

INDEPENDENT ADVISORY GROUP STOP AND SEARCH SCRUTINY PANEL (Southampton District)

01 APRIL 2026 TO 30 JUNE 2026

Date of Meeting: 01 July 2026

Location: Southampton Police Station

HEADLINES

Total Stop Searches

A total of 987 stop searches were conducted during the reporting period.
This represents an increase of 132 searches compared to the same period last year.

Positive Outcomes

A total of 404 searches resulted in a positive outcome. This represents an increase of 143 positive outcomes compared to the same period last year.

Arrests

A total of 154 arrests were made following stop search encounters. This represents an increase of 54 arrests compared to the same period last year.

Disproportionality

The self-defined ethnicity disproportionality figures indicate how many times more likely a person from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background is to be stopped when compared to a white person.

Black: 0.16

Asian: 0.09

Mixed: 0.07

Other: 0.03

Not Stated: 0.15

REPEAT PERSONS

The panel reviewed a selection of individuals who had been subject to multiple stop searches during the reporting period.

Person 1 – Two stops were reviewed, both conducted by the same officer on different days. The panel identified concerns regarding the quality of the grounds recorded within both searches reviewed. Reasonable suspicion was not clearly evidenced within the records examined.

Person 2 – Three stops were reviewed, carried out by two different officers on different days. The panel noted recurring issues regarding reliance upon broad references to

crime patterns or locations without sufficient supporting detail within the recorded grounds.

Person 3 – A single stop was reviewed in relation to this person. The panel considered that the grounds could have been enhanced through clearer explanation of how the information available to the officer contributed to the formation of reasonable suspicion.

RANDOM DIP SAMPLE REVIEW

Following this, a random dip sample of nine searches was carried out with the IAG.

In five of these reviewed, the panel found the stop to be positive with no concerns to raise. Feedback was given on four of the nine in relation to a number of matters. This is passed to officers through their supervisor.

OVERALL PANEL OBSERVATIONS

The panel identified a number of recurring themes throughout the scrutiny process.

Positive observations included several examples of clear, concise and well-articulated grounds which demonstrated the officer's rationale and reasonable suspicion effectively.

Areas identified for improvement included:

1. Improving the clarity and quality of grounds recorded within stop search records.
2. Avoiding reliance on generic references to high crime or high drug activity areas without explaining how such information contributes to reasonable suspicion.
3. Ensuring search records are submitted promptly and within expected timeframes.
4. Providing sufficient detail to demonstrate how reasonable suspicion was formed in each individual encounter.
5. Ensuring consistency between explanations provided during the encounter, including body worn video, and the grounds subsequently recorded.