

**This file contains information on stop & searches, seizures and refusals undertaken by Police Scotland in the period 1st April 2017 to 31st March 2018 (As at 2nd April 2018)**

An enhanced version of the national stop & search database was implemented on 1 June 2015. The enhanced database brought significant changes in the process of data capture and the methodology for recording data items. Comparisons with historic data will provide misleading results or invalid conclusions as it has been previously acknowledged that historic data is not 100% accurate.

The following definitions applied prior to the Code of Practice (1 April 2017 to 10 May 2017) and were developed and adopted by Police Scotland to support procedural and recording frameworks:

**Statutory Stop and Search**

A statutory search is one conducted by a Police Officer in the course of their duties where the individual is searched using a specific statutory provision.

**Consensual Stop and Search**

A consensual search is one conducted by a Police Officer in the course of their duties with the consent of the individual being searched.

**Refusal**

A refusal is when an individual does not provide their consent to be searched by an officer. This only relates to a consensual stop and search.

**Seizure**

A seizure occurs when items are surrendered, or are removed from an individual by a Police Officer, for the purpose of safeguarding the health and well-being of that individual or any other, in circumstances where the stop and search tactic has NOT been utilised and no physical search of an individual has taken place.

**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 individual being searched or any other; or potentially compromises the safety of that individual or any other.

**Recordable Stop and Search**

Any unplanned stop and search where the officer has, in the course of their duties, used statutory powers or gained the consent of the individual being searched.

Since 11 May 2017 the use of stop and search is carried out in accordance with the Code of Practice, the following definitions now reflect this:

**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 Section 47A/Schedule 7 of the Terrorism Act 2000 (which are governed by different Codes 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
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

**Data Explanation**

Column Name	Description	Comments
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).