

# GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE, FIRE & CRIME PANEL

Date: 12 June 2023  
Subject: Stop and Search  
Report of: Assistant Chief Constable Chris Sykes

---

## Purpose of Report

The purpose of this report is to update members of the Panel on current performance relating to volumes of stop and search, including positive outcomes and work underway to understand and address ethnicity disproportionality.

## Recommendations:

The Panel is requested to:

1. Note the contents of the report.

## Contact Officers

Superintendent Phil Spurgeon

[Phil.Spurgeon@gmp.police.uk](mailto:Phil.Spurgeon@gmp.police.uk)

BOLTON  
BURY

MANCHESTER  
OLDHAM

ROCHDALE  
SALFORD

STOCKPORT  
TAMESIDE

TRAFFORD  
WIGAN

## **Equalities Impact, Carbon and Sustainability Assessment:**

None to note.

## **Risk Management**

None to note.

## **Legal Considerations**

None to note.

## **Financial Consequences – Revenue**

None to note.

## **Financial Consequences – Capital**

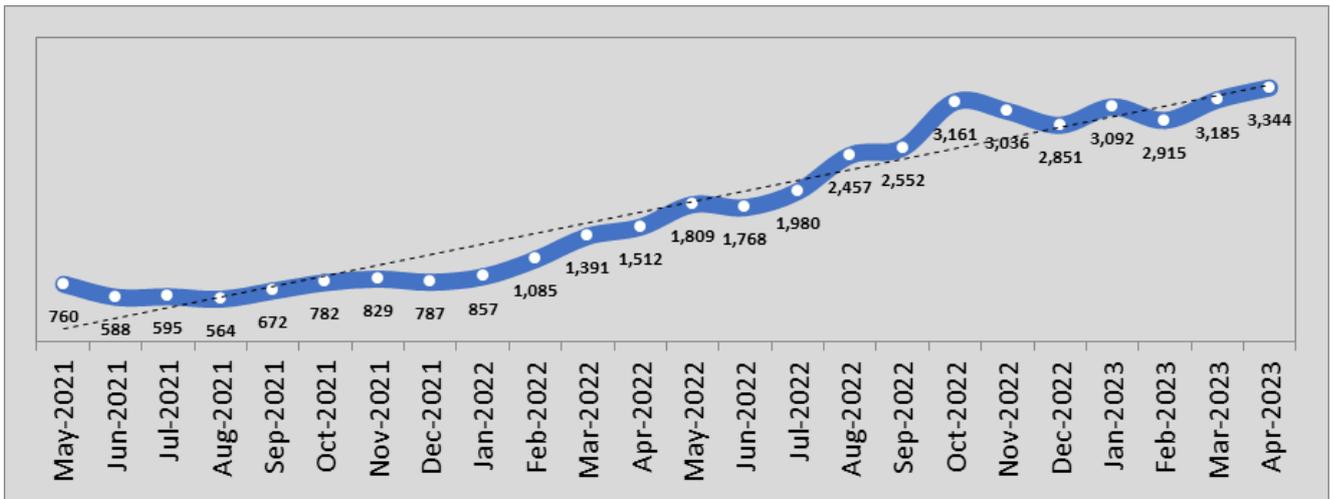
None to note.

**Number of attachments to the report: 0**

# 1. Greater Manchester Police update on Stop and Search

## 1.1. Overall volumes

There was a decrease in stop and search nationally of 26% in the year ending March 2022 (although the higher levels of stop and search in the year ending March 2021 reflected increased proactivity during the national lockdown). GMP has not followed this national trend, with increasing stop and search activity last year in particular, albeit with a slight plateauing towards the end of 2022:



Comparing 2022 stop and search activity in GMP to 2021 shows the following:

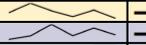
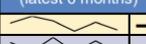
	Person only	Person + vehicle	Vehicle only	Total
2021	6778	2124	245	9147
2022	18412	5191	835	24438

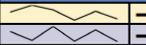
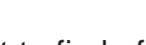
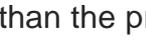
This represents a 167% increase year on year.

GMP's increase in stop search activity has brought it more in line with the others forces in its 'Most Similar Group' which includes Merseyside, West Midlands and West Yorkshire.



There are some minor variations between GMP Districts in terms of arrest rates and overall positive outcomes, which are explored through internal governance and performance mechanisms.

