

**PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND DIVERSITY COMMITTEE –
14 NOVEMBER 2008**

MONITORING OF STOP AND ACCOUNT AND STOPS AND SEARCHES

REPORT BY THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The purpose of this report is to provide members with statistics for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008 for the purposes of monitoring 'stop and account' and 'stops and searches' during that period.

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Statistics for stop and account and stops and searches appear as a Standing Agenda Item at each meeting of this Committee. These statistics, which are supplied to members on a quarterly basis in the format agreed, are designed to enable members to monitor, assess and keep the Force's use of 'stop and account' and 'stop and search' powers under review.
- 1.2 At the meeting of the Committee on 17 July 2008, members were presented with the first stop and search statistics for the period 1 April 2008 to 31 May 2008.

2. STOP AND SEARCH STATISTICS FOR THE PERIOD 1 APRIL 2008 TO 30 SEPTEMBER 2008

- 2.1 The statistics for the period 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008 are attached to this report at Appendix A. A summary of key issues appears at page 3 of the report.

3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 Members are asked to note the contents of this report.

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Integrity

Professionalism

Fairness

Respect



Stop/Account and Stop/Search Report for April-September 2008

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Date: 22nd October 2008

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1. TERMS OF REFERENCE

This report has been prepared to advise both Dorset Police and Dorset Police Authority on the use of the powers under PACE Code A. The report covers the period 1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008.

2. INTRODUCTION

Stop and Search continues to be a high profile feature of policing that when used fairly is key to the development and maintenance of good relations between the Police and Communities and an effective tool in the prevention and detection in crime.

Following the Stephen Lawrence Inquiry, new guidance was introduced to ensure that Police Forces and Police Authorities publicise people's rights in relation to stop and search, engage communities in publicising the benefits of stop and search, and where there is evidence of disproportionate use, explore the reasons and identify what can be done to remedy it.

3. STOPS AND STOP SEARCHES

The Stephen Lawrence Inquiry defined a 'stop' as follows:

"When a police officer requests a person in a public place to account for themselves, i.e. their actions, behaviour, presence in an area or possession of anything, a record of the encounter must be completed at the time and a copy given to the person who has been questioned."

A stop and search is where an officer stops a person, having reasonable grounds to suspect they are in possession of an item or where a power has been granted under specific legislation and searches that person; these include:

S.1 Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984
S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971
S.47 Firearms Act 1968
S.60 Criminal Justice and Public order Act 1994
S.44 Terrorism Act 2000

The primary purpose of stop and search powers is to enable officers to allay or confirm suspicions about individuals without exercising their power of arrest. Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) 1984 Codes of Practice, Code A, govern how the police exercise their statutory powers of stop and search.

Further information on the roles and responsibilities of the Force and the Police Authority in relation to Stop and Search can be obtained from the www.dpa.police.uk and from the Chief Executive's office.

4. SUMMARY OF KEY ISSUES

Overall a total of 3,550 stop/searches were undertaken in this reporting period, a reduction of 13.4%, equating to 550 searches, on the same 6-month period in 2007/08.

There have been reductions in all ethnic groups, the most significant being a 34.2% reduction, equating to 89 fewer stop/searches of Black & Black British people.

The figures for stop/searches per 1,000 population shows that 4.6 white people per 1,000 population were stop/searched compared to 13.5 people per 1000 population from Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) groups.

Of the total stop/searches, 3113 (87.7%) were on white people and 415 (11.6%) were on those from BME groups. Of all searches on people from BME communities in the Bournemouth and Poole Division, 45% were on black or black British people.

28% of all BME searches in the County Division were recorded as 'Chinese & Other' however; quality assurance checks have indicated that this rise is likely to be attributed to recording errors. (See Data Quality section)

The overall arrest rate following stops and searches is 11.2% (396 arrests). The arrest rate varies across the ethnicity groups, although the pattern in the main falls within an arrest rate in the range of 10 – 15%. National data for stop and search is not collated, thus comparisons to other Forces is not possible.

A total of 1638 stops only (no search) were recorded during this 6-month period, a reduction of 389 (19%) on the 2027 undertaken over the same period in 2007/08.

