



Use of Force by the Police in Northern Ireland

1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026

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Key Statistics

Between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026:

- there were 22,827 uses of force reported by PSNI officers, an increase of 20% on the number reported during the previous year (19,028).
- use of attenuating energy projectiles (AEPs), conductive energy devices (CEDs) and police dog decreased compared to the previous year while use of batons, irritant spray, firearms, handcuffs/limb restraints, unarmed physical tactics and spit and bite guards increased.
- the most common type of force used was unarmed physical tactics, accounting for 58% of all uses of force.
- the most common reasons an officer used force was to protect themselves (80% of the time) and protect other officers (78% of the time).
- Belfast District accounted for one-third of the use of force (32%), followed by Derry City and Strabane (13%) and Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon (12%).
- alcohol was the most common perceived impact factor when force was used (60% of the time).

In relation to those persons* on whom force was used:

- 81% were perceived to be male
- 35% were perceived to be between 25 and 34 years old
- 93% were perceived to be white.

**Figures do not represent a unique count of the number of people who were subject to use of force, but rather how many times force was recorded by police officers, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.*

Table of Contents

| | |
|---|---|
| 1. Things you need to know about this release | 1 |
| 2. Summary statistics | 1 |
| 3. Long-term trends (based on financial year) | 1 |
| 4. District | 1 |
| 5. Reason for use of force | 1 |
| 6. Impact factors | 1 |
| 7. Location of use of force | 1 |
| 8. Type of incident | 1 |
| 9. Officer duty type | 1 |
| 10. Gender, age group and ethnicity | 1 |
| 11. Background notes | 1 |

1. Things you need to know about this release

Coverage

Recommendation 21 of the Northern Ireland Policing Board's Human Rights Annual Report (2008) requires the PSNI to, "provide the Policing Board with statistics on all categories of uses of force recorded on the PSNI electronic use of force monitoring system on a six monthly basis." This report outlines the occasions of Police Use of Force for the period 1 April 2025 to 31 March 2026. The next report, covering the 12 month period October 2025 to September 2026, will be published in December 2026.

Police officers must record the details of any incident where they deployed force tactics through a 'use of force report'. Where an incident involved more than one person or officer, each officer who used force must complete one use of force report, detailing their own use of force. As such, a singular event or individual may feature in multiple use of force reports.

In Sections 2 – 9 of this report, one 'use of force' refers to one officer's use of force involving one or more persons. As such, the number of uses reported is not equal to the number of unique incidents/events or people involved in incidents. If one officer points their firearm at three persons this will be counted as one use of force. If two officers point their firearms at the same three persons during the same incident, two use of force reports should be completed and this will be counted as two uses of force.

At the time of publication, 99.9% of the use of force forms submitted for the period April 2025 to March 2026 had been validated and thereby included in the statistics in this report.

Data quality

The figures in Section 10 of this report reflect how many times force was recorded by police officers, however it does not tell us how many individual people experienced police use of force. As explained above, if two officers used force on one individual, each officer would submit a use of force report and the person's details would be reported by both for each type of force used.

In some cases, the person's information e.g. age, gender, ethnicity are recorded as perceived by the reporting officer, therefore should not be considered as reliable as self-reported data. On other occasions, such details are known or reported by the person.

Whilst every effort is made to ensure that all incidents of use of force by the police are reported on the use of force monitoring system, there is the possibility that some under-reporting exists and this should be borne in mind when using these statistics. However, PSNI have recently implemented an automated solution, which should significantly reduce any under-reporting, primarily by prompting officers automatically when a use of force form is required.

Users and uses of the statistics

Uses of the statistics, based on user engagement, information requests and satisfaction survey feedback include policy making and policy monitoring, performance monitoring and public interest, by a range of users including PSNI, the Policing Board, media and academics. Full details can be found in the [Use of Force User Guide](#).

PSNI Statistics Branch welcomes any user feedback on these statistics, which can be provided via the email address on the cover page.

Official Statistics

This bulletin is an Official Statistics publication meaning it complies with the [Code of Practice for Official Statistics](#) as follows:

- Trustworthiness: the statistics are impartial, independent and released in an open and transparent manner in accordance with a pre-announced publication schedule
- Quality: the statistics are produced using robust and relevant data sources which undergo continuous quality improvement and assurance checks
- Value: the statistics strive to meet user needs informed by ongoing feedback, providing sufficient detail which is widely accessible.

