

West Lothian Council

Local Policing Committee:	
Date completed:	

SECTION ONE – EXPERIENCES OF STOP AND SEARCH

What type of data, reports, etc. have you received from Police Scotland regarding stop and search (please provide examples if at all possible)?

Data is received from Police Scotland on a quarterly basis and used for an existing performance indicator for positive searches of offensive weapons which was currently in place prior to Police Scotland being formulated. This data is still provided on a quarterly basis for the Community Safety Strategic Steering Group and the Community Safety Board.

The data provided below is then input into a council reporting system (Covalent) and reported in this manner. (Appendix B)

	April		May		June		July	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
V010 % of searches where possession of weapons are found in a public place	3.2%	6.4%		5.6%		6.5%	0.28%	4.3%
The level of positive weapons searches has increased in the last three months, as this area is now a priority for Police Scotland resulting in more searches being carried out.	Unable to obtain the data for the months of May and June 2012 due to a change in the police computer applications							

	July		Aug		Sep		Oct	
	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013	2012	2013
V010 % of searches where possession of weapons are found in a public place	2.74%	4.25%	3.9%	9.9%	5.2%	10.3%	5.3%	3.2%
The level of positive weapons searches increased in August and September, as this area is now a priority for Police Scotland resulting in more searches being carried out.	The system of recorded searches has changed in recent months and previous years data is difficult to obtain accurately.							

Substance Misuse

There is no reporting mechanism for those searches relating to drugs, other than where it is pertinent to mention this within a Local Area Committee report to the Services to Communities committee. Such reporting falls under issues of note.

Example for the period up to 30th September 2013 within one ward included:

Substance misuse has been identified as an ongoing issue within the ward area and continues to be proactively targeted by officers. Intelligence led Stop and Search tactics have resulted in a number of drugs recoveries in the ward area. These tactics, combined with directed action following receipt of information received from members of the public, have resulted in the officers searching a number of houses on warrant and reporting the occupiers for their possession of and involvement in the supply of drugs.

The Community Policing Team have been continuing with regular inspections of licensed premises in the area to ensure compliance regards the sale of alcohol ,and in order to monitor for potential use of illicit substances being used on premises.

Operation Floorwalk

The Community Policing Team carried out further operations on 27th September and 22nd November 2013, working alongside partners in targeting underage consumption and access to alcohol. During the course of the operation a quantity of alcohol was recovered and intelligence gathered

on new areas which youths are frequenting in order to avoid detection. Further operations are now being scheduled for November and December.

Community Action Days

Building on the success of previous Community Action Days the Community Policing Team have planned a number of days whereby they will be carrying out focused proactive activities in furtherance of addressing local priorities and in order to 'Keep People Safe'.

What feedback have you received from individuals, organisations, impacted groups etc. on the use of stop and search by Police Scotland?

The Community Safety Unit will endeavour to obtain any relevant feedback from members of the public, members of council staff working in the communities across West Lothian and other service providers and organisations on their impressions of Stop Searches by Police Scotland.

Do you have any views on the use of stop and search by Police Scotland which you would like to share with the Scottish Police Authority?

West Lothian Council values the work being carried out by Police Scotland on Stop Searches and regards this as a means of Prevention.

It is understood that Police Scotland themselves see this as a tactic measure in order to combat the carrying of knives and other offensive weapons and drugs.

The very fact that Police Scotland carry out these Stop Searches is considered to be a powerful deterrent, as is the visual impact they are deemed to have in the communities themselves, whether that be physical searches made by police officers ,or those that are aided by other means such as 'search wands' for offensive weapons, or the archways that detect such items.

Now that West Lothian is one of the Authorities involved in the Scottish Governments *No Knives, Better Lives (NKBL)* initiative, that aims to reduce the incidence of knife carrying amongst young people by raising awareness of the related risks and consequences, Stop Searches can only add to the education and enforcement of this. NKBL is a nationally directed but locally delivered initiative. This enhances the work carried out by Community Safety Partners.

Do you wish your organisation's response to be made public?	Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>	No	<input type="checkbox"/>
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SECTION THREE – INTERNAL USE ONLY (to be completed by Scottish Police Authority Officers)

Date received:	
Received by:	