Stop and search: arrest outcome proportion	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	12-month average	Change (latest month vs avg)	Trend (latest 6 months)
GMP	13.2%	14.4%	13.4%	12.6%	13.5%	12.4%	13.8%	-1.3%p	
CoM North	9.7%	10.9%	15.0%	11.0%	13.7%	11.4%	12.6%	-1.2%p	
CoM Central	11.8%	11.9%	13.6%	11.6%	14.1%	14.1%	13.2%	0.9%p	
CoM South	9.1%	15.5%	12.9%	12.8%	12.3%	14.1%	13.3%	0.8%p	
Salford	20.7%	18.2%	9.7%	13.0%	14.3%	11.3%	16.0%	-4.6%p	
Tameside	17.8%	20.8%	10.4%	13.5%	15.5%	10.3%	16.0%	-5.7%p	
Stockport	14.2%	11.9%	12.0%	17.7%	7.0%	11.7%	13.0%	-1.3%p	
Bolton	17.5%	22.7%	11.5%	12.1%	15.0%	17.9%	15.6%	2.3%p	
Wigan	18.9%	11.8%	17.0%	10.0%	11.8%	13.7%	14.3%	-0.6%p	
Trafford	10.9%	14.5%	14.7%	10.1%	15.2%	11.7%	11.6%	0.1%p	
Bury	7.9%	9.7%	11.0%	20.5%	16.4%	9.3%	13.3%	-4.0%p	
Rochdale	14.6%	19.9%	16.8%	13.4%	11.3%	10.2%	13.6%	-3.4%p	
Oldham	18.0%	12.1%	15.3%	11.7%	17.5%	12.2%	14.9%	-2.7%p	

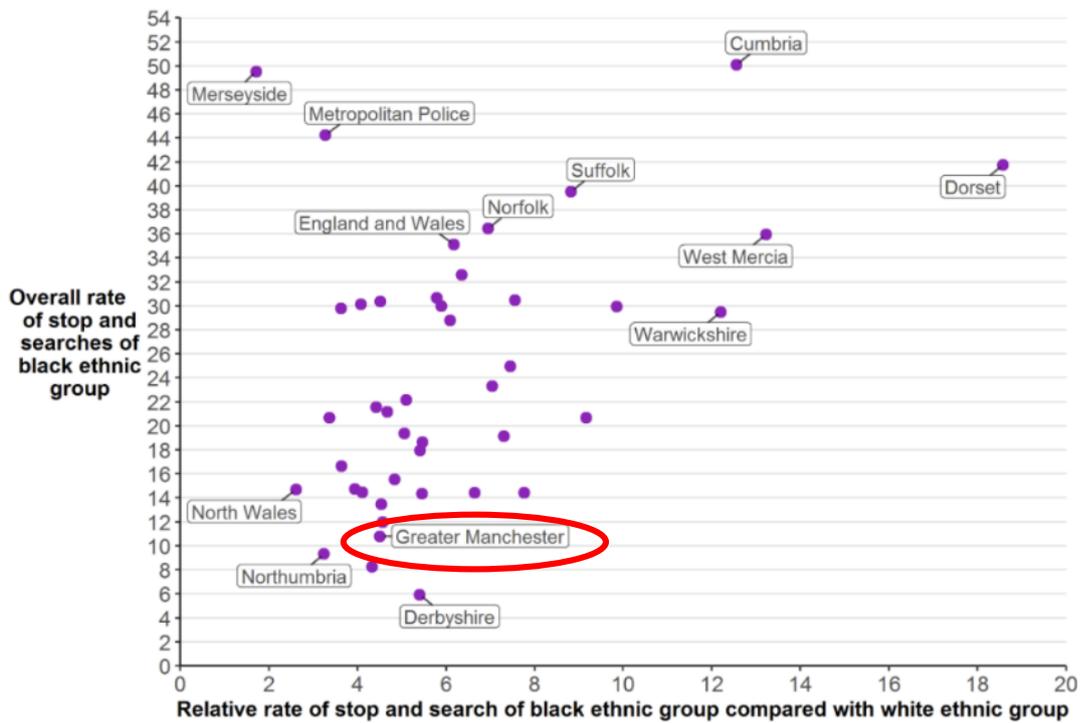
Stop and search: all positive outcomes proportion	Nov-22	Dec-22	Jan-23	Feb-23	Mar-23	Apr-23	12-month average	Change (latest month vs avg)	Trend (latest 6 months)
GMP	21.9%	23.5%	22.3%	19.9%	22.0%	20.3%	22.4%	-2.1%p	
CoM North	20.4%	17.6%	22.2%	17.3%	21.0%	17.2%	19.8%	-2.6%p	
CoM Central	19.5%	20.2%	21.2%	20.6%	24.1%	22.3%	23.1%	-0.9%p	
CoM South	16.3%	26.5%	18.1%	17.6%	18.3%	19.8%	19.9%	-0.1%p	
Salford	27.6%	25.7%	19.9%	20.2%	21.1%	21.2%	24.0%	-2.9%p	
Tameside	33.1%	30.6%	22.0%	20.9%	25.1%	17.9%	25.9%	-8.0%p	
Stockport	22.6%	21.7%	20.7%	20.3%	11.3%	18.0%	21.4%	-3.4%p	
Bolton	26.1%	30.1%	18.9%	19.8%	24.3%	25.7%	23.5%	2.2%p	
Wigan	30.1%	21.3%	25.2%	22.7%	18.9%	21.5%	22.8%	-1.3%p	
Trafford	23.0%	23.5%	27.2%	16.6%	28.7%	26.2%	21.9%	4.3%p	
Bury	17.6%	22.1%	21.3%	33.6%	30.9%	21.2%	24.1%	-2.9%p	
Rochdale	19.6%	31.3%	31.5%	19.0%	19.8%	15.6%	21.9%	-6.2%p	
Oldham	21.7%	22.7%	25.3%	19.9%	28.1%	19.8%	22.2%	-2.5%p	

