

I have been doing a little personal research as I sit on the Stop & Search scrutiny panel.

I have been impressed with the professionalism of Glos Police. As a group I think we do a good job challenging the grounds and process of each of the searches we check.

However, one local 'politician' has been [tweeting](#) about "structural racism in how the powers are used".

Clearly, as a panel, we cannot see any bias, we can only check the process. As I sit on the panel this assertion reflects (badly) on me.

When I look at data from [GCC](#), I discover that BAME individuals account for 10.9% of the Gloucester population, 8.6% for the county (14.6% nationally).

When I look at the anonymised data Police Stop & Search data January - April 2020 for Gloucestershire and then by mapping the Latitude and Longitude back to Ward, I see this data for Gloucester District (the most diverse district).

Type	Officer-defined ethnicity	Searches	DISTRICT
Person search	White	167	Gloucester District (B)
Person search	Other	33	Gloucester District (B)
Person search	Black	20	Gloucester District (B)
Person search	Asian	3	Gloucester District (B)

So, out of the 220 searches 25.4% are performed on BAME individuals.

There was an interesting article in the [Guardian today](#) and the focus is on the Met. Clearly different to Gloucestershire and I'm aware of the challenges from living in Brixton, South London for a number of years.

Ken Marsh, chair of the Metropolitan Police Federation, comments were interesting. He seemed to justify the apparent focus on BAME communities by citing statistics on those perpetrating knife crime. However, looking at our data above, by object of search we see:-

Type	Object of search	Searches	DISTRICT
Person search	Controlled drugs	151	Gloucester District (B)
Person search	Offensive weapons	35	Gloucester District (B)
Person search	Stolen goods	24	Gloucester District (B)
Person search	Article for use in theft	12	Gloucester District (B)
Person search	Firearms	1	Gloucester District (B)

Anyway, the bottom line is the number of Stop & Searches on BAME individuals seems to be double what one expect in the Gloucestershire District. Ethnicity 10.9% vs. 25.4% of searches.

County wide ethnicity 8.6% vs. 19.3% of searches.

Clearly, my figures are in no way 'official' but I think it would be beneficial if the topic were discussed at the meeting on Thursday to make sure the panel is not just paying lip service to its remit.