

Stop and Search.

Quarter 1. April to June 2026.

Test Valley. Chief Inspector Sharath Ranjan.

As District Commander, I am clear that stop and search must be intelligence-led, proportionate and focused on protecting our communities. This quarter saw a reduction in overall stop and search activity compared to the previous period, with fewer searches, arrests and positive outcomes. Despite this, effectiveness has remained broadly stable, with positive outcomes maintained at a similar rate and fewer searches resulting in no further action, suggesting officers continue to use these powers in a targeted and appropriate way.

Drug-related offending remains the primary driver for stop and search activity across Test Valley, supporting our efforts to tackle crime and reduce harm. Whilst overall activity has reduced, I am concerned by the increase in disproportionality affecting Black communities during this quarter. This will be subject to continued scrutiny and supervisory review to ensure our powers are being used lawfully, fairly and effectively.

My expectation remains that every stop and search encounter is justified, professionally conducted and supports both public safety and community confidence

Total number of stops.

This Period – 131, Previous 3 months – 164.

Arrests.

This Period – 23, Previous 3 months – 27.

No further action taken/advice given.

This Period – 72, Previous 3 months – 92.

Positive outcomes.

Positive outcomes includes arrests.

This Period – 59.

Previous 3 months – 72.

Test Valley total population – 130,491.

White – 121,457.

Asian – 4,284.

Mixed Race – 2,312.

Black – 1,458.

Other – 980.

Disproportionality.

Likelihood of being stopped and searched compared to white person.

Black – 5.9 times more likely.

Mixed Race – 3.2 times more likely.

Asian – 0.3 times more likely.

Other – 2.5 times more likely.

Reasons for stop.

Drugs – 80.

Stolen goods – 23.

Going equipped – 10.

Offensive weapon – 14.

Criminal damage – 4.

Outcome of stop.

No further action – 72.

Community resolution – 23.

Arrest – 23.

Voluntary attendance – 7.

Postal requisition/postal charge/summons – 3.

Caution – 2.

Other/Words of advice – 1.