5. PROFILE OF STOP AND SEARCH

5.1 Number of Stop and Searches April – September 2008

		Force		Bournemouth & Poole Division		County Division	
		No. of Stop & Searches	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. of Stop & Searches	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. of Stop & Searches	Per 1,000 Pop.
Ethnicity	White	3113	4.6	1967	7.0	1146	2.9
	White Non British	74	4.2	57	5.8	17	2.1
	Mixed	76	15.6	60	21.2	16	8.0
	Black & Black British	171	111.0	155	166.4	16	26.8
	Asian & Asian British	47	16.5	44	23.8	3	3.1
	Chinese & Other	47	12.6	27	12.2	20	13.4
	Not Stated	22		9		13	
	Total	3550	5.1	2319	7.8	1231	3.1

A total of 3550 Stop & Searches were conducted during the period April to September 2008. Of these, 3113 stops/searches were recorded as white persons, 4.6 per 1,000 population and 415 were recorded as BME persons (13.5).

Although the rate per 1,000 population for Black and Black British people appears high, this equates to 171 stop searches across the Force, which is less than 1 per day.

Number of Stop & Searches - April to Sept 2007/08 v 2008/09													
		Force				Bournemouth & Poole Division				County Division			
		07/08	08/09	Change		07/08	08/09	Change		07/08	08/09	Change	
				Actual	%			Actual	%			Actual	%
Ethnicity	White	3513	3113	-400	-11.4%	2208	1967	-241	-10.9%	1305	1146	-159	-12.2%
	White Non British	106	74	-32	-30.2%	77	57	-20	-26.0%	29	17	-12	-41.4%
	Mixed	92	76	-16	-17.4%	74	60	-14	-18.9%	18	16	-2	-11.1%
	Black & Black British	260	171	-89	-34.2%	230	155	-75	-32.6%	30	16	-14	-46.7%
	Asian & Asian British	63	47	-16	-25.4%	56	44	-12	-21.4%	7	3	-4	-57.1%
	Chinese & Other	47	47	0	0.0%	32	27	-5	-15.6%	15	20	5	33.3%
	Not Stated	19	22	3	15.8%	13	9	-4	-30.8%	6	13	7	116.7%
Total		4100	3550	-550	-13.4%	2690	2319	-371	-13.8%	1410	1231	-179	-12.7%

Of the 415 BME stop searches the breakdown by ethnic groups indicates 171 on Black & Black British, 76 on Mixed, 74 on White non-British, 47 of Asian & Asian British and 47 on Chinese & Other.

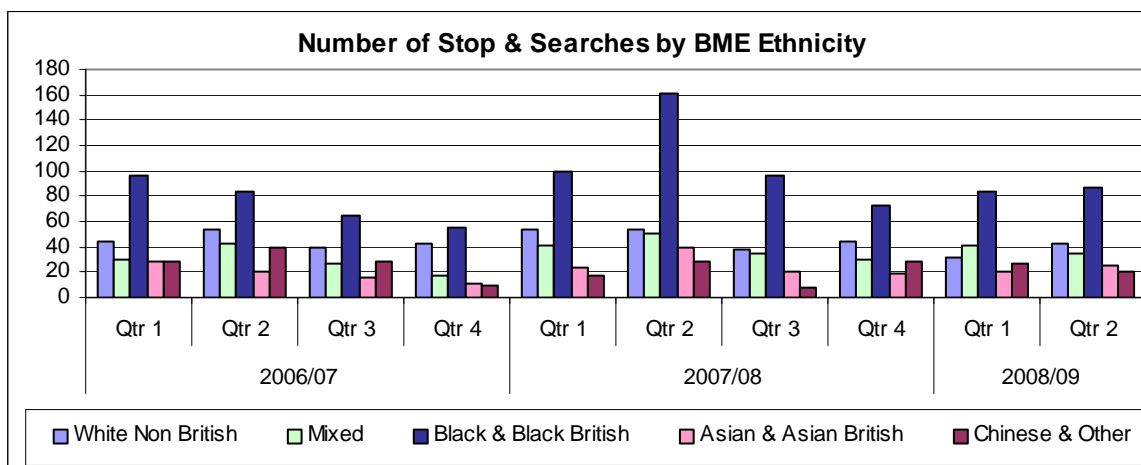
There has been a reduction in all categories, the largest being a reduction of 34.2% for Black and Black British people.

