

Use of Stop and Stop/Search Powers within Cumbria
A Report by the Chief Constable

Outline

At the last meeting of this committee, it was decided that the impact of 'stops' relating to race and diversity issues should be reported to the Community and Race Relations Committee and that the impact/success of 'stops' on criminality be reported to the Audit and Performance Committee every six months.

This report provides data on the use of the new "stop" powers as well as "stop and search" powers over the first three months of them both being in force.

The use of the powers has remained relatively constant and the extent of disproportionality based upon ethnicity of the person stopped is also low. However, stop and search continues to be a valuable tactic to prevent and detect crime.

Recommendation

That Members note the current position and continue to monitor the use of these powers within the Constabulary.

Detail

Report attached.

Michael Baxter
Chief Constable

Use of Stop and Stop/Search Powers within Cumbria

Background

Training has been given to all officers on the use of the powers. It has focused on the principles outlined below and we believe that the results are reflected in our figures:

Where people report more positive experiences of being stopped, these stops were characterised by:

- Being given an acceptable reason for the stop;
- Where the officers were polite;
- Where the stop did not last a long time; and
- Where people did not feel unfairly targeted.

Statistical data relates the use of stop and search to the resident ethnic minority population of an area, in order to assess the presence of disproportionality. If the police are routinely stopping proportionally more people from an ethnic minority background than live within an area, then this may constitute evidence of unfair use of the powers.

The 2001 census data shows that 0.7% of the population of Cumbria was from an ethnic minority background.

- During April to June 2005, Cumbria Police stopped 1733 persons, of whom 12 were of people from an ethnic minority. This figure (0.69%) almost mirrors the proportion of residents from ethnic minorities (0.7%), suggesting that at a statistical level there is little ethnic bias in the way in which we use stop powers.
- During April to June 2005, Cumbria Police used stop and search powers on 1490 occasions, of which 26 related to people from an ethnic minority. The figure for stops and searches of people from an ethnic minority heritage (1.74%) is almost double the proportion of residents from ethnic minorities (0.7%).
- The number of stop and searches that led to an arrest of a white person was 207. Another way of expressing this is to say that 14.14% of the stops of white people led to an arrest.
- The number of stop and searches that led to the arrest of a person from an ethnic minority was 20. Another way of expressing this is to say that 76.9% of the stops of people from an ethnic minority led to an arrest.
- The ratio of stops to arrests was therefore far higher for people from a visible ethnic minority than for white people.

Public response to the use of the powers has been extremely muted. Whilst analysis shows that there is a degree of disproportionality in their use, this has never led to public disquiet or widespread complaints in Cumbria.

Checks show that during 2005 there has been only 1 complaint made in relation to Stop and Search. This was a white 19-year-old male, who had been stopped several times because of his manner of driving. During 2004 there were no complaints about our use of the powers.

Future work will centre on further awareness raising amongst our staff and the public. In reporting this, I acknowledge the work already done by the Authority and the Constabulary in this regard. Members may share my view that this is an important issue, but one that already receives a commensurate response from us.

Appendix A – Use of Police Stops April-June 2005

Apr-Jun 05 STOPS						
	White	Black	Asian	Other	Unknown	Total
Barrow	554	1	0	3	11	569
Kendal	108	1	0	1	0	110
North	390	1	1	1	9	402
West	642	1	1	0	8	652
TOTAL	1694	4	2	5	28	1733

Apr-Jun 05 STOPS																		
	White - British (W1)	White - Irish (W2)	Any Other White background (W9)	White & Black Caribbean (M1)	White & Black African (M2)	White & Asian (M3)	Any Other mixed background (M9)	Black or Black British - Caribbean (B1)	Black or Black British - African (B2)	Black or Black British - Any Other Black background (B9)	Asian or Asian British - Indian (A1)	Asian or Asian British - Pakistani (A2)	Asian or Asian British - Bangladeshi (A3)	Any Other Asian background (A9)	Chinese (O1)	Other ethnic background (O9)	Not recorded	Total
Barrow	553	0	1	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	11	569
Kendal	104	0	4	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	110
North	366	16	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	9	402
West	637	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	10	652
TOTAL	1660	18	14	0	0	1	1	1	0	3	1	1	0	0	2	1	30	1733