In the last 12 months to April stop and search activity in GMP has sought to find offensive weapons in 6,887 cases and has found them in 425 cases. This is more than the previous 12 months where 217 were found.

### 1.3. Proportionality – Ethnicity

Disproportionality in stop and search in relation to ethnicity in GM remains well below that of England & Wales generally. In the year ending March 2022 Black subjects in GM were 4.2 times more likely to be stop and searched, compared to 6.2 times nationally. The overall rate was also amongst the lowest nationally according to Home Office data:

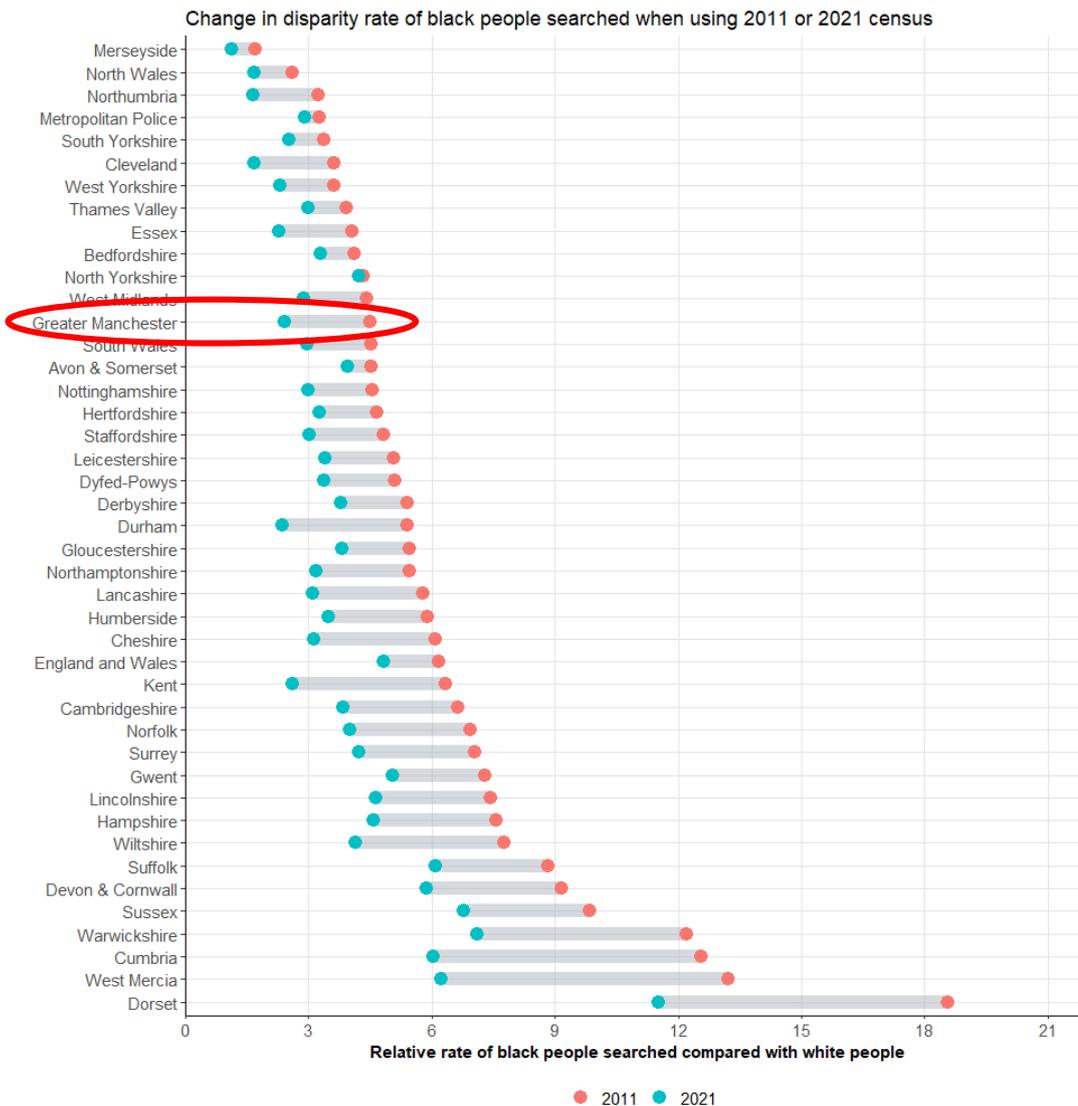
**Figure 2.16: Overall stop and search rates and relative rates for black individuals, by Police Force Area, England and Wales, year ending March 2022**



