

Stop and Search.

Quarter 4. January to March 2026.

Southampton. Superintendent Alex Charge.

We had a significant increase in stops during this period. Following 3 serious assaults with knives, with links to St Mary's, we used legislation under s.60 Public Order Act to prevent serious violence. To support this activity officers from our Violent Crime Taskforce joined us.

The s.60 order gives officers the power to stop and search people without the normal requirement of reasonable grounds for suspicion which would be needed for ordinary stop and search legislation. During this period, multiple arrests and charges related to these stops, for both weapons and drugs.

The Section 60 order is a short-term measure that gives us additional powers to prevent further violence and keep people safe. It forms part of a broader strategy that includes enforcement, engagement, and prevention, this includes working with the council and other partners to divert people away from using illegal drugs and carrying weapons.

Total number of stops.

Last 3 months – 1,014, Previous 3 months – 873.

Arrests.

Last 3 months – 147, Previous 3 months – 153.

No further action taken/advice given.

Last 3 months – 630, Previous 3 months – 520.

Positive outcomes.

Positive outcomes includes arrests.

Last 3 months – 384.

Previous 3 months – 353.

Southampton total population – 248,920.

White – 200,829.

Asian – 26,414.

Mixed Race – 8,309.

Black – 7,539.

Other – 5,829.

Disproportionality.

Likelihood of being stopped and searched compared to white person.

Black – 5 times more likely.

Mixed Race – 1.9 times more likely.

Asian – 0.9 times more likely.

Other – 1.4 times more likely.

Reasons for stop.

Drugs – 705.

Stolen property – 105.

Offensive weapons – 90.

Going equipped – 29.

Anticipation of violence (Section 60 CJPOA) – 77.

Firearms – 4.

Criminal damage – 4.

Outcome of stop.

No further action – 630.

Community resolution – 175.

Arrest – 147.

Voluntary attendance – 28.

Summons – 22.

Caution – 4.

Seizure of Property – 3.

Other/Words of advice – 5.