



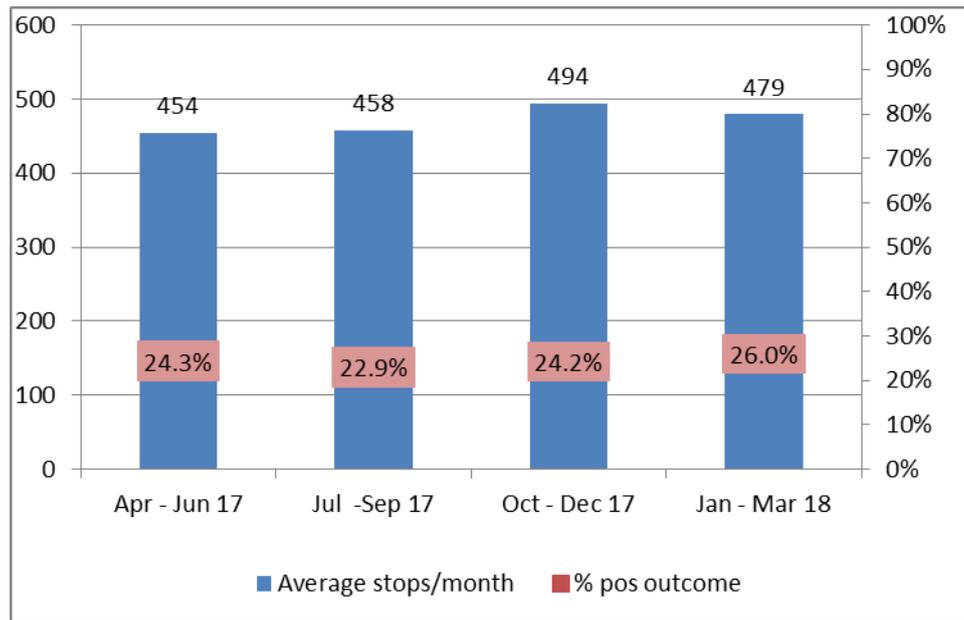
## **Quarterly Stop and Search Bulletin**

**January – March 2018**

**Chief Superintendent Ian Smith**

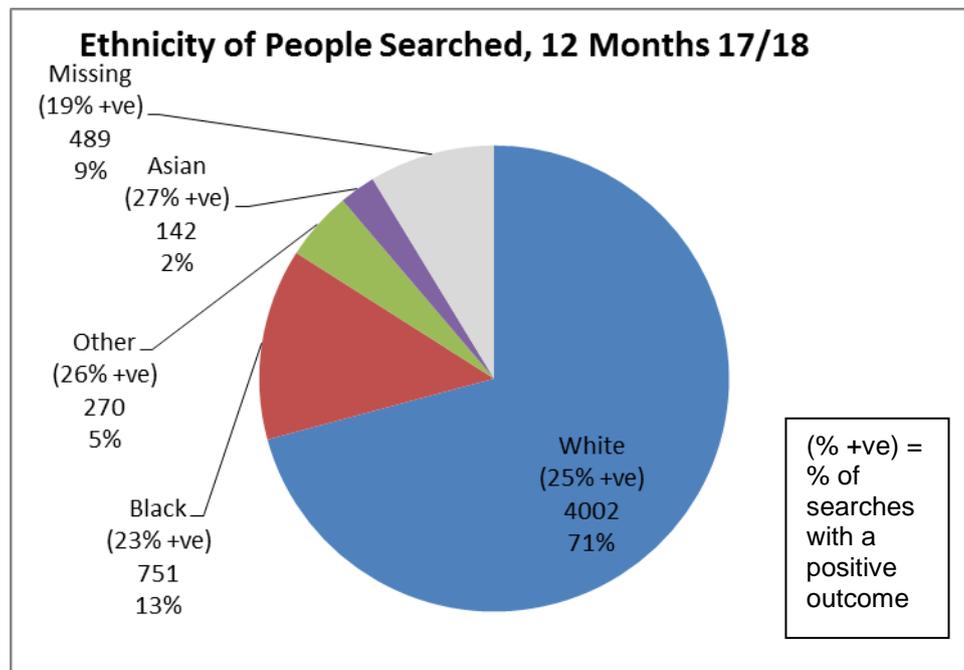
**Matthew Scribbins**

## People searched by quarter since April 2017



The above chart shows the number of searches has remained stable, with an average of just under 500 searches per month. This quarter has seen a small rise in the percentage of positive outcomes which is pleasing to note. For the last two years positive outcomes average out at around 25%.