		Force		Bournemouth & Poole Division		County Division	
		No. of Stop & Searches	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. of Stop & Searches	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. of Stop & Searches	Per 1,000 Pop.
Gender	Male	3148	9.3	2056	14.3	1092	5.6
	Female	376	1.0	253	1.6	123	0.6
	Unknown	26		10		16	
Age	Under 25	1832	9.5	1058	12.3	774	7.3
	25 - 44	1458	8.8	1079	13.6	379	4.4
	45 - 64	199	1.1	146	2.0	53	0.5
	65 +	8	0.1	6	0.1	2	0.0
	Unknown	53		30		23	

88.7% of those subject to Stop & Search are male. The age profile indicates that 51.6% are conducted with people under the age of 25 years old.

In Bournemouth and Poole Division 46% of searches were on people 25-44 and 45% on people under 25 years. In County Division 31% were on people 25-44 and 63% on people under 25 years.

The following table illustrates a quarter on quarter comparison of stops searches by ethnicity.



Stop and Search by Reason April – September 2008

Force	Search Reason												Grand Total
	Stolen Property	%	Drugs	%	Firearms	%	Offensive Weapons	%	Going Equipped	%	Criminal Damage	%	
White	681	21.9%	1755	56.4%	20	0.6%	226	7.3%	276	8.9%	155	5.0%	3113
White Non British	10	13.5%	46	62.2%	1	1.4%	5	6.8%	9	12.2%	3	4.1%	74
Mixed	9	11.8%	46	60.5%	2	2.6%	11	14.5%	5	6.6%	3	3.9%	76
Black & Black British	24	14.0%	118	69.0%	1	0.6%	20	11.7%	7	4.1%	1	0.6%	171
Asian & Asian British	10	21.3%	28	59.6%	2	4.3%	7	14.9%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	47
Chinese & Other	10	21.3%	27	57.4%	3	6.4%	5	10.6%	2	4.3%	0	0.0%	47
Not Stated	10	45.5%	8	36.4%	0	0.0%	2	9.1%	2	9.1%	0	0.0%	22
Grand Total	754	21.2%	2028	57.1%	29	0.8%	276	7.8%	301	8.5%	162	4.6%	3550

The reasons for stop searches are indicated in the table above. It is notable that drugs were the reason for all stop/searches in 57.1% of all cases.

Number of Stop & Searches by Reason - April to Sept 2007/08 v 2008/09

	Stolen Property			Drugs			Firearms			Offensive Weapons			Going Equipped			Criminal Damage		
	07/08	08/09	%	07/08	08/09	%	07/08	08/09	%	07/08	08/09	%	07/08	08/09	%	07/08	08/09	%
White	865	681	-21.3%	1934	1755	-9.3%	38	20	-47.4%	310	226	-27.1%	207	276	33.3%	159	155	-2.5%
White Non British	32	10	-68.8%	52	46	-11.5%	2	1	-50.0%	14	5	-64.3%	5	9	80.0%	1	3	200.0%
Mixed	21	9	-57.1%	46	46	0.0%	3	2	-33.3%	14	11	-21.4%	4	5	25.0%	4	3	-25.0%
Black & Black British	34	24	-29.4%	204	118	-42.2%	3	1	-66.7%	14	20	42.9%	4	7	75.0%	1	1	0.0%
Asian & Asian British	12	10	-16.7%	26	28	7.7%	4	2	-50.0%	17	7	-58.8%	3	0	-100.0%	1	0	-100.0%
Chinese & Other	15	10	-33.3%	17	27	58.8%	2	3	50.0%	11	5	-54.5%	2	2	0.0%	0	0	-
Not Stated	5	10	100.0%	12	8	-33.3%	0	0	-	1	2	100.0%	1	2	100.0%	0	0	-
Total	984	754	-23.4%	2291	2028	-11.5%	52	29	-44.2%	381	276	-27.6%	226	301	33.2%	166	162	-2.4%

The table shows there has been a decrease of 42.2% of drugs searches on people who are Black or Black British. The data shows an increase of 58.8% of drugs searches on

people recorded as “Chinese – other” however there is concern about the accuracy of the data in this category of recording. (See Data Quality section)

There is an overall decrease in the searches for offensive weapons but a 42.9% increase in these searches on people who are recorded as black or black British.

5.3 Stop and Search Divisional Comment

Bournemouth & Poole Division:

There have been no operations that would have had any impact on these figures. It has been noted that there has been a reduction in all stop searches.

County Division:

The reporting officers described sixteen persons as either Black/Caribbean or Black/African; these searches represent 1.9% of the total undertaken. Most of these persons described themselves as resident, but at least half of them gave home addresses outside the county. It is therefore possible that they do not appear in the census population data. There is no current definition of “Resident” therefore this disparity may be due to individual officer interpretation.

