIEW)

7. The matters raised in this report have been considered in the context of the Staying Ahead Project and are not considered to have any direct consequences for the outcomes.

CONCLUSION

8. This report offers an overview of the last 20 months Stops activity within the Gwent Force area for the information of the Police Authority.

CONTACT OFFICER

9. Chief Supt Simon Prince, Head of Service Development

BACKGROUND PAPERS

10. There is no background papers associated with this report.

APPENDICES

- 11.1 **Appendix 1:** Stops and Stop & Search Data 1st January 2008 to 31st August 2009 - see overleaf.
- 11.2 **Appendix 2:** Stops and Stop & Search Data 1st January 2008 to 31st August 2009 for Newport LPU Wards - see overleaf.

Stops and Stop & Search Data 1st January 2008 to 31st August 2009

STOP ONLY

	WHITE	BME Total	Not Recorded	Total Stops	%Gwent Total	%White	%BME	%Unknown
Caerphilly	4820	44	61	4925	24.1%	97.9%	0.9%	1.2%
Blaenau Gwent	2713	6	29	2748	13.5%	98.7%	0.2%	1.1%
Monmouthshire	1976	68	39	2083	10.2%	94.9%	3.3%	1.9%
Newport	7718	997	177	8892	43.5%	86.8%	11.2%	2.0%
Torfaen	1717	21	34	1772	8.7%	96.9%	1.2%	1.9%
Gwent Total	18944	1136	340	20420		92.8%	5.6%	1.7%

PERSON SEARCHED

	WHITE	BME Total	Not Recorded	Total Stops	%Gwent Total	%White	%BME	%Unknown
Caerphilly	2742	17	24	2783	18.4%	98.5%	0.6%	0.9%
Blaenau Gwent	1945	26	29	2000	13.2%	97.3%	1.3%	1.5%
Monmouthshire	1856	71	25	1952	12.9%	95.1%	3.6%	1.3%
Newport	5626	1316	126	7068	46.7%	79.6%	18.6%	1.8%
Torfaen	1298	19	5	1322	8.7%	98.2%	1.4%	0.4%
Gwent Total	13467	1449	209	15125		89.0%	9.6%	1.4%

Breakdown by LPU and Self-Defined Ethnicity

	STOP ONLY				
	C	G	M	N	T
W1 WHITE BRITISH	4806	2706	1945	7619	1709
W2 WHITE IRISH	5	2	6	21	4
W9 OTHER WHITE BACKGROUND	9	5	25	78	4
M1 WHITE/BLACK CARIBBEAN	2	1	9	106	5
M2 WHITE/BLACK AFRICAN	2		3	18	
M3 WHITE/ASIAN	3		4	23	
M9 OTHER MIXED BACKGROUND	6		1	58	1
A1 ASIAN INDIAN	3	1	13	69	3
A2 ASIAN PAKISTANI	1		4	261	3
A3 ASIAN BANGLADESHI	2		1	97	2
A9 OTHER ASIAN BACKGROUND	7	1	10	123	2
B1 BLACK CARIBBEAN	12	2	15	109	
B2 BLACK AFRICAN	1		2	47	2
B9 OTHER BLACK BACKGROUND	1		1	59	2
O1 CHINESE	1		3		
O9 ANY OTHER ETHNIC BACKGROUND	3	1	2	27	1
Not Recorded	61	29	39	177	34
Sum:	4925	2748	2083	8892	1772

	PERSON SEARCHED				
	C	G	M	N	T
	2729	1933	1825	5497	1292
	6	2	9	16	1
	7	10	22	113	5
	1	2	8	141	
			2	18	
	1		4	26	1
		1	12	73	
		4	3	83	1
	3	1	3	368	1
			1	76	2
	2		2	131	8
	5	2	10	191	3
	1	2	6	70	1
	1		7	102	
	1	14	1	7	1
	2		12	30	1
	24	29	25	126	5
	2783	2000	1952	7068	1322

LPU Codes: C= Caerphilly, G = Blaenau Gwent, M = Monmouthshire, N = Newport, T = Torfaen

Stops and Stop & Search Data 1st January 2008 to 31st August 2009 for Newport LPU Wards