## People searched by ethnicity

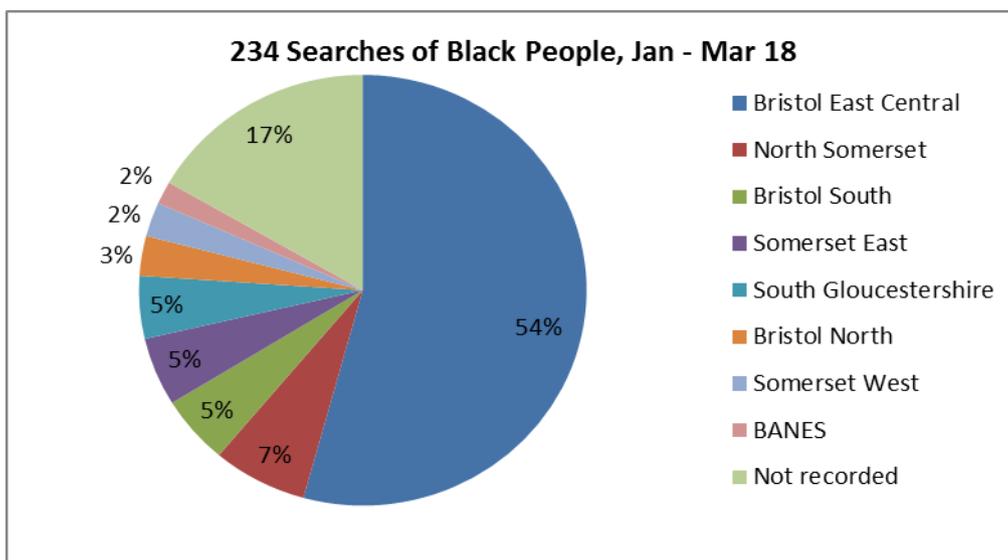
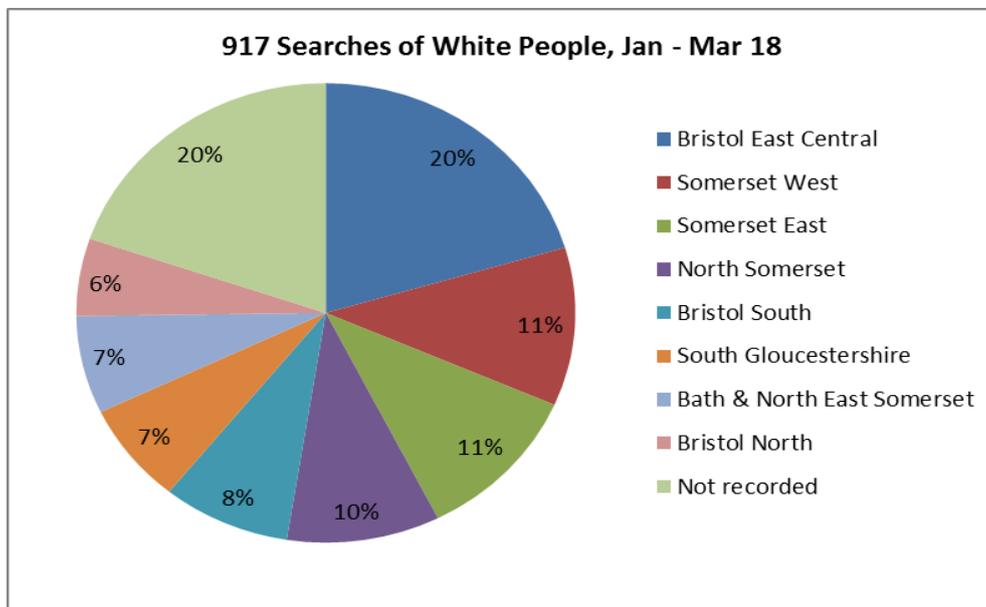


The above chart shows some minor differences to last quarter's results. There is an increase of white searches to 71% (was 65%) and a decrease with black searches reducing to 13% (was 16%). Asian searches have reduced by 2% and 'others' and

'missing' remain similar. The 10% of records which are missing ethnicity data, which later get corrected via the new officer Qlik app, shows the vast majority of 'missing data' will be of white ethnicity, taking the overall percentage of white searches to nearer the 80% figure. The pie chart also has the percentages of positive outcomes per ethnicity grouping which shows that the two main groups of white and black searches have similar positive outcome rates of 25% and 23% respectively, with Asian searches at 27%.

### Location of Searches by Ethnicity (Jan – March 18)

The pattern of white persons searched is spread more proportionately across the policing areas, with the largest activity in Bristol East, a clear drugs market. With black person searches the data clearly shows the vast majority taking place in Bristol East, with a relatively much smaller percentage across Somerset.

