

# Use of Force in Norfolk and Suffolk



Quarter 3 Summary

2017/18

## USE OF FORCE IN NORFOLK AND SUFFOLK

Police officers are confronted with difficult and demanding situations on a daily basis, and are trained to use force proportionality, lawfully and only when necessary, in the pursuit of maintaining order and keeping people (including themselves) safe. This covers a variety of tactics including unarmed defence tactics, handcuffing, and drawing or using a Taser, in situations ranging from detention and transportation of individuals to a police station to preventing immediate harm.

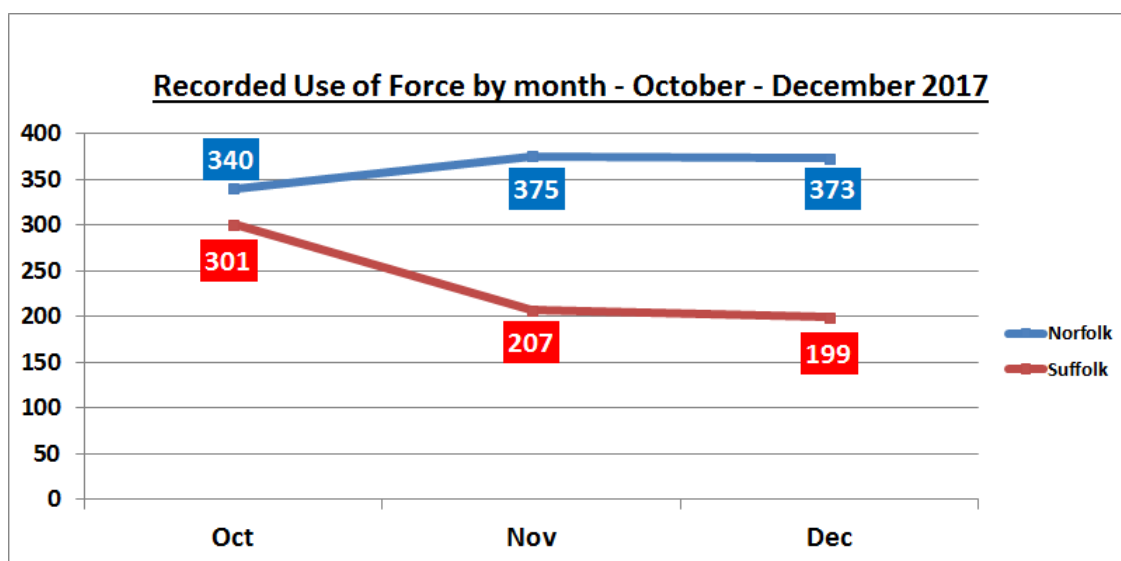
In April 2017 the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) established requirements for a consistent, uniformed approach from all Police Forces to record the use of force by officers. This means that every officer attending an incident where force has been used against an individual must complete and submit the necessary form. Consequently there may be more than one form submitted for a single incident. The figures quoted in this report refer to the number or percentage of forms as opposed to incidents.

Norfolk and Suffolk Constabularies will publish their use of force data on a quarterly basis in order to promote transparency around the execution of policing powers and to allow public scrutiny.

As well as being a rich source of information from which we can evaluate the effectiveness of use of force techniques for training purposes and in the execution of duties, the data will also provide insight into the challenges faced by officers, and will illustrate how appropriate use of force can prevent harm to the public by enabling officers to maintain order.

### Quarter Three 2017/18: Summary

During October - December 2017, Norfolk submitted **1088** forms around use of force and Suffolk submitted **707** over this quarter.



## Quarter Three 2017/18: In detail

### Location of use of force incidents

Location	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Street/Highway	553	51%	321	45%
Dwelling	267	25%	191	27%
Custody	93	9%	80	11%
Hospital	38	3.5%	17	2.4%
Licensed Premises	37	3.4%	20	2.8%
Retail Premises	21	1.9%	18	2.6%
Motor Vehicle	6	0.6%	4	0.6%
Football Stadia	1	0.1%	4	0.6%
Not detailed/Other	72	6.6%	52	7.4%

The most common location for use of force was on a street/highway for both Forces (51% of the time in Norfolk and 45% in Suffolk).

### Reason for use of force

Use of Force Reason(s)*	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Effect Arrest	770	71%	439	62%
Protect Self	635	58%	376	53%
Protect Other Officers	592	54%	376	53%
Prevent Escape	486	45%	321	45%
Prevent Harm	359	33%	244	35%
Protect Subject	358	33%	245	35%
Protect Public	328	30%	210	30%
Prevent Offence	251	23%	161	23%
Effect Search	242	22%	151	21%
Remove Handcuffs	39	3.6%	30	4.2%
Secure Evidence	2	0.2%	3	0.4%
Method of Entry	0	0.0%	0	0.0%
Other	22	2.0%	18	2.6%

\* Officers can select more than one category for their reasons

The most frequently cited reason for using force was to Effect Arrest (71% for Norfolk and 62% for Suffolk).

## Impact Factors

**Impact factors** refer to the dynamics of the situation as perceived by officers in deciding their use of force response. Consideration would be given to the need to elevate or reduce the level of force required for instance where the size or behaviour of the individual being restrained presents additional challenges.