The disproportionality figure in GM continued to drop, and by June 2022 Black subjects were 3.7 times more likely to be subject to stop and search powers.

The release in late 2022 of Census 2021 ethnicity data allowed us to refresh the disproportionality data, with a more accurate picture of how our resident populations have changed since 2011. This has moved GM stop and search disproportionality against Black subjects from 3.7 to 2.1 and against Asian subjects from 1.9 to 1.3. The national figures are Black 4.8 and Asian 1.6.

GM remains significantly lower than most forces in terms of stop and search disproportionality against Black subjects, as shown in this Home Office graph:



Although this is a clearly improving picture, work continues to understand and address stop and search ethnicity disproportionality. That work includes:

- Improving the number of records where the subject's self-defined ethnicity is completed by officers at the time of the encounter, to give us more accurate data. This has improved from 62% in 2020, to 83% currently.
- Reinvigoration of monthly dip-sampling by Senior Leadership Teams on each District and Specialist Operations Branch. While some SLT dip-sampling was taking place, this was not well structured. From February, a structured approach has been taken with fine grain detail reviews on 39 stop searches every month, including use of force forms and Body Worn Video.
- Disproportionality data and themes are discussed in the quarterly Stop Search Coordination Group (SSCG) meeting chaired by the force lead, with key stakeholder and third sector representation.

- Disproportionality in Operational Policing meeting and the Use of Powers Board chaired by ACC Chris Sykes, looking across stop and search, taser, use of force, arrest and vehicle stops.
- Strategic issues from SSCG and Use of Police Powers Board are taken to the DEI Board chaired by the Chief Constable.
- Development of Independent Community Scrutiny Panels who meet regularly on each District to review stop and search and use of force encounters. A force-wide review of ICSPs has recently been completed and a number of recommendations made which are being taken forward.
- Wider strategic work taking place on disproportionality under GMPs response to the Race Action Plan.

#### **1.4. Section 60**

Section 60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act authorisations are short term (24 or 48 hrs) to address serious violence or weapons issues. They allow suspicion-less searches to take place in a specified locality and must be authorised by a senior leader.

Section 60 stop and searches decreased by 52% nationally in the year ending March 2022, driven largely by a reduction in the Metropolitan Police of 67%. GMP has not followed this national trend, with significant increases in Section 60 use in 2022 compared to 2021. Nationally, arrest rates for Section 60 have declined to 3.4% in the year ending March 2022. GMP's Section 60 arrest rate for that period was 2%.

