

Stop and Search.

Quarter 4. January to March 2026.

Portsmouth. Superintendent Paul Markham.

During the last quarter, our data has shown that a black person is 2.6 times more likely to be stopped in Portsmouth than a white person is. This is in part to now using the 2021 Census data that shows there are only 7070 black people living in the city, therefore this data has significant impact on recorded disproportionality. After a busy previous quarter where the use of stop and search was high we have seen a drop in the use of this tactic with 85 less stop searches. 66% of all searches were in relation to drug offences, this level remains consistent for the city. Portsmouth officers carry out multiple pro-active drug searches linked to drug supply with an arrest rate of 23%. Our disproportionality levels remain under constant review for lawfulness and proportionality. Stop searches are reviewed by members of our independent advisory group, the group randomly select searches to scrutinise and on their last review process found the search powers used were proportionate and justified based on the information recorded.

Total number of stops.

This Quarter – 593, Previous 3 months – 678.

Arrests.

This Quarter – 139, Previous 3 months – 153.

No further action taken/advice given.

This Quarter – 346, Previous 3 months – 368.

Positive outcomes.

Positive outcomes includes arrests.

This Quarter – 247.

Previous 3 months – 310.

Portsmouth population.

White – 177,277.

Asian – 14,370.

Mixed Race – 5,487.

Black – 7,070.

Other – 3,797.

Disproportionality.

Likelihood of being stopped and searched compared to white person.

Black – 2.6 times more likely.

Mixed Race – 1.4 times more likely.

Asian – 0.9 times more likely.

Other – 3.4 times more likely.

Reasons for stop.

Criminal damage – 7.

Drugs – 389.

Firearms – 3.

Going equipped – 33.

Offensive weapon – 86.

Other – 3.

Stolen goods – 72.

Outcome of stop.

Arrest – 139.

Community resolution – 76.

No further action – 346.

Postal requisition – 12.

Voluntary attendance – 16.

Other/words of advice – 4.