



Update from the Stop Search Operational Group January 2018

Update from Chief Inspector Gary Ashton

The Northamptonshire Police Stop Search Operational Group met on Tuesday 30/1/18 at Wootton Hall, Northampton, and reviewed the latest publically available data on the police use of stop and search powers in the county.

The data shows a proportionately higher arrest rate and positive outcome rate in our county. We have also seen decreases in the volume of stop searches undertaken, at a level that is outside the national average.

Our work with academic partners at the London School of Economics (LSE) will help us gain some understanding of this in the coming weeks from an independent perspective.

Our data tells us that our proactive officers do many stop searches as part of their core role.

Disproportionality remains a concern in Northamptonshire as in many other forces. The LSE independent review will help shed some further light on this. The Northamptonshire Rights and Equality Council (NREC) are hosting an event on 19/2/18, involving police, LSE and other partners, details available [here](#).

We also discussed the quality of forms completed by searching officers. We look forward to a technical solution later this year which will help both to improve quality and the timeliness of data and information being input onto our systems.

In the meantime, messages will be circulated to officers to remind them of some of the more common quality issues we are seeing on stop search forms.

Reasonable Grounds Panels (RGPs) continue to work well, providing useful scrutiny of our stop searches. Monthly RGPs are planned for 2018, including making Body Worn Video (BWV) footage available to future RGP sessions.

The Force website has recently been updated and we welcome feedback on the stop search content on the site.

We also discussed completion rates for stop search training, what good 'grounds' should include on a stop search form, as well as the need to make a summary of this meeting publically available for comment.

If you have any feedback on the police use of stop and search, please email us at SSWG@northants.pnn.police.uk.