The increase in GMP in Section 60 stop and search is underpinned by an increase in stop search generally, and the removal by the Home Office of restrictions on Section 60 in May last year.

The increase in GMP is shown in the following table:

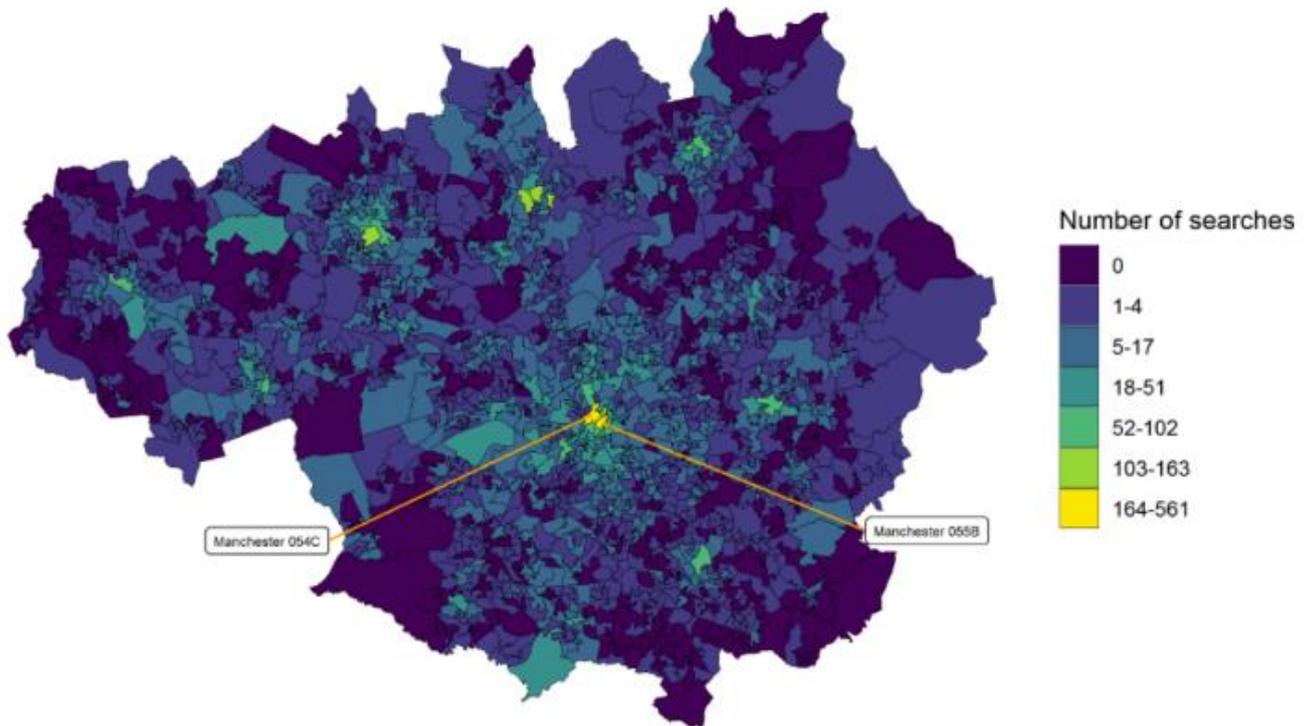
	Authorities	Searches	Arrest %	All Positive Outcome %
2021	2	31	2%	6%
2022	36	901	4%	9%
2023	29	573	3%	7%

Section 60 searches remain fairly low as a proportion of all stop searches in GMP: currently 4%.

## 1.5. Locality

The Home Office data nationally for the year ending March 2022 showed that similar to other metropolitan areas, stop and search hotspots for GMP were in distinct parts of urban centres, with 25% of all activity within Greater Manchester taking place in just 0.8% of Lower Layer Super Output Areas (predominantly Manchester city centre), and 50% within 6.8% LSOAs.

GMP - 2021/22 stop and search map



---

## 1.6. Complaints

It is notable that while the volume of stop and search activity in Greater Manchester has increased significantly, the number of complaints from those who have been searched has remained fairly low and consistent.

From May 2021 to April 2022 there were 42 complaints, which increased to 70 complaints for the period May 2022 to April 2023. However, in terms of proportional change we see a reduction from 0.40% May to April 2021/22 (42 complaints from 10,418 stop and search), to 0.22% May to April 2022/23 (70 complaints from 32,150 stop and searches).