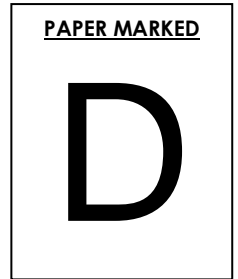


**POLICE AND CRIME
COMMISSIONER FOR
LEICESTERSHIRE**

**ETHICS, INTEGRITY AND
COMPLAINTS COMMITTEE**



Report of	CHIEF CONSTABLE
Subject	STOP SEARCH
Date	FRIDAY 24 MARCH 2017 – 2.00PM
Author	PS GLEN ICETON

Purpose of Report

1. This report provides the Committee with an update on the Stop and Search Progress.

Introduction

2. Recent debates about Stop and Search have focused on whether the use of powers disproportionately affect people from black and minority ethnic groups compared to white people and the reasons for any disparities. The government were so concerned that they instigated the Best Use of Stop Search Scheme for all Police Forces. This was measured by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and was supported with extensive guidance and recommended training courses by the College of Policing.
3. Currently there is discussion around whether the large reductions in the numbers of Stop and Search have contributed to an increase in crime, and in particular Knife Crime, however the evidence base on this is extremely poor. A recent paper released by the College of Policing looking at 10 years of stop and search data from the Metropolitan Police suggests that more stop and searches does mean less crime but the increase in the use of powers is disproportionate to the small reduction achieved.

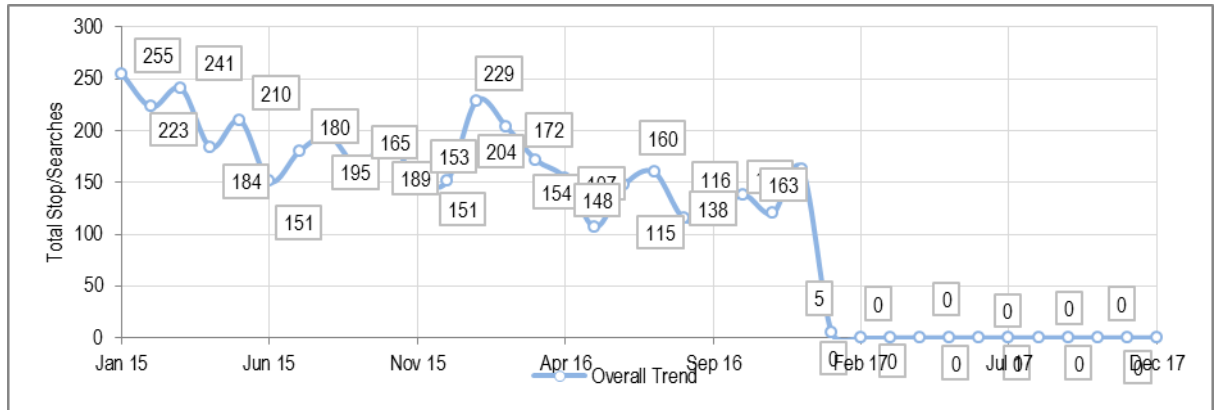
Legislation

4. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) Code A is clear that the purpose of a search requires "reasonable grounds" to enable officers to "confirm or allay suspicions about individuals without exercising the powers of arrest". Despite all the recent noise around Stop and Search the legislation, and what constitutes reasonable grounds, has not changed. There is however greater scrutiny around how the legislation is interpreted. Section 1 of PACE is used for searches for theft and prohibited items, whilst there is also search powers under the Misuse of Drugs Act and the Firearms Act. Most Stop and searches carried out by Leicestershire Police relate to the Misuse of Drugs

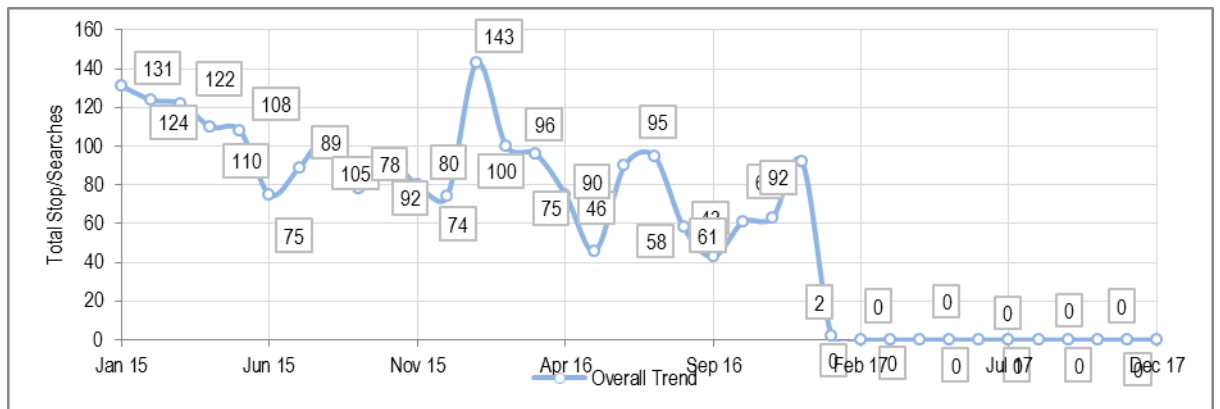
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Act and this is reflected nationally (Table two). The current guidance, popularised by the British Transport Police, is that the smell of Cannabis on its own is not sufficient grounds for search. However difficulties arise when this is reported to an officer by a member of the public who rightly have an expectation that action will be taken.

Stop and Search Figures up to Jan 17- Table one



Stop and Search figures for Drug offences Up till Jan 17 - Table two



Conclusion

5. Leicestershire Police are implementing a range of measures to increase the number of Stop and Searches being conducted whilst also raising the number of positive outcomes and ensuring that the powers are used in an ethical way.
6. Leicestershire Police have set up a web page dedicated to the best use of stop search which includes video resources and guidance on legislation.
7. A positive and peer lead internal media campaign will be run to highlight the good work that is going on around Stop and Search, along with tips and guidance.

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8. In the next few months we will be carrying out a comprehensive training programme for all frontline officers as follows-
- All operational officers and staff (including detectives and specials) to complete 8 E- learning packages designed by the College of Policing and evidence completion/pass with certificate.
 - All Sergeants will complete a one day supervisory stop and search input.
 - Officer Safety Training refreshers are to include a session on "How to undertake a Stop Search."
 - The creation of 6 Stop Search Coaches who will be subject matter experts and will peer review as well as -
 - Receive additional training.
 - Give feedback on Body Worn Video.
 - Support EMCHRS L&D with delivery on sections of training.
 - Be a point of contact and advice for officers and supervisors.
 - Address failures/training/coaching needs.

Implications

Financial : There will be a regional training cost.

Legal: None

Equality Impact Assessment: None

Risks and Impact: None

Link to Police and Crime Plan: No

Communications: None

List of Appendices

None

Background Papers

None

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