Appendix B – Use of Stop and Search Powers April-June 2005

Division	Number of persons/vehicles searched in month	April to June 2005							
		Stolen	Drugs	Firearms	Offensive Weapon	Going Equiped	Criminal Damage	Other	Total
Barrow	White	129	127	2	23	0	55	39	375
	Black	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Not Recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
	Vehicle Only	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Total	132	129	2	23	0	55	43	384
Kendal	White	30	34	2	7	3	8	8	92
	Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Not Recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Vehicle Only	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	38	34	2	7	3	8	9	101
North Cumbria	White	180	163	7	23	67	11	4	455
	Black	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	3
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	5	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
	Other	0	1	0	0	0	2	0	3
	Not Recorded	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
	Vehicle Only	17	6	1	1	1	0	2	28
	Total	202	172	8	25	68	14	8	497
West Cumbria	White	143	210	7	32	53	20	25	490
	Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Not Recorded	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Vehicle Only	6	4	2	0	0	1	3	16
	Total	150	215	9	32	53	21	28	508
Total	White	482	534	18	85	123	94	76	1412
	Black	1	3	0	0	0	0	1	5
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	14	0	0	0	0	0	2	16
	Other	2	1	0	0	0	2	0	5
	Not Recorded	0	1	0	1	0	1	3	6
	Vehicle Only	23	11	3	1	1	1	6	46
	Total	522	550	21	87	124	98	88	1490

Appendix C – Arrests as a result of Police Use of Stop Search Powers April-June 2005

Arrests as a Result of Stop Search 2005/06									
Division	Number of persons/vehicles searched in month	April to June 2005							
		Stolen	Drugs	Firearms	Offensive Weapon	Going Equipped	Criminal Damage	Other	Total
Barrow	White	18	12	0	12	1	2	17	62
	Black	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Not Recorded	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	19	14	0	12	1	2	18	66
Kendal	White	7	8	0	3	0	0	1	19
	Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	8	0	0	0	0	0	1	9
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Not Recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	15	8	0	3	0	0	2	28
North Cumbria	White	30	18	0	4	2	1	3	58
	Black	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	2	0	0	0	0	0	1	3
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Not Recorded	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
	Total	33	20	0	4	2	1	4	64
West Cumbria	White	25	17	0	13	2	4	7	68
	Black	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
	Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Not Recorded	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total	25	17	0	13	2	5	7	69
Total	White	80	55	0	32	5	7	28	207
	Black	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	3
	Asian (Indian Sub-Continent)	10	0	0	0	0	1	2	13
	Other	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	2
	Not Recorded	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	2
	Total	92	59	0	32	5	8	31	227

Appendix D – Ethnicity Data from 2001 Census

For Cumbria, the following figures are applicable (2001 Census):

Ethnic Group (all people)	Value	E&W avg	Eng Wal Rank/376	& Regional Rank/43
White	99.3%	91.3%	-	-
Largest minority ethnic group(s)	Chinese (0.1%)			
Place of birth (all people)	Value	E&W avg	Eng Wal Rank/376	& Regional Rank/43
Born in UK	97.7%	91.1%	-	-
Born elsewhere in EU (inc Rep Ireland)	0.9%	2.3%	-	-
Born outside EU	1.4%	6.6%	-	-
Religion (all people)	Value	E&W avg	Eng Wal Rank/376	& Regional Rank/43
Christian	82.2%	71.7%	-	-
Buddhist	0.2%	0.3%	-	-
Hindu	0.0%	1.1%	-	-
Jewish	0.0%	0.5%	-	-
Muslim	0.2%	3.0%	-	-
Sikh	0.0%	0.6%	-	-
Other	0.2%	0.3%	-	-
No religion	10.4%	14.8%	-	-
Religion not stated	6.9%	7.7%	-	-