There were 20 persons searched who were described by officers as ‘Other – Chinese’. Further investigation revealed that only 5 of these persons self-classified themselves as Chinese and it is extremely likely a significant data error has occurred as a result of officers using the wrong description code. The Command Team have undertaken a detailed review and are satisfied that at least 15, and more probably 19 of these persons are in fact White British. This issue will be addressed with the officers concerned. If this recording error is taken into account, a total of 40 (4.6%) of the persons searched were from visible ethnic minority groups, which make up 1.3% of the resident population in Dorset County Division.

Over half of the searches undertaken in the County Division resulted from an incident being reported by the public and as such the reporting officer may not necessarily have initiated the encounter.

In the year to date, fewer searches have been conducted than during the same period last year. There does not appear to be any obvious reason for this reduction.

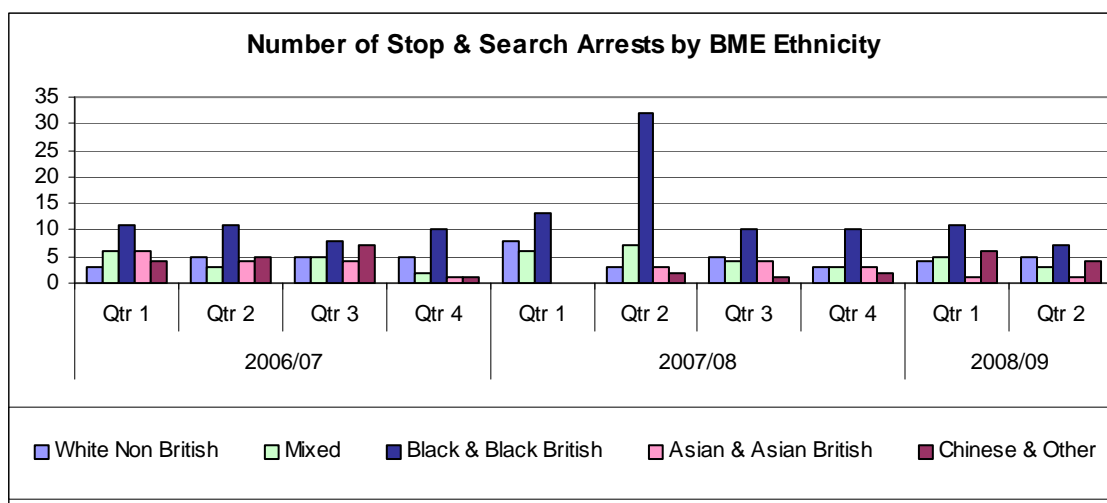
5.4 Number of Arrests following Stop and Search April – September 2008

		Force		Bournemouth & Poole Division		County Division	
		No. of Arrests	% Arrest Rate	No. of Arrests	% Arrest Rate	No. of Arrests	% Arrest Rate
Ethnicity	White	345	11.1%	204	10.4%	141	12.3%
	White Non British	9	12.2%	5	8.8%	4	23.5%
	Mixed	8	10.5%	6	10.0%	2	12.5%
	Black & Black British	18	10.5%	15	9.7%	3	18.8%
	Asian & Asian British	2	4.3%	2	4.5%	0	0.0%
	Chinese & Other	10	21.3%	4	14.8%	6	30.0%
	Not Stated	4	18.2%	2	22.2%	2	15.4%
	Total	396	11.2%	238	10.3%	158	12.8%

The overall arrest rate for Stops searches is 11.2% (396 total arrests) which does vary slightly across the ethnicity groups, although in general the pattern remain consistent with an arrest rate in the range of 10 - 15%.

		Force		Bournemouth & Poole Division		County Division	
		No. of Arrests	% Arrest Rate	No. of Arrests	% Arrest Rate	No. of Arrests	% Arrest Rate
Gender	Male	364	11.6%	218	10.6%	146	13.4%
	Female	28	7.4%	18	7.1%	10	8.1%
	Unknown	4	15.4%	2	20.0%	2	12.5%
Age	Under 25	175	9.6%	82	7.8%	93	12.0%
	25 - 44	188	12.9%	136	12.6%	52	13.7%
	45 - 64	26	13.1%	16	11.0%	10	18.9%
	65 +	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
	Unknown	7	13.2%	4	13.3%	3	13.0%

Of the 396 total arrests, 92% were males, 44% were people under 25 years and 47% were people between the ages of 25 and 44.



