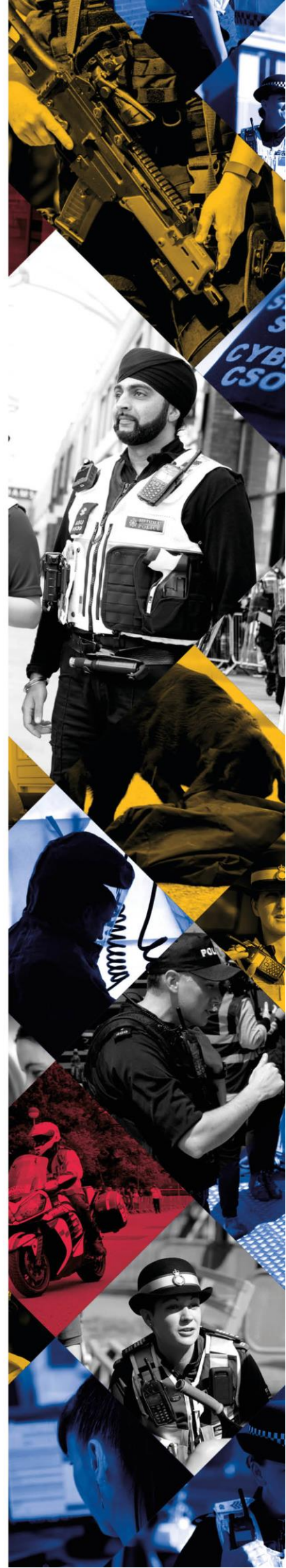




# STOP SEARCH BI-ANNUAL REPORT

## CHIEF OFFICER TEAM REPORT

October 2020 – March 2021



# 1. PURPOSE AND RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is information and to note progress around the force's approach to Stop Search.

# 2. INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND

- 2.1 In the last bi-annual report, the force reported that Supt Mike Richards had taken over the force portfolio in 2020 and had made immediate changes to its governance structure and new Terms of Reference were provided. HMICFRS have attended the March and June revised internal scrutiny boards and have provided positive feedback on the significant progress being made. In the last six months, the force has developed a new Stop Search strategy. The below four themes will provide clarity and direction on the force's approach and priorities for Stop Search which include, *Scrutiny & Governance*, *Training & Awareness*, *Oversight & Engagement* and *Performance Data*. The acronym, *STOP* has been developed for internal marketing and awareness raising:

- S - Scrutiny & Governance
- T – Training & Awareness
- O – Oversight & Engagement
- P – Performance Data

This report will provide updates on activity under each of these themes.

- 2.2 In February 2021, the HMICFRS published a new spotlight report on Stop Search and the force has developed an action plan for each of the national recommendations. The force action plan is reviewed and monitored in the *Coercive Powers Scrutiny Board*, chaired by Supt Richards and subsequently at the force level *Operational Performance Board*, chaired by the Assistant Chief Constable and *Assurance Board*, chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable.



### 3. ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

#### 3.1 Scrutiny & Governance:

The force has spent significant effort in ensuring that the scrutiny of Stop Search powers is robust at every level of the organisation, in particular at first and second-line management (Sergeant and Inspector). An internal communication plan led by Chief Officers has continually reinforced three key messages around *reasonable grounds*, *quality of the search encounter* and *use of body worn video*;

The force has made system changes within NICHE in terms of a new supervisor scrutiny template. This change requires the first line manager to conduct a more thorough check and debrief with the searching officer, examining the grounds, reason for the search, quality of the encounter and data accuracy issues, e.g. recording Self Define Ethnicity which has been raised as a force issue that impacts on data analysis;

A Sergeant within the force Continuous Improvement Department now reviews every Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic stop on a monthly basis to check on the quality of the grounds and powers used. Feedback on themes is communicated to the force on a monthly basis and individual officer feedback is delivered in person and via the *Coercive Powers Quality Improvement* group, chaired by an Inspector which includes constable and sergeant membership from across the force. Terms of Reference for this tactical group are included below:



Terms of Reference -  
Coercive Powers Qual

The force has recently invested in the services of an independent consultant to scrutinise and review Stop Search. This consultant who is a former consultant and subject matter expert to the HMICFRS is reviewing key issues relating to Stop Search activity. The force is aware of recent concern raised by the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner (OPCC) in relation to the volume of 'self-generated' searches (primarily for drugs) in comparison to the volume that are 'intelligence led'. This is an area that will be the focus of the auditing and analysis by this person. This along with the other scrutiny measures above is likely to see an improvement in this area.

