

STOP & SEARCH

Quarter 1
Apr – Jun 26

OXFORDSHIRE Chief Superintendent
Ben Clark

Total number of stops

Last 3 months

863

Same period last
year

1203

Times item was found

Last 3 months

432
50.06%

Same period last
year

476
39.57%

The number of stop and search encounters in Oxfordshire has decreased by 28.2% compared with the same period last year. Despite this reduction, the overall find rate has improved from 39.6% to 50.1%, indicating more targeted use of powers. Searches involving children have also fallen by 34.9% since Quarter 4.

Drug related searches remain the most common reason for search activity, accounting for 59.6% of all searches during the quarter. There were no Section 60 authorisations in Oxfordshire during this period.

As part of ongoing quality assurance and transparency measures, supervisors reviewed 128 stop and search Body Worn Video recordings and Oxfordshire’s Community Scrutiny Panel independently reviewed eight stop and search encounters alongside three for Use of Force incidents. Feedback focused on accurate recording, effective communication during encounters and community engagement, with learning shared across operational teams.

Disproportionality remains an area of focus. Black individuals continue to experience the highest level of disproportionality within Oxfordshire, with the ratio increasing from 7.39 in Q4 to 8.83 in Q1. Detailed analysis has identified drugs searches, particularly drugs supply searches and officer-led (high discretion) searches, as key contributors. Repeat searches of the same individuals also contribute to the observed disproportionality, particularly amongst Black communities. Analysis indicates that some disproportionality is linked to targeted operational activity and proactive policing activity directed towards drug supply offences. While searches of black individuals achieved a comparable find rate to white individuals (48.31% compared with 48.85%), the scale of disproportionality means enhanced oversight and scrutiny of high-discretion searches remains a priority. The Local Command Unit continues to monitor stop and search activity to ensure powers are used fairly and proportionately.

Reason for stop

Drugs	514	(59.6%)
Stolen goods	138	(16%)
Bladed Article	70	(8.1%)
Going equipped for theft	67	(7.8%)
Offensive weapon	51	(5.9%)
Firearms	9	(1%)
Article – criminal damage	9	(1%)
Poaching	3	(0.3%)
Fireworks	1	(0.1%)
S. 60 CJPOA	0	(0%)

Most frequent outcomes of stop

No further action	516	(59.8%)
Community resolution	154	(17.8%)
Arrested	85	(9.8%)
Police discretion	58	(6.7%)
Voluntary attendance	31	(3.6%)
Detention under MH Act	7	(0.8%)

Age of individual stopped

Under 18

127

Over 18

653

S.60 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act

Last 3 months

0 Orders

Previous 3 months

0 Orders

Ethnicity of individual stopped

White	523	(67.05%)
Black	104	(13.33%)
Asian	96	(12.31%)
Mixed ethnicity	37	(4.74%)
Other	35	(4.49%)
Not Stated	163	(18.9%)

Location Population
725,280

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