

This file contains information on stop & searches and seizures undertaken by Police Scotland in the period 1st April 2020 to 31st March 2021 (As at 2nd April 2021)

Definitions (taken from the Stop and Search Standard Operating Procedure)

Stop and Search

A stop and search is one conducted by a police officer in the course of their duties where a person who is not in police custody is searched using a specific statutory provision or in accordance with a search warrant issued by a court in Scotland.

Positive Stop and Search

A positive stop and search is when an item is recovered where possession of same implies criminality on the part of the person being searched or any other or where an item has been recovered which is potentially harmful.

N.B. When a stop and search under a statutory provision has taken place and alcohol, tobacco or NPS is recovered, depending on the circumstances this should be recorded as a positive stop and search on the Stop and Search Database.

Recordable Stop and Search (must be recorded on the National Stop and Search Database)

A recordable stop and search is any stop and search, with the exception of condition of entry searches (Section 67 Criminal Justice (Scotland) Act 2016) or Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (which is governed by a different Code of Practice).

Seizure

A seizure occurs when;

- alcohol, and/or
- tobacco product, and/or
- cigarette papers

are surrendered by any person to a police officer using specific statutory provisions, or are removed by a police officer from that person in pursuance of an alcohol byelaw, where no physical search of a person has taken place, or prior to any search under a different enactment.

Terrorism Act 2000

Searches under the Terrorism Act 2000 are not included in this data for operational and security reasons. Statistical information about the operation of police powers under the Terrorism Act 2000 is available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/operation-of-police-powers-under-the-terrorism-act-2000>

Data Explanation

| Column Name | Description | Comments |
|-------------------|--|--|
| COMMAND CODE | Police Scotland Region | 1=North, 2=East, 3=West |
| COMMAND DESC | Region Description | North, East, West |
| DIVISION CODE | Police Scotland Division Code | A= North East,D=Tayside, N=Highlands & Islands, C=Forth Valley, E=Edinburgh, J=The Lothians & Scottish Borders, P=Fife, G=Greater Glasgow, U=Ayrshire, Q=Lanarkshire, L=Argyll & West Dunbartonshire, K=Renfrewshire & Inverclyde, V=Dumfries & Galloway |
| DIVISION DESC | Police Scotland Division Description | Name of each Division |
| AREA COMMAND CODE | Police Scotland Area Command Code | Code for each Area Command |
| AREA COMMAND DESC | Police Scotland Area Command Description | Name of each Area Command |
| COUNCIL AREA CODE | Local Authority Number | 1-32 representing each Local Authority |

Data Explanation

| Column Name | Description | Comments |
|-------------------|------------------------|---|
| COUNCIL DESC | Local Authority Name | Name of each Local Authority |
| MULTI MEMBER WARD | Multi-member Ward Name | Multi-member Ward Name |
| SEARCH DATE | Search date | Date in format dd/mm/yyyy |
| YEAR | Search year | Year in format yyyy |
| MONTH | Search month | Text description of month (January, February, etc) |
| DAY OF THE WEEK | Search day | Text description of day (Monday, Tuesday, etc) |
| SEARCH TIME | Time | Time in format HH:MM |
| SEARCH RESULT | Search Result | Positive or Negative for Stop & Searches, Refusal for Refusals and blank for Seizures |
| SEARCH STATUTE | Warrants | Other (free text) S23(3) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Controlled Drugs) S142(1) Criminal Justice Act 1988 S46(1) Firearms Act 1968 S42(1) Terrorism Act 2000 S28B(4) Immigration Act 1971 S292(3) Mental Health Care and Treatment Scotland Act 2003 S109(1) Copyright, Designs and Patents Act 1988 (Piracy and trademark offences) S24(1) Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 (Search for counterfeit money) S27 Deer (Scotland) Act 1996 |
| | Drugs | S23(2) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Controlled Drugs) S23A Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (Temp Class Drugs) |
| | Care and Welfare | S66 Criminal Justice (Scot) Act 2016 (Person not in police custody to be, or is being, taken to or from any place) |
| | NPS | S36 Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (Supply etc.) |
| | Stolen Property | S60 Civic Government (Scot) Act 1982 |
| | Weapons | S48(1) Criminal Law (Cons) (Scot) Act 1995 (Offensive weapons) S49(B) Criminal Law (Cons) (Scot) Act 1995 (Offensive weapons in Schools) S50 Criminal Law (Cons) (Scot) Act 1995 (Bladed or Pointed Articles) |
| | Firearms | S47(1) Firearms Act 1968 |
| | Fireworks | S11A Fireworks Act 2003 |
| | Protection of Life | S20/32 Police & Fire Reform (Scot) Act 2012 |
| | Other | S20/32 Police & Fire Reform (Scot) Act 2012 |
| | Aviation | S24B Aviation Security Act 1982 (Stolen or prohibited items in Aerodromes) Edinburgh Airport Byelaws 2015 (Search in interest of public safety) |
| | Wildlife | S19 Wildlife & Countryside Act 1981 S11 Protection of Badgers Act 1992 S101 Conservation (Natural Habitats etc.) Regulations 1994 S27 Deer (Scot) Act 1996 S4 Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996 S7 Wild Mammals (Scot) Act 2002 S53(1) Salmon & Freshwater Fisheries (Cons) (Scot) Act 2003 |
| | Sporting Events | S21 Criminal Law (Cons) (Scot) Act 1995 (Alcohol) S21 Criminal Law (Cons) (Scot) Act 1995 (Controlled containers) S21 Criminal Law (Cons) (Scot) Act 1995 (Controlled article or substance) |
| | Public Order | S60 Criminal Justice & Public Order Act 1994 (Authority of inspector or above) |
| | Proceeds of Crime | S289 Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (Prior approval required) |
| | Crossbows | S4 Crossbows Act 1987 |