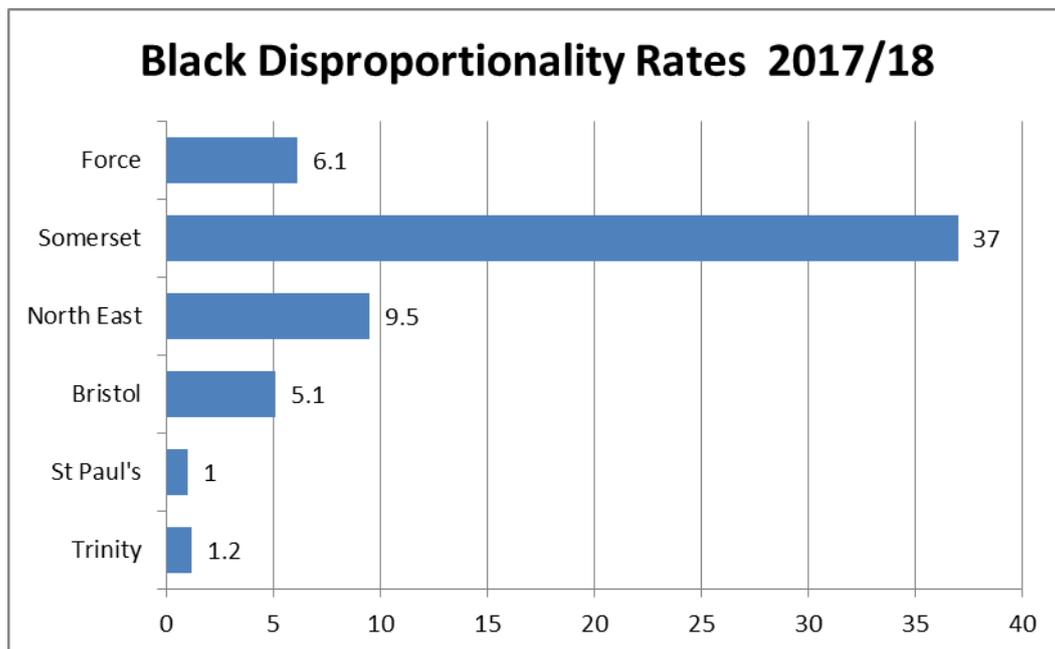


## Most searched individuals and Intelligence context

As discussed in the last quarter's report, Intelligence and the Grounds for Search are key in understanding overall numbers, locations and also ethnicity. We are satisfied that the grounds for searching are good and recorded well, with HMIC being satisfied that over 98% of all grounds were reasonable, but statistically we see disproportionality in ethnicity. This disproportionality appears stark at a force wide level (see bar graph below), but decreases when statistically the same overall figures are narrowed in on specific geographical areas or at the beat level. This can be shown clearly on the below bar graph concerning the Trinity and St Pauls beats. Most importantly it is the breakdown of intelligence and a greater understanding of the operational context that helps us to understand stop and search and ethnicity disparity more.

It is this sort of operational context which should drive our analysis and understanding of stop and search. This sort of data check can be run for all areas and be broken down into different ways according to the request made.

Statistically, the below graph shows at a force level black people are six point one times more likely to be stopped than white people. This is based on total population, and thus does not take account of the age of the population, specific locations or beats or the fact that people are stopped away from their home address.



As already stated disparity between ethnicity changes according to geographical location dependent on operational context and localised demographics. Somerset clearly stands out concerning disparity. We have looked at all 134 records where black people were stopped in Somerset in the 12 months of 2017/18. This is to aid our understanding of the disproportionality that is apparent in the figures.

We found the following:

- 40 of the black people stopped were Avon and Somerset residents – of these, 33 were Somerset residents (including North Somerset) – the other 7 had Bristol addresses.
- 65 lived outside the force area – mostly from London (48) but also from West Mids, Scotland, Kent, Essex, GMP, East Sussex and Dorset.
- 29 had no address – either they were No Fixed Abode, or they didn't give an address; or we didn't record it properly.

Many of the 65 non-residents searched were involved in County Lines Drugs Operations.

It is also worth noting that people may give false addresses; and also that some may give an address that is somewhere they are 'cuckooing' (using for 'Dealing purposes') – both of these may distort the figures.

## Wider Issues to Report This Quarter

### How many stops are for weapons?

Weapon based searches are a smaller but significant percentage of the overall stop and search numbers. On average, 57 searches per month are for weapons – this constitutes 12 per cent of all searches. The table below shows how this has varied over the last year. Over the 12 months 17/18, searches for weapons have a 22% positive outcome rate overall.

Month	Apr 17	May 17	Jun 17	Jul 17	Aug 17	Sep 17	Oct 17	Nov 17	Dec 17	Jan 18	Feb 18	Mar 18	Total
Number of searches for Firearms/ Offensive Weapons	58	56	63	60	63	37	55	74	43	58	48	65	680
These as % of all searches	13.8	12.3	13.0	13.3	13.5	8.1	11.7	15.4	8.2	11.0	9.2	16.8	12.0

**Training** – The New Stop & Search training discussed in last quarter's report has commenced in Bristol. All staff at Trinity Road Police Station received the training in April and will be rolled out across the force through the summer. The training which refreshes officers with the legislation and use of Body worn cameras also covers the 'perceptions' of Stop and Search within communities and the impact on individuals stopped.