STOP & SEARCH

Quarter 2 Jul 26 – Sep 26

Berkshire East C/Supt Stuart Bosley

Total number of stops

Last 3 months	Same period last year
891	783

Times item was found

Last 3 months	Same period last year
377 42%	349 45%

During Q2 2026, Berkshire East officers conducted 891 stop searches, representing a 14% increase compared to the same period in 2025 (783). This reflects a proactive approach to preventing crime, disrupting offenders and keeping the public safe. Officers located the item sought, or another prohibited item in 377 searches (42%), resulting in arrests, community resolutions and the disruption of criminal activity. Drug-related offences remained the primary driver for stop and search activity.

Following a series of weapon-related violent incidents, a Section 60 authority was introduced on 30th September 2026 and extended from 12 to 24 hours to prevent further violence and reassure the public. During the authority period, seven stop searches were conducted, resulting in four arrests, with no further related incidents of violence reported. This demonstrates the targeted and proportionate use of stop and search powers in response to emerging threats.

The Community Scrutiny Panel reviewed three pieces of BWV footage and provided positive feedback regarding officer professionalism and engagement. The panel highlighted opportunities for learning, including providing clearer explanations of the purpose of S60 powers, the rationale for searches to look for weapons and where appropriate the use of handcuffs. This learning will be shared through LCU briefings. PPST Trainer PC Stuart Edward attended the CSP meeting to answer questions and feedback again was positive. No child EIP were identified during Q2.

The most common reason for searching was drugs followed by stolen goods, offensive weapons and bladed articles. The most common outcomes were no further action, community resolution and arrest .The increase in community resolution outcomes compared with the previous quarter demonstrates continued use of proportionate and effective out-of-court disposals where appropriate. Adults accounted for 87% of all stop searches, with 13% involving persons under the age of 18. Individuals aged 18-34 represented 58% of all persons searched. In terms of self-defined ethnicity, those searched identified as White (48%), Asian (29%), Black (14%), Mixed (5%) and Other (4%). The black disproportionality rate is 4.8 compared to the Force rate of 5.31 and oversight arrangements remain in place to ensure stop and search powers continue to be used effectively and proportionately through monthly reviews.

Reason for stop

Article - criminal damage searches	17	(2.0%)
Drugs	585	(65.7%)
Bladed Article	54	(6.1%)
Going equipped for theft	53	(5.9%)
Offensive weapon	77	(8.6%)
Stolen goods	100	(11.2%)
S. 60 CJPOA	7	

Most frequent outcomes of stop

Arrest	74	(8.0%)
Caution - simple/conditional	3	(0.3%)
Community resolution	175	(20%)
Voluntary attendance/discretion	45	(5.1%)
No further action	576	(65%)
Drug warning /PND	14	(1.6%)
Summons/Seizures	2	

Age of individual stopped

Under 18	Over 18
115	776

S.60 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act

Last 3 months	Previous 3 months
1 Order	0 Order

Ethnicity of individual stopped

White	432	(48%)
Black	126	(14%)
Asian	258	(29%)
Mixed ethnicity	44	(4.9%)
Other	31	(3.6%)
Not Stated	227	(25%)

Location Population 436,596

White 286,945
Asian 103,048
Mixed 15,384
Black 17,353
Other 13,866