#### 3.2 Training & Awareness:

As highlight above, the force launched an internal awareness campaign in February 2021 covering Stop Search themes. A second phase of the awareness campaign will be launched in August to focus on the issue of data accuracy, intelligence led searches and legal powers.

New training 'bite size' animation videos are being produced to cover the below themes. The force will use members of the public with lived experience of Stop Search in this training:

- An introduction to stop and search
- Levels and powers of search
- Reasonable grounds to suspect
- The quality of the encounter
- More thorough searches where intimate parts are exposed
- Supervision of stop and search

The portfolio lead will attend all new recruit training on Stop Search to reinforce key themes and force expectations.

### 3.3 Oversight & Engagement

The OPCC lead on the external scrutiny via its Legitimacy & Scrutiny Board. The portfolio lead and Inspector tactical lead now attend these meetings to offer panel members further information and to be in a better position to respond to the feedback provided by the group. The portfolio lead has found this to be extremely beneficial in developing the force approach and being able to communicate the feedback across the force;

To further strengthen the independent scrutiny of Stop Search, the force has worked closely with the OPCC to develop a new youth scrutiny pilot project with the John Frost Secondary School in Newport. This school covers the diverse catchment areas of Pillgwenlly, Duffryn, Maesglas, Gaer, Glasllwch, St Woolos and Clytha. This pilot will offer an opportunity of engaging with our 'next generation' ensuring that our scrutiny is representative of different age groups.

Plans are in place for Community Webinar on Stop Search to inform and reassure our communities of our commitment to improving the use of this power. This proposal has been a recent agenda item on the force Independent Advisory Group meeting and agreement has been reached to deliver this in the Newport area, in our most diverse communities where Stop Search is used most frequently.

### 3.4 Performance Data

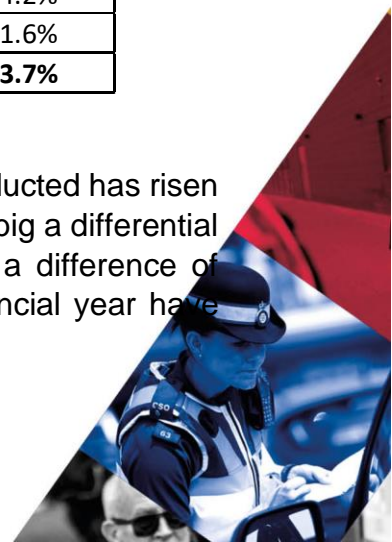
*This section of the report will examine various performance data metrics from Quarter 3 (Oct – Dec 2020) and Quarter 4 (Jan – March 2021):*

#### Total Stop Search Numbers:

	Q4 19/20	Q4 20/21	% Diff.
<b>Person Stops</b>	923	1054	14.2%
<b>Vehicle Stops</b>	224	250	11.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1147</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>13.7%</b>

Table 1 – Total Stops Comparison Q4 19/20 & 20/21

As can be seen in the table above the total number of stops conducted has risen year on year during Quarter 4 by 13.7%. However, this is not as big a differential as was evident in the Quarter 3 comparison, which recorded a difference of 44.5%. The table below also shows that stops during this financial year have



decreased between Quarter 3 and Quarter 4 by 8.2%. The reason for this slight decline is unknown, as previously Stop Searches have increased during Lockdowns, and during all three months of Quarter 4 the county was in lockdown. It is possible that the additional scrutiny and awareness raising has had some impact on this decline.