2. Summary statistics

Notes for sections 2 – 9:

- 1) An officer may have used force on more than one member of the public in a single occasion of using force.
- 2) 'CED drawn' includes drawn, aimed, arced and red-dot.
- 3) 'CED fired' includes drive stun.
- 4) Unarmed physical tactics include blocks/strikes, take downs, pressure points, physical restraint and other/improvised tactics. Each type of tactic used is counted in the figures in these sections; for example, if an officer took down and physically restrained an individual, both of these tactics will be counted.

Table 1 summarises police use of force between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 compared to the same period last year. Further information in relation to each type of force can be found in the [Use of Force User Guide](#).

Table 1: Police use of force between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 compared to the same period last year

| Use of Force | Apr 24 – Mar 25 | Apr 25 – Mar 26 | % change ⁽¹⁾ |
|------------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| AEP pointed | 100 ⁽²⁾ | 79 ⁽³⁾ | -21% |
| AEP discharged | 10 ⁽²⁾ | 16 ⁽³⁾ | 60% |
| AEP Total | 110 | 95 | -14% |
| Baton drawn only | 130 | 157 | 21% |
| Baton drawn & used | 78 | 120 | 54% |
| Baton Total | 208 | 277 | 33% |
| Irritant spray drawn only | 196 | 250 | 28% |
| Irritant spray used | 262 | 289 | 10% |
| Irritant spray Total | 458 | 539 | 18% |
| Firearm drawn or pointed | 485 | 554 | 14% |
| Firearm discharged | 0 | 1 | - |
| Firearm Total | 485 | 555 | 14% |
| Police dog⁽⁴⁾ | 119 | 87 | -27% |
| CED drawn ⁽⁴⁾ | 282 | 260 | -8% |
| CED fired | 19 | 13 | -32% |
| CED Total | 301 | 273 | -9% |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 5,753 | 7,672 | 33% |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 11,420 | 13,128 | 15% |
| Spit and bite guard | 174 | 198 | 14% |
| Water cannon deployed | 0 | 0 | - |
| Water cannon deployed and used | 0 | 3 | - |
| Water cannon Total | 0 | 3 | - |
| Total | 19,028 | 22,827 | 20% |

(1) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer.

(2) During April 2024 – March 2025 AEP was pointed on 99 occasions as a less lethal option and pointed on one occasion during public disorder; during the same period it was discharged on 6 occasions as a less lethal option and discharged on 4 occasions during public disorder.

(3) During April 2025 – March 2026 AEP was only pointed as a less lethal option; during the same period it was discharged on 4 occasions as a less lethal option and discharged on 12 occasions during public disorder.

(4) Further disaggregation of police dog and CED drawn can be found in Table 1a.

Table 1a: Disaggregation of use of police dog and CED between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 compared to the same period last year

| Use of Force | Apr 24 – Mar 25 | Apr 25 – Mar 26 | % change ⁽¹⁾ |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------|
| Indirect Deployment | 0 | 2 | - |
| Interim Deployment | 58 | 35 | -40% |
| Direct Deployment | 50 | 43 | -14% |
| Direct Deployment (Bite- Command) | 6 | 4 | -33% |
| Direct Deployment (Bite- Provoked) | 4 | 2 | -50% |
| Direct Deployment (Bite- Accidental) | 1 | 0 | -100% |
| Other | 0 | 1 | - |
| Police dog Total | 119 | 87 | -27% |
| CED drawn | 51 | 37 | -27% |
| CED aimed | 54 | 46 | -15% |
| CED red dot | 174 | 174 | 0% |
| CED arced | 3 | 3 | 0% |
| CED fired | 19 | 13 | -32% |
| CED drive stun | 0 | 0 | . |
| CED angled drive stun | 0 | 0 | . |
| CED Total | 301 | 273 | -9% |

(1) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer.

Direction to draw batons

- A supervisory officer directed officers to draw their batons on a further 7 occasions between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026, which are not included in the 'Baton drawn only' statistics in this report. If an officer used his baton as a result of being directed to draw it, this use will be included in the 'baton drawn and used' statistics throughout this report.

Firearms drawn with no persons present

- There were 155 occasions between 1 April 2025 and 31 March 2026 when officers drew their firearms for operational reasons due to a perceived threat when no members of the public were present. This type of force is primarily used by Authorised / Specialist Firearms Officers during methodical and reactive search operations. These occasions are not included in the 'firearms drawn or pointed' statistics in this report.