Impact Factor	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Alcohol	559	51%	338	48%
Size/ Gender/ Build	514	47%	238	34%
Mental Health	322	30%	251	36%
Drugs	366	34%	240	34%
Possession of weapon	15	1.4%	0	0.0%
Prior knowledge	8	0.7%	6	0.9%
Crowd	1	0%	2	0%
Other	172	16%	122	17%

*Note: Groups as defined by Home Office for Annual Data Returns.*

*More than one impacting factor can be cited on each form.*

Alcohol was the most commonly cited impacting factor for both forces (51% in Norfolk and 48% in Suffolk).

## Primary behaviour of subjects perceived by Officers

Behaviour of Subject	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Active Resistance	290	27%	160	23%
Compliance	282	26%	179	25%
Aggressive Resistance	247	23%	182	26%
Passive Resistance	90	8%	44	6%
Serious or Aggravated	27	2.5%	46	7%
Other	152	14%	96	14%

*As defined by the College of Policing Manual of Guidance*

**Active resistance** The subject pulls away or pushes the officer but makes no attempt to strike them. This was the most common behaviour type encountered in Norfolk this quarter (28%).

**Compliance** The subject offers no resistance and complies with requests. It is important that the officer understands that this could change rapidly.

**Aggressive resistance** The subject physically attacks the officer. This was the most common behaviour type encountered in Suffolk this quarter (26%).

**Passive resistance** The subject stands/sits/lies still and will not move.

**Serious or aggravated resistance** The subject commits an assault which presents the possibility of serious injury or death. This includes the use of weapons.

## Frequency and Effectiveness of Use of Force - by Type

### Norfolk

Technique	Norfolk	% of All Reports	Effective	% Effective
Tactical Communications	614	56%	233	38%
Handcuffing	955	81%	861	90%
Unarmed Defence	290	27%	245	84%
Ground Restraint	166	15%	146	88%
Irritant Spray	118	11%	68	58%
Spit Protection	38	3.5%	29	76%
Baton (other than drawn only)	1	0.1%	0	0%

*Note: Statistics on the use of Taser are published separately and are available on the Norfolk and Suffolk constabulary websites. Officers may submit the same force type multiple times per report.*

### Suffolk

Technique	Suffolk	% of All Reports	Effective	% Effective
Tactical Communications	357	51%	130	36%
Handcuffing	670	78%	534	80%
Unarmed Defence	196	28%	158	81%
Ground Restraint	78	11%	69	88%
Irritant Spray	79	11%	37	47%
Spit Protection	26	3.7%	23	88%
Baton (other than drawn only)	2	0.3%	1	50%

*Note: Statistics on the use of Taser are published separately and are available on the Norfolk and Suffolk constabulary websites. Officers may submit the same force type multiple times per report.*

## Subject Details

### Age

Perceived Age of Subject	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
0 - 10	0	0%	6	1.0%
11 – 17	97	10%	43	7%
18 – 34	582	59%	385	61%
35 – 49	234	24%	152	24%
50 – 64	69	7%	30	5%
65 or over	9	0.9%	12	1.9%
No data available	123	(11%)	85	(12%)
Total Recorded	991	(89%)	628	(88%)

Over half of the use of force forms submitted in this quarter recorded a subjects perceived age as being between **18 and 34 years old** (59% in Norfolk and 61% in Suffolk).

### Ethnicity

Perceived Ethnicity of Subject *	Norfolk	% of recorded	Suffolk	% of recorded
White	972	91%	612	90%
Black (or Black British)	63	6%	45	7%
Asian ( or Asian British)	8	0.8%	10	1.5%
Don't know	17	1.6%	9	1.3%
Chinese	1	0.1%	0	0%
Other	3	0.3%	3	0.4%
No data available	50	(4.5%)	34	(4.8%)
Total Recorded	1064	(95.5%)	679	(95.2%)

\* Groups as defined by Home Office for Annual Data Returns, and perceived by the officer as opposed to self-defined ethnicity by the subject.

The majority of use of force forms for both forces identified the subjects as being perceived to be of **white ethnicity** (91% in Norfolk and 90% in Suffolk).

## Gender

Gender of the recording officers	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Reporting Officer	897	82%	624	88%
Female Reporting Officer	189	17%	81	11%
Officer does not identify	2	0.2%	2	0.3%

Gender of the subject	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Male Subject	889	82%	585	84%
Female Subject	195	18%	107	15%
Transgender Subject	2	0.2%	2	0.3%

In both forces, where gender was recorded, the majority of use of force forms identified the subject as male (**82%** in Norfolk and **84%** in Suffolk). Note: forms may not always have a gender recorded.

## Officer and Subject Injuries

Injury sustained to Officer or Subject as a result of Use of Force	Norfolk	% of Recorded	Suffolk	% of Recorded
Officer Injured	100	9%	66	9%
Subject Injured	156	14%	125	18%

**9%** of Norfolk forms, and **9%** of Suffolk forms, indicated officer injury as a result of use of force.

**14%** of Norfolk forms, and **18%** of Suffolk forms indicated subject injury as a result of use of force.

## Outcomes

Outcome	Norfolk	%	Suffolk	%
Arrested	803	74%	495	70%
Hospitalised	41	3.8%	31	4.4%
Detained (MHA*)	33	3%	23	3.3%
Made off / escaped	1	0.1%	0	0%
Other	210	19%	158	22%

*\*Mental health Act*

*\*\* Including hospitalisation for medical conditions existing prior to the use of force*

**74%** of Norfolk forms, and **70%** of Suffolk forms, indicated that the subject was arrested following the use of force.

