



**Lancashire  
Constabulary**  
police and communities together

**REPORT TO: Strategic Scrutiny Meeting**

**DATE: 01/02/2019**

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**SUBJECT: Best Use of Stop & Search – Position Update February 2019**

## **1. Issue for Consideration**

1.1. The purpose of this report is to provide an update to the Commissioner in respect of Lancashire Constabulary's progress and position relating to the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSS) following the previous update in August 2018.

## **2. Recommendation**

2.1. The Commissioner is asked to note the report and comment on items discussed and in particular the ongoing excellent work and support from the Independent Scrutiny Panel.

## **3. Background**

3.1. The Constabulary signed up to BUSS in 2014. The overarching aims were to improve the effectiveness and legitimacy around its deployment of Stop & Search.

3.2. Despite no indication or evidence of confidence issues relating to Stop & Search across Lancashire's communities, the Constabulary embraced the opportunity to assess its performance, in particular around recording of grounds (legitimacy), outcomes of interactions (effectiveness) and transparency of approach.

3.3. The scheme had many requirements, the key issues being:

- Quality of Grounds
- Recording of different positive outcomes (other than just 'arrest or NFA')
- Public information and Scrutiny
- Training and Awareness for officers

- Supervisory oversight

3.4. The Commissioner will recall that he received a report at the August Scrutiny Meeting concerning progress against BUSS. To summarise, this highlighted:

- Use of Samsung technology, now the default position for recording of Stop Search.
- The work of the Independent Scrutiny Panel in advising the Constabulary and providing feedback.
- Delivery of the national training package to frontline staff.
- Increased involvement of the OPCC in taking scrutiny and community involvement forward.
- Reduction in Stop Search to around 250-300 per month, however relatively healthy positive outcome rate around 27%.
- 2017 HMIC assessment being positive around quality of grounds and officer understanding of impact on communities.

The report highlighted the 'next steps' for Stop Search –

- Greater links between the Independent Stop Search Panel with OPCC, in order to ensure further independence in the vital work being undertaken by the panel. This has been agreed in principle between the constabulary, Independent Panel and the OPCC. The details and logistics are being worked through.

*Update – OPCC now attend every meeting of the panel and are linked in to all the independent feedback. This has already resulted in the ride along scheme being opened to Independent Custody Visitors (ICVs).*

- Use of Volunteers to support scrutiny and broaden out public engagement across the force.

*Update – ICVs have now been trained at a specially held evening session around Stop Search, BUSS and the constabulary position. An Inspector has been assigned to roll out the Ride Along Scheme in two parts during March – ICVs and members of the wider public. This will be launched on social media where every person will be asked for a range of feedback on not only Stop Search but also on officer interactions with the public.*

- Officer confidence – anecdotally it appears some confidence in using the powers was lost with increased scrutiny. Analytical work has been commissioned recently to better understand this, which will also use officer surveys to gather views and understand if this is indeed an issue.

*Update – An officer survey has been completed and has highlighted the poor national training package and a feeling of scrutiny as being blockers to the effective use of the powers. As a result the force has looked at a HYDRA option*

*in Merseyside and are working with Learning and Development in order to assess the viability in rolling this out. Emerging pressures on operational policing over the coming 6 months make the immediate adoption and roll out of a pilot unrealistic, but it has been agreed that the Constabulary will re-visit this when operationally viable.*

*An Operational group has also been established in order to 'plug the gap' between the Strategic Group, Scrutiny Panel and the frontline. Chaired by an Operations Manager and attended by PCs, Sgts, Police Staff and Inspectors from across the force and various disciplines, the inaugural meeting in December was well attended and received. It was especially useful in delivering the message to supervisors that SMT and Chief Officers were supportive and encouraging in the use of well-directed and intelligence-led Stop and Search. It is intended to move around the BCUs every 2-3 months with this operational meeting. A newsletter is also in development.*

- Re-launch of the Ride Along programme, with greater involvement of co-ordination through the OPCC.

Update – as above.

- Tactical Deployment – analytical work has been commissioned to map out the use of stop and search against Place based issues, OCG activity and crime. A BI Dashboard has been developed which will inform Place leaders and NHP staff about the effectiveness of the power in their area, as well as proportionality / diversity information.

Update – BI product has been further refined following user feedback. Demonstration of the tool given to Operational Group and access broadened out on request. Implementation of Connect in November has stalled the use of the BI product temporarily but background fixes are in progress and almost complete to enable Connect to feed the BI product again.