	Q3 20/21	Q4 20/21	% Diff.
<b>Person Stops</b>	1156	1054	-8.8%
<b>Vehicle Stops</b>	264	250	-5.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1420</b>	<b>1304</b>	<b>-8.2%</b>

Table 2 – Total Stops Comparison Q3 and Q4 20/21

20/21 by Total Monthly Stops								
	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Total	%
East LPA	245	275	192	236	216	154	1318	47.1%
West LPA	214	166	271	278	159	207	1295	46.3%
No Location Recorded	39	32	46	22	27	18	184	6.6%
<b>Total</b>	<b>498</b>	<b>473</b>	<b>509</b>	<b>536</b>	<b>402</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>2797</b>	

Table 3 – Total Stops by Month 20/21

Table 3, above, illustrates how monthly Stop Search rates have dropped off since a high during December and January, which is when COVID infection rates were at their highest. The number of stops conducted in the West Local Policing Area continued to be higher than the East in two of the three months, which contrasted with most of last year.

The table also shows a considerable number of Stop Searches continue to record no location and therefore cannot accurately be included in analytical reports. However, this has shown a slightly improving picture during Quarter 4, falling from 8% during Quarter 3 to 6.6%.

Total Stops Legal Power Used - Q4 20/21			
	East LPA	West LPA	Total
<b>S1 PACE 1984</b>	148	171	<b>319</b>
<b>S139B CJA 1988</b>	0	1	<b>1</b>
<b>S23 Drugs 1971</b>	339	328	<b>667</b>
<b>S47 Firearms 1968</b>	4	3	<b>7</b>
<b>Not Recorded</b>	4	0	<b>4</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>503</b>	<b>998</b>

Table 4 – Total Stops Legal Power Used Q4 20/21

The Commissioner has specifically asked the force for some reassurance about the proportion of searches which are conducted under Misuse of Drugs Act. It has been highlighted to the force by the OPCC that Gwent Police were previously ranked 8<sup>th</sup> nationally in 2019/20 in terms of this power. The above table indicates that during Q4, S23 Drugs 1971 continues to be the most used power for stopping

people, accounting for 66% of total Stop Searches carried out. There has been a reduction in this figure from 72% in Q3 and 70% in 2019/20. Based on 2019/20 national figures, Gwent would now be placed 19th out of 44 forces. This will continue to be an area of scrutiny and focus for the force.

### Person Stops by Section/Ward

Total Person Stops by Section - Q4 20/21		
Section	Total Person Stops	% of Total Stops
Blaenau Gwent	68	6.5%
Caerphilly Central	105	10.0%
Caerphilly North	112	10.6%
Caerphilly South	72	6.8%
Monmouthshire	66	6.3%
Newport City Centre	45	4.3%
Newport East	158	15.0%
Newport West	226	21.4%
Torfaen	146	13.9%
No Location	56	5.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>1054</b>	

Table 5 – Person Stops by Section

The above table shows all Person Stops by section where a known location is recorded. As can be seen Newport accounts for over 40% (40.7%) of all stops conducted within the force area. This is one of the factors that influences the forces overall Race Disproportionality Rates (RDR) rating, inflating it slightly, which is considered in more detail later within the report. However, this number continues to decrease and is now almost 7% lower than the figure recorded in Quarter 2.

Table 6, below, illustrates the ages of those stopped in each section. It shows the largest proportion of people Stop Searched continue to be aged between 18 and 25, although there has been a 4% rise in the slightly older 26-35-year age group. However, the average age of a person stopped remained at 27.



Section	Total Person Stops by Age by Section - Q4 20/21						
	Under 17	18-25	26-35	36-45	46-55	56-65	Over 65
Blaenau Gwent	9	29	18	8	4	0	0
Caerphilly Central	10	48	27	14	5	1	0
Caerphilly North	1	41	31	16	19	3	1
Caerphilly South	23	25	12	7	5	0	0
Monmouthshire	3	26	22	3	4	2	2
Newport City Centre	4	17	10	4	6	1	0
Newport East	29	66	33	18	7	2	0
Newport West	37	68	60	45	9	2	0
Torfaen	26	81	28	4	4	1	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>401</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>119</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>4</b>
Percentage of Total	14.5%	40.8%	24.5%	12.1%	6.4%	1.2%	0.4%

Table 6 – Age of Person Stopped by Section

Table 7, below, shows the wards where the most Person Stops have occurred. All of them have appeared in the top 5 in at least one of the previous two quarters. However, as previously mentioned this may still be down to an issue of where officers are uploading Stop Search forms, particularly in the case of Moriah.

