STOP & SEARCH

Quarter 2
Jul 26 – Sep 26

Oxfordshire C/Supt Ben Clark

Total number of stops

Last 3 months	Same period last year
936	1,052

Times item was found

Last 3 months	Same period last year
490	504
52.3%	47.91%

During Q2 2026 Oxfordshire officers conducted 936 stop and searches - the highest volume across TVP, albeit a reduction from 1,052 during the same period last year. Despite the reduction in activity, effectiveness remained strong, with 490 searches resulting in either the item sought or another illicit item being located, giving Oxfordshire the highest overall find rate across Thames Valley Police at 52.3%. A total of 110 searches resulted in arrest (the highest number across TVP), alongside 172 Community Resolutions and 36 Voluntary Attendances.

There was 1 Section 60 authorisation during this period, implemented for a period of 12 hours in Banbury on 13 August 2026. The purpose of this order was to prevent serious violence, recover any potential weapons and protect those at risk of harm. No searches were conducted whilst the power was in force, but Section 60 remains an important measure that is regularly considered to target incidents of serious violence/disorder.

Drug-related searches continued to account for most activity, reflecting continued proactive activity focused on disrupting drug supply, county lines and associated criminality. Body Worn Video compliance remained high at 96.58%, supporting accountability, transparency and public confidence in the use of powers.

Oxfordshire maintains a strong and developing scrutiny process, supported by an independent scrutiny panel and local officer feedback mechanisms. During the quarter, five under-18 Exposure of Intimate Parts searches were reviewed. The reviews identified appropriate authorisation, safeguarding referrals, Appropriate Adult involvement and supervisory oversight, with no concerns identified regarding the lawfulness or proportionality of the searches.

Disproportionality remains an area of focus, particularly in relation to Black individuals where the relative rate index was 8.15 during Q2. Internal and community scrutiny continues to examine the factors potentially contributing to this disparity. Positive outcome rates and grounds quality remain central considerations within the scrutiny reviews. Oxfordshire is undertaking further review work focused on Black subject drug searches to better understand operational drivers and ensure that powers continue to be exercised fairly.

Reason for stop

Drugs	629	(67.2%)
Stolen Goods	121	(12.9%)
Offensive Weapon	66	(7.1%)
Bladed Article	63	(6.7%)
Going Equipped	46	(4.9%)
Article- Criminal Damage	7	(0.7%)
Firearms	1	(0.1%)

Most frequent outcomes of stop

Arrest	110	(11.80%)
Caution - conditional	5	(0.54%)
Community resolution	172	(18.45%)
No further action	540	(57.94%)
Voluntary attendance	36	(3.86%)

Age of individual stopped

Under 18	Over 18
153	783

S.60 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act

Last 3 months	Previous 3 months
1 Order	0 Orders

Ethnicity of individual stopped

White	614	(65.5%)
Black	118	(12.6%)
Asian	124	(13.2%)
Mixed ethnicity	52	(5.5%)
Other	29	(3.1%)
Not Stated	178	(19%)

Location Population
725,280

White	630,090
Asian	46,379
Mixed	22,634
Black	14,850
Other	11,327