#### Lancashire Hosted National PPEB Event

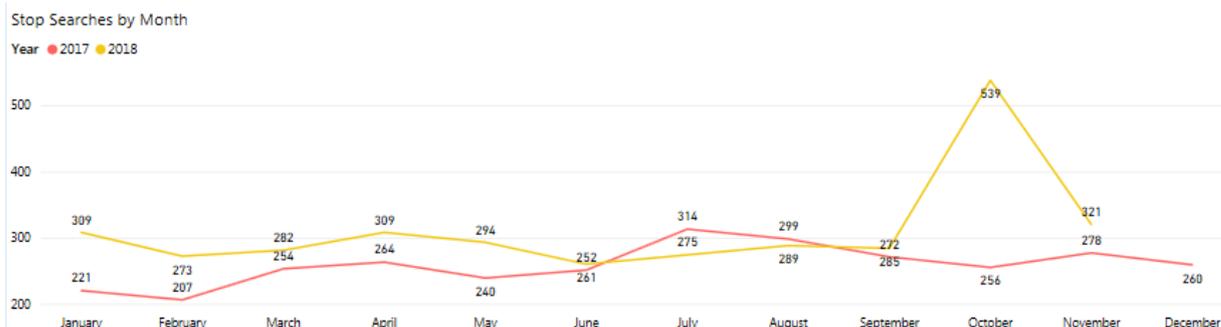
In addition to the above, in December Lancashire Constabulary hosted the national Police and Public Encounters Board (PPEB) event for the North of England at County Hall (sponsored and supported by the OPCC). The event was chaired by DCC Hanstock (BTP) who is the NPCC lead for Stop Search, and attended by ACC Woods from Lancashire.

Forces from across Wales, the Midlands and North of England attended, alongside community group representatives and the Constabulary's own Scrutiny Panel. Key presentations were delivered by Chief Inspector Kitchen for Lancashire on the Constabulary's journey and learning through BUSS, and by Katrina Ffrench who is the Chief Executive of StopWatch. This was an extremely informative and useful event, with a frank yet constructive sharing of views and experiences, in particular around the role of Scrutiny Panels moving forward.

### 3.5. Summary of Performance Data 2018.

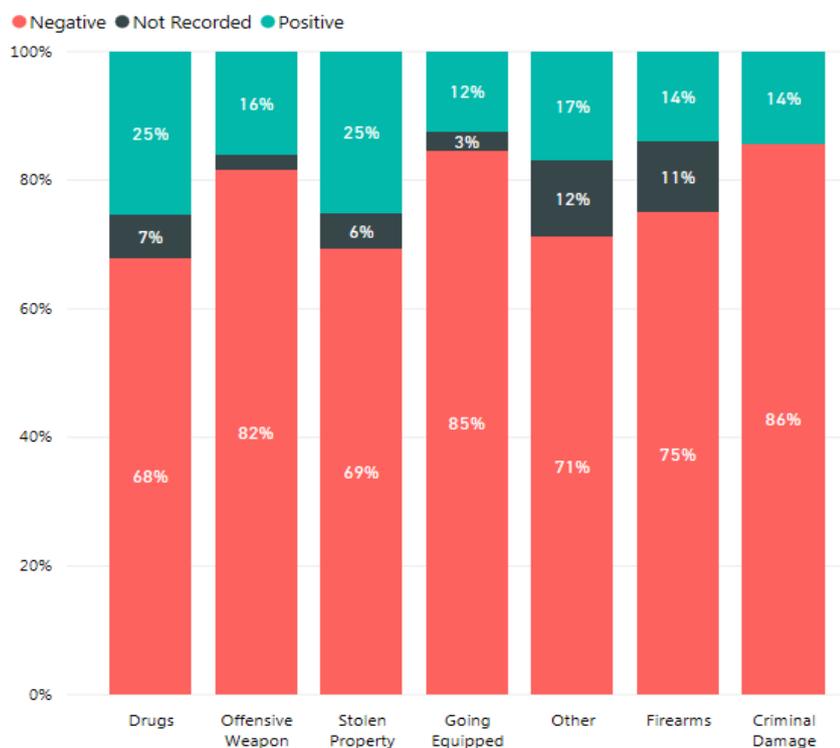
Data is available from January to November. This shows that;

- 3437 searches were conducted during this period (312 per month average). In the comparative period in 2017 Lancashire officers conducted 2857 (259 per month). It is argued that this indicates a significant rise and a return of confidence / ability to task using the new BI tools.



- Drugs searches accounted for 55% of searches, and this level has been consistent for a number of years. Positive outcome rates are healthy at 25% for drugs and stolen property, but lower in other areas, as can be seen below.