STOP ONLY

Ward Name	WHITE	BME Total	Not Recorded	Total Stops	%Newport Total	%White	%BME	%Unknown	BME % Ward Popn
Alway	900	54	8	962	10.8%	93.6%	5.6%	0.8%	3.7%
Ringland	883	37	3	923	10.4%	95.7%	4.0%	0.3%	2.5%
Caerleon	781	29	2	812	9.1%	96.2%	3.6%	0.2%	2.0%
Langstone	186	3	3	192	2.2%	96.9%	1.6%	1.6%	2.6%
Llanwern	79	6		85	1.0%	92.9%	7.1%	0.0%	1.3%
Bettws	340	26	6	372	4.2%	91.4%	7.0%	1.6%	2.2%
Malpas	182	8	1	191	2.1%	95.3%	4.2%	0.5%	1.7%
Rogerstone	233	7	1	241	2.7%	96.7%	2.9%	0.4%	2.3%
Graig	109	6	1	116	1.3%	94.0%	5.2%	0.9%	2.5%
Stow Hill	784	142	37	963	10.8%	81.4%	14.7%	3.8%	9.0%
Allt-yr-yn	71	6		77	0.9%	92.2%	7.8%	0.0%	5.6%
Shaftesbury	89	4	2	95	1.1%	93.7%	4.2%	2.1%	2.8%
Gaer	100	11		111	1.2%	90.1%	9.9%	0.0%	2.8%
Pillgwenlly	245	89	6	340	3.8%	72.1%	26.2%	1.8%	24.9%
Tredegarr Park	118	14	3	135	1.5%	87.4%	10.4%	2.2%	3.7%
Marshfield	108	12	1	121	1.4%	89.3%	9.9%	0.8%	3.6%
Victoria	768	324	46	1138	12.8%	67.5%	28.5%	4.0%	20.3%
St. Julians	585	78	24	687	7.7%	85.2%	11.4%	3.5%	3.3%
Beechwood	420	45	10	475	5.3%	88.4%	9.5%	2.1%	2.8%
Liswerry	737	96	23	856	9.6%	86.1%	11.2%	2.7%	3.6%
	7718	997	177	8892	100.0%	86.8%	11.2%	2.0%	4.80%

PERSON SEARCHED

Ward Name	WHITE	BME Total	Not Recorded	Total Stops	%Newport Total	%White	%BME	%Unknown	BME % Ward Popn
Alway	615	50	3	668	9.5%	92.1%	7.5%	0.4%	3.7%
Ringland	373	28	3	404	5.7%	92.3%	6.9%	0.7%	2.5%
Caerleon	336	21	2	359	5.1%	93.6%	5.8%	0.6%	2.0%
Langstone	88	3		91	1.3%	96.7%	3.3%	0.0%	2.6%
Llanwern	45	4		49	0.7%	91.8%	8.2%	0.0%	1.3%
Bettws	304	36	2	342	4.8%	88.9%	10.5%	0.6%	2.2%
Malpas	110	10	4	124	1.8%	88.7%	8.1%	3.2%	1.7%
Rogerstone	175	11		186	2.6%	94.1%	5.9%	0.0%	2.3%
Graig	75	3	2	80	1.1%	93.8%	3.8%	2.5%	2.5%
Stow Hill	861	259	24	1144	16.2%	75.3%	22.6%	2.1%	9.0%
Allt-yr-yn	78	12	3	93	1.3%	83.9%	12.9%	3.2%	5.6%
Shaftesbury	102	6	3	111	1.6%	91.9%	5.4%	2.7%	2.8%
Gaer	101	15	2	118	1.7%	85.6%	12.7%	1.7%	2.8%
Pillgwenlly	687	357	15	1059	15.0%	64.9%	33.7%	1.4%	24.9%
Tredegarr Park	87	9		96	1.4%	90.6%	9.4%	0.0%	3.7%
Marshfield	80	9	3	92	1.3%	87.0%	9.8%	3.3%	3.6%
Victoria	572	291	29	892	12.6%	64.1%	32.6%	3.3%	20.3%
St. Julians	292	75	11	378	5.3%	77.2%	19.8%	2.9%	3.3%
Beechwood	196	41	3	240	3.4%	81.7%	17.1%	1.3%	2.8%
Liswerry	449	76	17	542	7.7%	82.8%	14.0%	3.1%	3.6%
	5626	1316	126	7068	100.0%	79.6%	18.6%	1.8%	4.80%