Data Explanation

| Column Name | Description | Comments |
|-----------------------------|--|---|
| SEARCH REASON CODE | Search Reason Code | 1=Drugs, 2=Stolen Property, 3=Firearms, 4=Offensive Weapons, 5=Alcohol, 6=Terrorism, 7=Not used from June 2015, 8=Not used from June 2015, 9=Fireworks, 10=Wildlife, 11=Crossbows, 12=Aviation, 13=Seizure, 14=Public Order, 15=Criminal Damage, 16=Antisocial Behaviour, 17=Proceeds of Crime, 20=Care and Welfare, 21=Warrants, 22=Protection of Life |
| SEARCH REASON | Search Reason Description | Text description of search reason as entered |
| SEARCH TYPE | Type of Search carried out | Consensual/statutory/seizures |
| INCIDENT TYPE | Type of incident | Stop and search/Seizure/Refusal |
| DESC DRUGS FOUND | Items Found Descriptions (Drugs) | Description of drugs found on positive searches where available |
| DESC OFF WEAP FOUND | Items Found Descriptions (Weapons) | Description of Offensive Weapons found on positive searches where available |
| DESC ALCOHOL FOUND | Items Found Descriptions (Alcohol) | Description of Alcohol found on positive searches & seizures where available |
| DESC OTHER ITEMS FOUND | Items Found Generic Description | Generic description of other items found on positive searches where available (Fireworks, Stolen Property etc) |
| DESC TOBACCO FOUND | Items Found Descriptions (Tobacco) | Description of tobacco found on seizures where available |
| DESC SUBSTANCE FOUND | Items Found Descriptions (Substance) | Description of substance found on seizures where available |
| NOMINAL AGE | Age of Person Searched | There are 17 stop & search records and 1 seizure records where the nominal age is unknown. This relates to records where the 'Nominal Details Withheld' or the 'Age Unknown' boxes have been ticked. |
| NOMINAL GENDER | Gender of Person Searched | Male, Female, Unknown or Blank |
| NOMINAL ETHNICITY | Ethnicity of Person Searched | This contains information on the ethnic group entered for the person searched |
| ETHNIC GROUP | Standard Ethnic Group Number | There is a table in the Ethnic Group Table Tab which shows a list of 20 standard ethnic group descriptions |
| RECEIPT ISSUED | Receipt issued or not | Confirmation that a receipt has been issued to the person searched. |
| SEIZURE ALCOHOL LEGISLATION | Surrender/Seizure Power | Local Authority Byelaw S61 Crime and Punishment (Scot) Act 1997 |
| SEIZURE TOBACO LEGISLATION | Surrender Power | Sec 7 Tobacco & Primary Medicines Act 2010 |
| NOMINAL UNKNOWN | Person searched name unknown | When the nominal details of the person searched is not provided or unknown |
| NOMINAL UNDER 18 | Person searched under the age of 18 or not | When the age of the person searched is not provided or unknown the reporting officer is required to give an estimate of whether the persons searched was under the age of 18 years of age or over. |
| NOMINAL AGE UNKNOWN | Person searched age is unknown | When the age of the person searched is not provided or unknown |
| PHYSICAL SEARCH TYPE | The level of search carried out | Whether the search was a standard search, a strip search within a police station, a strip search outwith a police station, or an intimate search. Note: This includes only searches to which the Code of Practice applies (i.e. a search in all situations in which constables stop and search a person without first making an arrest). |