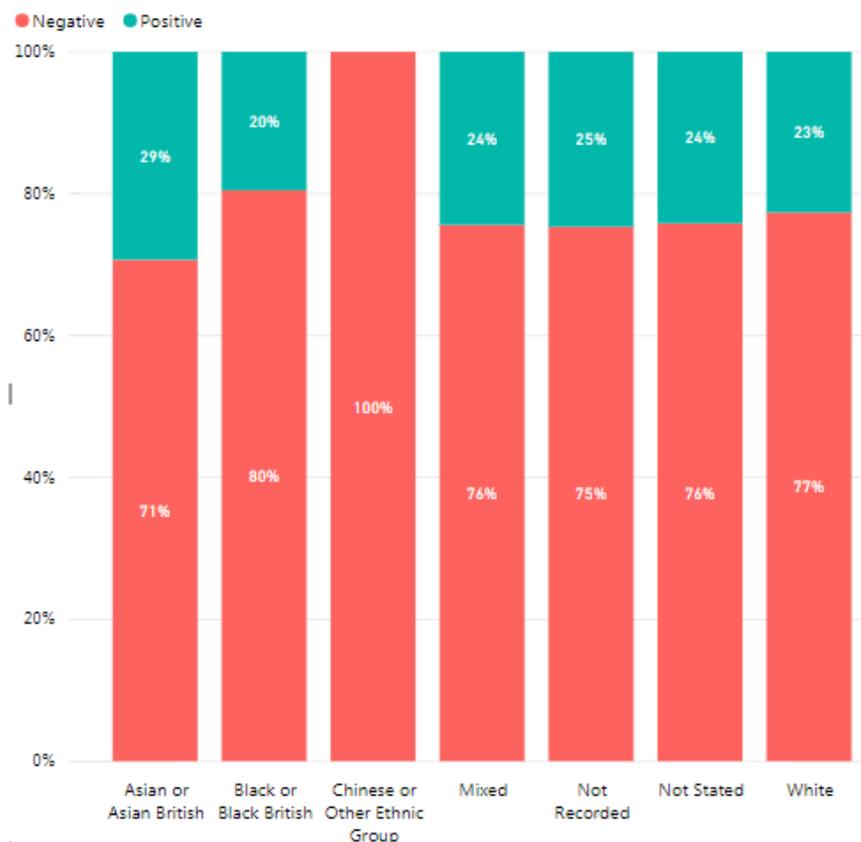
#### Outcome rates



- Proportionality – the development of the BI Dashboard in 2018 started to give the force a richer picture by postcode area on proportionality in terms of use of

the powers involving the BAME community. Early work indicated that when drilled down to this level there was no evidence of disproportionate deployment, however further work to understand the makeup of not only residents of the postcode area, but also the demographics of those visiting and working in those areas was needed. Feedback nationally is that this is an issue all forces wrestle with and there is no true consistent measure or formula in place to accurately assess this. Added to this is the fact the census data is 8 years old.

The Connect link has disabled the postcode functionality and work is underway to resolve this. Therefore the table below is intended to demonstrate that positive outcome rates indicate that BAME searches are no less likely to result in an item being found than White searches – in fact in the case of Asian members of the community the positive outcome rate stands at 29% (opposed to 23% for White). This would indicate no concern that persons targeted for Stop Search are targeted on the basis of reasonable suspicion or intelligence rather than race profile in Lancashire.



### 3.6. Priorities over the coming months are:

- Further development and engagement of the new Operational Group.
- Ensure that the BI product is back to full functionality following the Connect implementation.
- Ride Along launch in March for ICVs and wider community.
- Force wide newsletter.

- Further explore bespoke training opportunities for staff, in particular the Merseyside Hydra approach.

### 3.7. Forthcoming Inspection by Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS):

As part of the forthcoming inspection by HMICFRS the Constabulary provided a sample of 200 search records for review in terms of legitimacy and quality of grounds for search. Supporting documentation evidencing the force’s independent scrutiny approach and corporate governance were also provided.

## 4. Implications

<b>Financial:</b>	None
<b>Legal:</b>	None
<b>Equality Impact Assessment:</b>	None
<b>Risks and Impact:</b>	Increased effectiveness and legitimacy around Stop Search has the impact of preventing and detecting crime, and protecting Lancashire’s communities.
<b>Link to Police and Crime Plan:</b>	Effective and Legitimate use of Stop & Search, and continuous learning and improvement through public interaction and scrutiny are vital components in <i>tackling crime and reoffending, and developing safe and confident communities.</i>

## 5. List of attachments / appendices

None.

## 6. Background Papers

None.