However, it does indicate that over a third of all stops during the quarter took place in just five ward areas, although this is a slight decrease from Quarter 3. This again has an impact on the forces overall proportionality rate, when taking into consideration that Stow Hill, Pillgwenlly and Victoria wards contain the highest population concentrations of Gwent's BAME communities.

Total Person Stops by Ward (Top 5) - Q4 20/21		
Ward	Total Person Stops	% of Total Stops
Pillgwenlly	168	16.8%
Victoria	57	5.7%
Moriah	51	5.1%
Stow Hill	45	4.5%
Lliswerry	28	2.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>349</b>	<b>35.0%</b>

Table 7 – Top 5 Wards Based on Total Person Stop Numbers



## Ethnicity Breakdown

Total Person Stops v BAME Stops by Section - Q4 20/21			
Section	Total Stops	BAME Stops	% of BAME Stops
Blaenau Gwent	68	0	0.0%
Caerphilly Central	105	2	1.9%
Caerphilly North	112	4	3.6%
Caerphilly South	72	0	0.0%
Monmouthshire	66	9	13.6%
Newport City Centre	45	14	31.1%
Newport East	158	23	14.6%
Newport West	226	69	30.5%
Torfaen	146	7	4.8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>12.8%</b>

Table 8 – Number of BAME Person Stops Against Total Person Stops

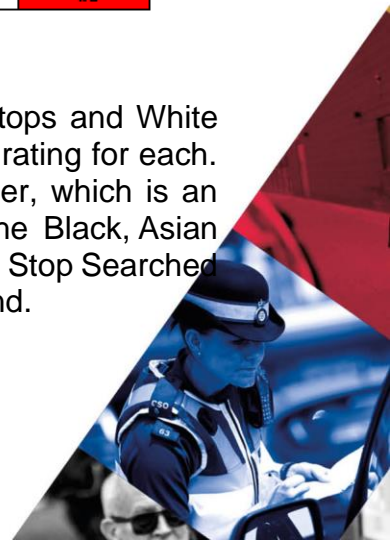
As can be seen in the table above the highest numbers of all Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic persons Stop Searched occurred within Newport. However, the 22 that took place in other sections of the force was a 31% increase on the previous quarter (n=7), and a 73% uplift on the figure recorded for Quarter 2.

Newport West recorded the highest number of Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic individuals being stopped (n=69), which equated for 30.5% of all stops in that area. The overall force ratio of BAME individuals stopped rose to 12.8% in Quarter 4, from 8.3% in Quarter 3. It is believed that this spike is a result of some targeted localised knife crime activity in the Newport West area.

Total Stops and RDR by Section - Q4 20/21						
Section	Total Stops	Total White Stops	Total BAME Stops	White Population	BAME Population	RDR Rate
Blaenau Gwent	68	61	0	68750	1054	0.0
Caerphilly Central	105	82	2	64717	959	1.6
Caerphilly North	112	106	4	54961	792	2.6
Caerphilly South	72	66	0	54494	1173	0.0
Monmouthshire	66	47	9	92072	1796	9.8
Newport City Centre	45	26	14	3608	1165	1.7
Newport East	158	111	23	61915	6481	2.0
Newport West	226	125	69	65502	7065	5.1
Torfaen	146	113	7	88213	1796	3.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>737</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>554232</b>	<b>22281</b>	<b>4.3</b>

Table 9 – RDR for Q4 20/21 by Section

Above is the breakdown of Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic Stops and White Stops by section during Quarter 4 20/21 and providing the RDR rating for each. It shows that overall, the force has a RDR of 4.3 for the quarter, which is an increase from 2.6 from Quarter 3. This meant that a person from the Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic community was over four times more likely to be Stop Searched in Gwent during Quarter 4 than someone from a white background.





This increase was predominantly driven by high RDR rates seen within Monmouthshire and Newport West. These figures were scrutinised in the June *Coercive Powers Scrutiny Board* and the 9 Black, Asian & Minority Ethnic searches in Monmouthshire related to travelling criminals who had been searched in Magor Services.

Table 10, below, shows the same data for Quarter 3 20/21. It shows the lower RDR rate, but that only one additional section was in the green (proportionate rate zone) last quarter.