5.5 Number of Stops Only April – September 2008

		Force		Bournemouth & Poole Division		County Division	
		No. of Stops Only	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. of Stops Only	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. of Stops Only	Per 1,000 Pop.
Ethnicity	White	1536	2.3	785	2.8	751	1.9
	White Non British	31	1.7	17	1.7	14	1.8
	Mixed	21	4.3	14	4.9	7	3.5
	Black & Black British	24	15.6	20	21.5	4	6.7
	Asian & Asian British	15	5.3	10	5.4	5	5.1
	Chinese & Other	8	2.1	3	1.4	5	3.4
	Not Stated	3		1		2	
Total	1638	2.3	850	2.9	788	2.0	

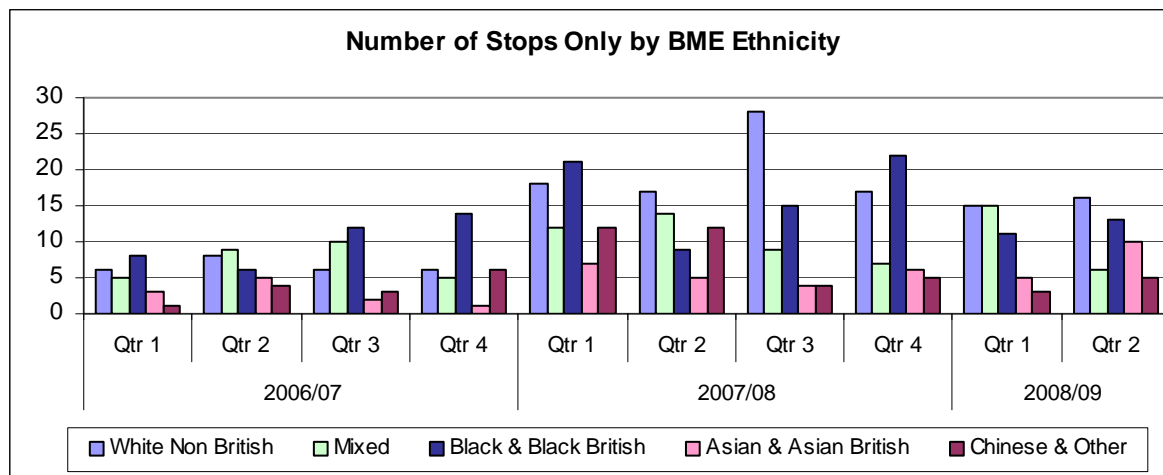
Number of Stops Only - April to Sept 2007/08 v 2008/09													
		Force				Bournemouth & Poole Division				County Division			
		07/08	08/09	Change	%	07/08	08/09	Change	%	07/08	08/09	Change	%
Ethnicity	White	1886	1536	-350	-18.6%	1142	785	-357	-31.3%	744	751	7	0.9%
	White Non British	35	31	-4	-11.4%	25	17	-8	-32.0%	10	14	4	40.0%
	Mixed	26	21	-5	-19.2%	14	14	0	0.0%	12	7	-5	-41.7%
	Black & Black British	30	24	-6	-20.0%	23	20	-3	-13.0%	7	4	-3	-42.9%
	Asian & Asian British	12	15	3	25.0%	8	10	2	25.0%	4	5	1	25.0%
	Chinese & Other	24	8	-16	-66.7%	10	3	-7	-70.0%	14	5	-9	-64.3%
	Not Stated	15	3	-12	-80.0%	9	1	-8	-88.9%	6	2	-4	-66.7%
Total	2028	1638	-390	-19.2%	1231	850	-381	-31.0%	797	788	-9	-1.1%	

There has been a total of 1638 stops conducted during this 6-month period; a reduction of 389 (19%) on the 2027 undertaken over the same period in 2007/08.

6% of the people stopped were from BME groups with the highest rate per 1,000 population being Black & Black British.

