

**Invitation to Tender:**  
**Researching disproportionality in Stop & Search**

**CONTRACT SUMMARY**

**Value of contract**

£25,000

**Published date**

15/07/2022

**Opening date**

15/07/2022

**Closing date**

19/08/2022

**Contract start date**

To be confirmed. Anticipated start date is 26/09/2022

**DESCRIPTION**

The OPCC is seeking to commission research in to Stop & Search disproportionality to better understand the available data and to better understand any inequality in stop & search – exploring ethnicity, age and gender and the impacts on different community groups.

**1. BACKGROUND**

In his manifesto the Police & Crime Commissioner stated ‘One of the key issues is that of disproportionality in the use of tactics such as stop and search which is seen as evidence of potential discrimination. I believe the crude way in which we currently measure disproportionality is highly misleading and not useful in indicating whether discriminatory

behaviour may be taking place or its extent. If we really want to find out whether there is disproportionality we need to invest in some detailed research.'

## **2. RESEARCH NEEDS**

The aim of this research is to:

1. Understand if the right information is being collected to understand and measure disproportionality
2. Understand how to best calculate disproportionately and discrimination
3. Review available data sets and how robust the analysis is e.g., to what level of statistical significance
4. Better understand the full extent of disproportionality with regards to Stop & Search in Hertfordshire
5. Compare the extent of disproportionality in Hertfordshire to other forces in England and Wales (particularly to those in Hertfordshire's most similar group)
6. To understand if there is a legitimate explanation to the disproportionality observed in Stop & Search in Hertfordshire
7. Understand if there is evidence that the tactic is being deployed discriminately in Hertfordshire

It is expected that to conduct this research it would be necessary to:

- Bring together quantitative and qualitative research, including reviewing secondary literature and new data sets
- Review the available data on proportionality including ethnicity, gender, and age (using new census data and other available sources)
- Analyse the breakdown of ethnicity and age against type of search
- Analyse the breakdown of ethnicity and age against outcome of search
- Analyse the breakdown of ethnicity against stop & search power
- Analyse the breakdown of ethnicity against individual Community Safety Partnerships
- Explore what methodologies are adopted by other forces, Home Office, College of Policing, National Police Chiefs Council and others to understand proportionality

- Review academic literature to understanding what these highlights about measuring proportionality
- Review available data with regards to strength of intelligence available
- Analyse available data with regards to areas where stop & search is undertaken – identifying high density areas for stops
- Analyse data on high density stop areas against crime data and intelligence

Expected outputs:

- Report to include findings and recommendations
- Presentation on findings and recommendations to be delivered to the PCC and the Stop & Search Scrutiny panel

The research should be completed within six months from contract being awarded.

### **3. RESPONSIBILITIES**

The successful organisation will need to:

- Complete all research and deliver a final report within six months
- Report initial findings after four months
- Deliver final report to the PCC after six months in form of written report and face to face presentation

The OPCC will:

- Provide a named contact for day-to-day contact for this piece of work
- Make available a dissertation completed by a Hertfordshire Constabulary Inspector on 'Disproportionality in the practice of Stop and Search in Hertfordshire Constabulary, an exploratory study'
- Provide Stop & Search data on number of searches undertaken each month along wide gender, age and ethnicity of those searched. The data would also show which district the search was undertaken in and the outcome of the search.
- Provide access to any other relevant Constabulary data and to staff and Officers
- Provide support to arrange online surveys (through the Constabulary's Echo platform) and face to face group sessions

- Provide minutes from the external stop & search scrutiny panel meetings and annual reports completed by the panel
- Ensure the opportunity to attend the Hertfordshire Stop & Search panel and speak with panel members

#### **4. PROJECT COSTS AND TERMS OF ENGAGEMENT**

You should submit a proposal identifying:

- How you plan to address the six key research needs
- Key milestones and timings
- Methodology
- Breakdown of costs (including staff costs)
- How you plan to deliver the outputs identified

You should also provide examples of your experience, any similar research that you have previously completed as well as your knowledge of relevant topics, e.g., use of police powers and race relations.

Costings should include an initial set up meeting with the OPCC. We will expect regular communication throughout the project.

Suppliers will be in a competitive bidding situation and all proposals will be scored. An award made for up to £25,000. Payment will be in two parts. The first payment will be made at four months, once interim findings are submitted. Final payment will be subject to satisfactory completion of the research project within the specified time period.

Please quote all costs exclusive of VAT with VAT quoted separately.

The OPCC intends to publish the results of the research.

#### **5. TIMESCALES**

The work needs to start as soon as practically possible once contracts and data sharing agreements are in place.

Initial findings will be delivered four months after the agreed start date with the final report delivered after six months.

## **6. SELECTION CRITERIA**

The OPCC will review all proposals received and awards on the following criteria:

- Experience of conducting similar research
- Proposed methodology to carry out work in the time proposed
- Experience and knowledge of use of police powers and race relations
- Cost

## **7. CONTACT DETAILS**

If you have any questions, please contact:

Sara Miles

Telephone: 07710 143680

Email: [sara.miles@herts-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:sara.miles@herts-pcc.gov.uk)

**All proposals should be submitted to Sara Miles (Criminal Justice Policy & Research Manager) by email to [sara.miles@herts-pcc.gov.uk](mailto:sara.miles@herts-pcc.gov.uk) no later than 5pm on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> August.**

## 8. REFERENCES

Ashby, M. (2020) Stop & Search in London July to September 2020. UCL Institute for Global City Policing. Available at: <https://discovery.ucl.ac.uk/id/eprint/10115766/1/2020-Q3.pdf>

Borooh, V.K. (2011) 'Racial Disparity in police stop & searches in England & Wales'. Journal of Quantitative Criminology. 27(4).

Bowling, B. & Phillips, C. (2007) 'Disproportionate and Discriminatory: Reviewing the Evidence on Police Stop and Search'. Modern law review. 70 (6)

Bradford, B. (2017) Stop & Search and Police Legitimacy. Oxon: Routledge.

Equality and Human Rights Commission (2010) Stop and Think: A critical review of the use of stop and search powers in England and Wales. Available at:

<https://www.equalityhumanrights.com/en/publication-download/stop-and-think-critical-review-use-stop-and-search-powers-england-and-wales>.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire and Rescue Services (2021)

Disproportionate use of police powers; A spotlight on stop and search and the use of force.

Available at: <https://www.justiceinspectors.gov.uk/hmicfrs/wp-content/uploads/disproportionate-use-of-police-powers-spotlight-on-stop-search-and-use-of-force.pdf>

Hine J. (2015, unpublished). Stop and search: Exploring disproportionality. Leicester: Leicestershire Police and De Montfort University.

Palfreyman P. (2021). Disproportionality in the practice of Stop and Search in Hertfordshire Constabulary, an exploratory study. University of Hertfordshire.

Warwickshire Police (2020) Stop & Search / Use of Force Disproportionality Report; September 2020. Available at:

<https://www.warwickshire.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/warwickshire/about-us/stop-search--use-of-force/warwickshire-stop-search-disproportionality-report.pdf>

West Mercia Police (2018) Stop and Search Disproportionality. Available at:

<https://www.westmercia.police.uk/SysSiteAssets/media/downloads/west-mercia/stats-and-data/stop-and-search/2018/stop-search-disproportionality-october-2018.pdf>