Total Stops and RDR by Section - Q3 20/21						
Section	Total Stops	Total White Stops	Total BAME Stops	White Population	BAME Population	RDR Rate
Blaenau Gwent	80	65	0	68750	1054	0.0
Caerphilly Central	124	109	3	64717	959	1.9
Caerphilly North	164	141	2	54961	792	1.0
Caerphilly South	65	57	3	54494	1173	2.4
Monmouthshire	106	87	3	92072	1796	1.8
Newport City Centre	70	43	14	3608	1165	1.0
Newport East	197	132	33	61915	6481	2.4
Newport West	204	130	30	65502	7065	2.1
Torfaen	103	77	4	53713	1337	2.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>1113</b>	<b>841</b>	<b>92</b>	<b>519732</b>	<b>21822</b>	<b>2.6</b>

Table 10 – RDR for Q3 20/21 by Section

The end of year RDR for 2020/2021 was 3.9 which is based on 2011 Census Data. Using more up to date population data would provide a RDR figure of 2.9. This figure has dropped significantly on previous years as detailed below:

**2019/20 – 5.2**

**2018/19 – 4.8**

### Arrest, Positive Outcome and Find Rates

Persons Arrested/Positive Outcome as a Result of a Stop - Q4 20/21				
Section	Total Person Stops	Arrest	Total Positive Outcome	% of Positive Outcome
Blaenau Gwent	68	11	24	35.3%
Caerphilly Central	105	11	35	33.3%
Caerphilly North	112	7	21	18.8%
Caerphilly South	72	11	22	30.6%
Monmouthshire	66	7	16	24.2%
Newport City Centre	45	3	5	11.1%
Newport East	158	22	30	19.0%
Newport West	226	16	30	13.3%
Torfaen	146	8	46	31.5%
<b>Total</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>229</b>	<b>22.9%</b>

Table 11 – Persons Arrested/Positive Outcome as a Result of a Stop

The table above shows during Quarter 4, 22.9% of all stops resulted in a positive outcome, up very slightly from 22.7% during Quarter 3, with 9.6% of those stopped being subsequently arrested. Blaenau Gwent recorded the highest ratio (35.3%), which is in direct contrast to last quarter when Blaenau Gwent recorded the lowest figure (12.5%). Newport City Centre and Newport West recorded the lowest, 11.1% and 13.3% respectively.

Item Found Against Item Searched For by Category - Q4 20/21				
Reason	Searched For	Item Found	Arrests/Cautions	% of Finds v Searched For
Articles for Use in Theft	34	0	2	0.0%
Bladed Article	82	6	4	7.3%
Criminal Damage	12	1	0	8.3%
Drugs	656	167	57	25.5%
Firearms	5	1	1	20.0%
Going Equipped	46	7	5	15.2%
Offensive Weapons	52	7	10	13.5%
Stolen Property	76	10	16	13.2%
Other/Not Stated	35	5	4	14.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>998</b>	<b>204</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>20.4%</b>

Table 12 – Find Rates by Category

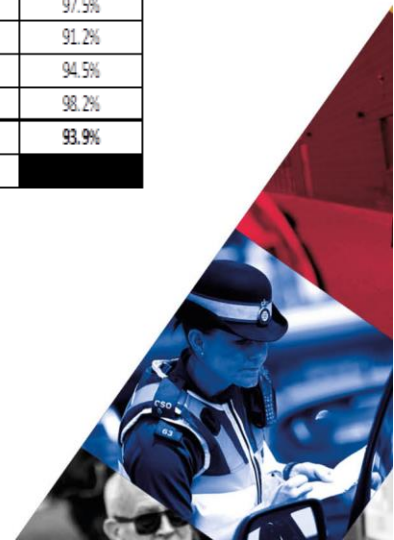
As previous highlighted, the most common item searched for, across the force area, was drugs, accounting for 65.7% of all searches conducted. It was also the area with the highest percentage ratio of items found (25.5%).

Bladed Article (8.2%) and Stolen Property (7.6%) were the next most common items searched for and the force will continue to monitor this closely to ensure that other force priorities are considered when searching.