		Force		Bournemouth & Poole Division		County Division	
		No. of Stops Only	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. of Stops Only	Per 1,000 Pop.	No. of Stops Only	Per 1,000 Pop.
Gender	Male	1385	4.1	719	5.0	666	3.4
	Female	249	0.7	129	0.8	120	0.6
	Unknown	4		2		2	
Age	Under 25	1113	5.8	506	5.9	607	5.7
	25 - 44	381	2.3	262	3.3	119	1.4
	45 - 64	106	0.6	72	1.0	34	0.3
	65 +	18	0.1	4	0.1	14	0.1
	Unknown	20		6		14	

Stops only follow a similar pattern to Stop & Searches with the majority being males and persons aged under 25



5.6 Reason for Stop Only April – September 2008

Force	Actions	%	Behaviour in an Area	%	Presence in Area	%	Possession of Anything	%	Not Stated	%	Grand Total
White	174	11.3%	591	38.5%	556	36.2%	193	12.6%	22	1.4%	1536
White Non British	5	16.1%	9	29.0%	16	51.6%	1	3.2%	0	0.0%	31
Mixed	2	9.5%	6	28.6%	9	42.9%	3	14.3%	1	4.8%	21
Black & Black British	3	12.5%	8	33.3%	12	50.0%	1	4.2%	0	0.0%	24
Asian & Asian British	1	6.7%	3	20.0%	10	66.7%	1	6.7%	0	0.0%	15
Chinese & Other	2	25.0%	3	37.5%	3	37.5%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	8
Not Stated	2	66.7%	1	33.3%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	0	0.0%	3
Grand Total	189	11.5%	621	37.9%	606	37.0%	199	12.1%	23	1.4%	1638

The reason for Stops are split into 4 categories, 37.9% for Behaviour in an Area, 37% for Presence in Area, 12% for Possession of Anything and 11.5% for Actions. The small numbers of people stopped in all categories except white persons stopped make it difficult to draw any conclusions from the data.

5.7 Resident/Student/Visitor

At present there is no Force definition of "Resident". The Street Interventions Working Group is addressing this, which may have an impact on the data presented in future reports. It is important to recognise that those interactions relating to visitors have an impact on the comparisons made, as visitors are not included in the Census data, and more recent population estimates do not provide ethnicity data.

Ethnicity	Resident	Visitor	Student	Not Recorded	TOTAL
White	2,773	30	195	115	3,113
White Non British	57	6	10	1	74
Mixed	64	0	10	2	76
Black & Black British	133	1	27	10	171
Asian & Asian British	27	3	11	6	47
Chinese & Other	41	0	5	1	47
Not Stated	3	0	0	19	22
TOTAL	3,098	40	258	154	3,550

The majority of stop/searches (87%) are conducted on residents. This does vary across the ethnic groups. The profile of stops searches by Resident/Student/Visitors indicates that overall 1.1% of stop searches are on students and 7.3% on Visitors with detail not recorded 4.3% of cases.

County Division Comment:

The reporting officers described sixteen persons as either Black/Caribbean or Black/African. These searches represent 1.9% of the total carried out. Most of these persons described themselves as resident but at least half of them gave home addresses outside the county.

5.8 Data Quality

	Bournemouth & Poole Division		County Division		Force	
	Stop Search	Stop Account	Stop Search	Stop Account	Stop Search	Stop Account
Ethnicity	9	1	13	2	22	3
Gender	10	2	16	2	26	4
Age	30	6	23	14	53	20
Reason						23
Total	49	9	52	18	101	50

The figures shown above represent the missing data under each category and not inaccurate recording. Whilst the absence of data affects analysis, it is the ethnicity data that is of particular importance in monitoring apparent disproportionality.

Through increased data quality scrutiny, recording errors have been identified and are being addressed. For example, the published data shows an increase in stops in the 'Chinese – other' category. It has been established that this is due to the incorrect usage of codes O1 and W1 therefore distorting the figures.

In Bournemouth and Poole Division the Divisional Operations Unit now receives all completed forms. The supervisor extracts intelligence to brief the daily intelligence meetings; this has resulted in positive outcomes in terms of early arrests of suspects. More recently a further supervisory check is being undertaken of all forms for accuracy and correct completion. The supervisor feeds back any concerns around specific stop searches to the local supervision and during tailored training inputs. In addition, the inputting of the forms onto the force database has been streamlined with specific training provided to those responsible to improve data quality.

6. INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY

Bournemouth & Poole Division: There has been no scrutiny during this reporting period.

County Division: Ferndown and Weymouth Independent Advisory Groups continue to scrutinise Stop Search forms. However there is no update from either group as to sample numbers over this reporting period.

7. COMPLAINTS DATA

There have been five complaints against Police since 1 September 2007 that are directly related to a stop and search on the street. All complainants were White British.