



LBRUT SNB

STOP AND SEARCH IN LBRuT: COMMUNITY MONITORING OF STOP AND SEARCH

As you have read in our Spring Newsletter, here in Richmond upon Thames we have a small, dedicated community monitoring group, the members of which regularly look at the Stop and Searches made locally. We have fewer Searches than any other London borough.

The redacted data of Stops are checked to ensure that the correct procedure have been followed and that Stops are based on intelligence – not at random or according to a person’s appearance. Body Worn Video (BWV) footage of these Searches are also watched so any encounter can be fully observed from start to finish, showing the behaviour and interaction between the police and the person stopped. Any issues identified are discussed with the Police Stop and Search lead and, if necessary, can be escalated to the Superintendent with responsibility for communities.”

We are required to inform the public of the results of our viewing of Stop and Searches on Body Worn Video. Wendy Kyrle-Pope and Carole Atkinson observed four searches on 17th May. One was part of a Section 60 set up around the Teddington Lock Area; a Section 60 Order is one which the police put in place when there has been violence or the threat of violence in a specific area, and allows police to search anyone on that area, without intelligence or grounds. The other three comprised two Searches for drugs, and one for going equipped (with tools for breaking and entering). The people stopped gave information readily and cooperated fully, except for the ‘going equipped’ gentleman who had been involved with the police before. WKP and CA had noted that one officer did not wear gloves during the search and the officer stopping the ‘going equipped’ did not give the full GOWISELY (stating the grounds for the Stop, and other identifying information), but this had no effect on the correctness of the Stop and would probably not have been taken in by the stoppee.

The Community Monitoring Group (CMG) met the following day. The Met Dashboard information (<https://www.met.police.uk/sd/stats-and-data/met/stop-and-search-dashboard/>) which is available to the general public, was perused and it was noted that Richmond carries out the least number of stops in the Met, but outcomes were generally in line with the Met average. Disproportionality (when numbers stopped in ethnic groups are compared with the resident population of the 2011 census) was high and the group proceeded to the redacted data for the individual Stops to try and ascertain whether this was the result of any discrimination. They were not. The Stops selected at random and included Stops on young people, and on a female. The outcomes of those included community resolution, arrests, and No Further Action. Two of the Stops, although in accordance with procedure, needed a little more information in the narrative reasoning for the Stop. Overall, the group thought that the police in the borough were thoroughly fair and professional.