## Body Worn Video (BWV)

BWV Breakdown by Section - Q4 2020/21							
Section	Total Person Stops	Camera Used	Camera Faulty	Camera Out of Power	No Camera Available	Officer Discretion	Camera Used %
Blaenau Gwent	68	63	0	1	3	1	92.6%
Caerphilly Central	105	98	0	4	2	1	93.3%
Caerphilly North	112	106	0	0	3	3	94.6%
Caerphilly South	72	64	2	2	2	2	88.9%
Monmouthshire	66	63	0	1	0	2	95.5%
Newport City Centre	45	43	0	0	2	0	95.6%
Newport East	158	154	0	1	1	2	97.5%
Newport West	226	206	9	4	3	4	91.2%
Torfaen	146	138	0	4	4	0	94.5%
Unknown Location	56	55	0	0	1	0	98.2%
<b>Gwent</b>	<b>1054</b>	<b>990</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>93.9%</b>
<b>Percentage of Total</b>		<b>93.9%</b>	<b>1.0%</b>	<b>1.6%</b>	<b>2.0%</b>	<b>1.4%</b>	

Table 13 – Body Worn Video Compliance Breakdown



As can be seen in Table 13 above, BWV compliance during Quarter 4 force wide was 93.9%, which is a slight drop from the 94.4% achieved during Quarter 3. This still however signifies a big improvement on the rates seen during 2019.

Almost all areas have seen an improvement, with some, such as Newport East achieving a 97.5% compliance rate. The only section recording a usage figure of less than 90% for the quarter was Caerphilly South (88.9%).

In the small number of instances where BWV was not used, *No Camera Available* was still the most prevalent (2%) which could indicate that these searches were conducted by plain clothes/covert officers. Although it is only small numbers across the force (n=21), it is still important to identify why no cameras were available in these cases. Officer Discretion was also listed as the reason for no camera being used on 15 occasions and this continues to be scrutinised

## 4. COLLABORATION

- 4.1 The force will continue to fully understand its relatively low race disproportionality rate. Recent Unconscious Bias testing has been rolled out across the whole force for front line staff during force training days and plans are now in place to develop further training/awareness to departments and areas where this power is most frequently used.

The successful Ride Along scheme has been suspended since the COVID outbreak. Chief Inspector Rob Jenkins now leads this area of work and is revising the force policy. New plans are in place with the Community Cohesion Team to use this scheme to identify opportunities to engage with underrepresented communities.

The force has worked closely with the OPCC to strengthen the independent community scrutiny of Stop Search and a new pilot Youth Scrutiny Panel will soon be launched in the John Frost Secondary School.

A community webinar is being planned to engage and highlight to the communities of Gwent the levels of scrutiny that is being applied to improve its use of Stop Search.

## 5. NEXT STEPS

## 6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There is no specific staffing or personnel implication associated with this report.



## 7. PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS

7.1 None

## 8. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 None

## 9. EQUALITIES & HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS

9.1 It is recognised that Stop Search activities have the potential to have a significant impact on community confidence, particularly if the tactic is perceived to be used in a discriminatory manner.

HMICFRS findings indicate no evidence of discriminatory or prejudicial practices, influencing Gwent Police's approach to stop and search

9.2 In preparing this report, consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998.

## 10. RISK

10.1 The on-going work in relation to stop & search is designed to minimise any risk to the Force in respect of failure to comply with legislation. It will also minimise the impact on public confidence when powers and procedures have not been correctly adhered to.

## 11. PUBLIC INTEREST

11.1 In producing this report, has consideration been given to 'public confidence'? **Yes**

11.2 Are the contents of this report, observations and appendices necessary and suitable for the public domain? **Yes**

11.2.1 If you consider this report to be exempt from the public domain, please state the reasons: **Yes**

11.2.2 **Terms of Reference for the new pilot embedded within this document (not for publication on OPCC website)**

11.3 Media, Stakeholder and Community Impacts:

11.3.1 **N/A**



## 12. REPORT AUTHOR

12.1 Supt Mike Richards

## 13. LEAD CHIEF OFFICER

13.1 T/ACC Ian Roberts

## 14. ANNEXES

14.1 None

## 15. CHIEF OFFICER APPROVAL

15.1 I confirm this report has been discussed and approved at a formal Chief Officers' meeting.

15.2 I confirm this report is suitable for the public domain



Signature:

Date: 20.08.2021

<b>Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent</b>
I confirm that I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with the Code of Conduct. The above request has my approval.
<b>Signature:</b>
<b>Date:</b>

