

Stop and Search.

Quarter 2. July to September 2025.

Winchester. Chief Inspector Korine Bishop.

Over the last quarter, Winchester has recorded an increase in Stop & Search activity. However, this level of activity remains broadly consistent with the same period in the previous year.

The largest proportion of Stop & Search encounters relate to drugs, accounting for 215 searches. This rise is primarily attributed to the Boomtown Festival, which brings over 60,000 additional visitors to Winchester during the summer. The demographic profile of attendees contributes to higher levels of drug use among individuals travelling into the area from outside Winchester.

Winchester maintains a strong focus on the night-time economy, which has resulted in a number of formal outcomes for possession of both Class A and Class B drugs. Notably, Stop & Search conducted earlier in the evening has been linked to a reduction in Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) offences later in the night.

The Independent Advisory Group (IAG) scrutiny panel has reviewed Winchester's Stop & Search statistics, including disproportionality data and positive outcome rates compared to the wider force. No concerns were identified, and the panel expressed satisfaction with the findings.

#### **Total number of stops.**

This Quarter – 252, Previous 3 months – 205.

Arrests.

This Quarter – 40, Previous 3 months – 27.

No further action taken/advice given.

This Quarter – 115, Previous 3 months – 109.

#### **Positive outcomes.**

Positive outcomes includes arrests.

This Quarter – 137.

Previous 3 months – 96.

#### **Winchester total population – 127,444.**

White – 119,305.

Asian – 3,917.

Mixed Race – 2,590.

Black – 792.

Other – 840.

#### **Disproportionality.**

Likelihood of being stopped and searched compared to white person.

Black – 15.9 times more likely.

Mixed Race – 2.7 times more likely.

Asian – 1.1 times more likely.

Other – 2.2 times more likely.

**Reasons for stop.**

Drugs – 215.

Firearms – 1.

Going equipped – 7.

Offensive weapon – 13.

Poaching – 2.

Stolen goods – 14.

**Outcome of stop.**

Arrest – 40.

Caution – 3.

Community resolution – 79.

No further action – 115.

Postal requisition – 5.

Voluntary attendance – 7.

Other/words of advice – 3.