3. Long-term trends (based on financial year)

Figure 1: Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP), 2016/17 - 2025/26

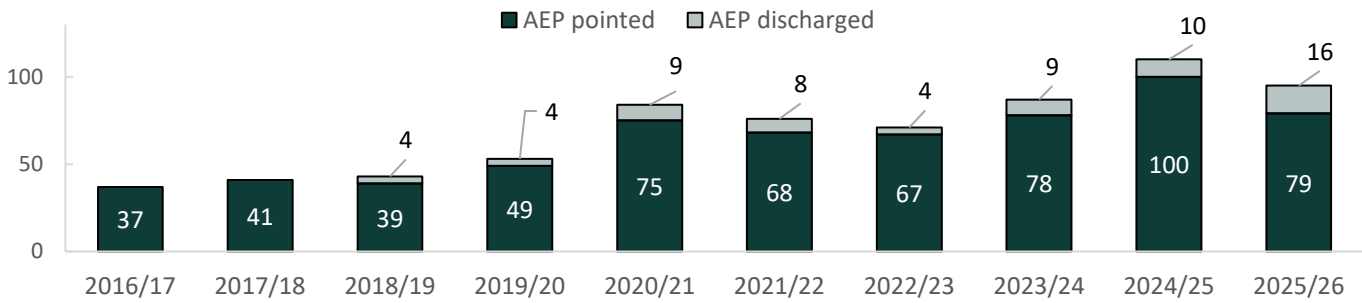


Figure 2: Police baton, 2016/17 - 2025/26

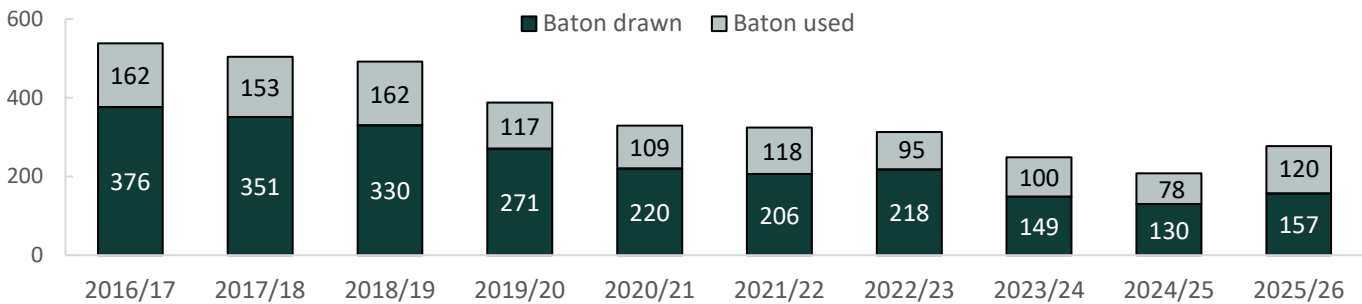


Figure 3: Irritant spray, 2016/17 - 2025/26

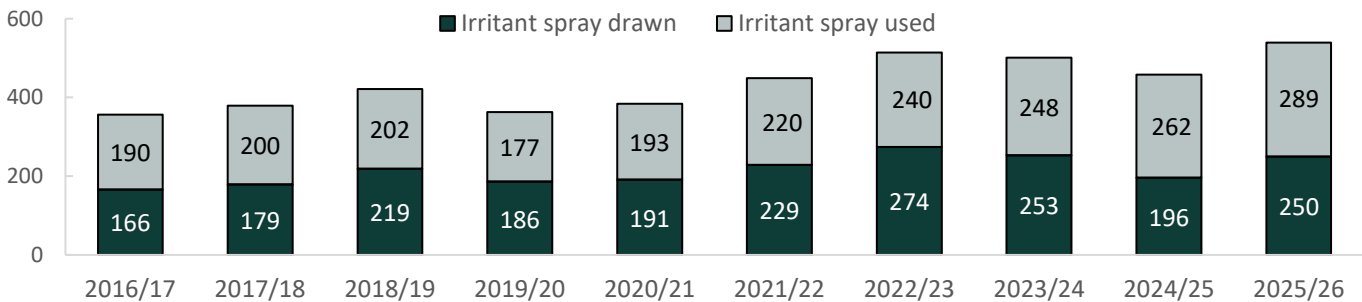


Figure 4: Firearms, 2016/17 - 2025/26

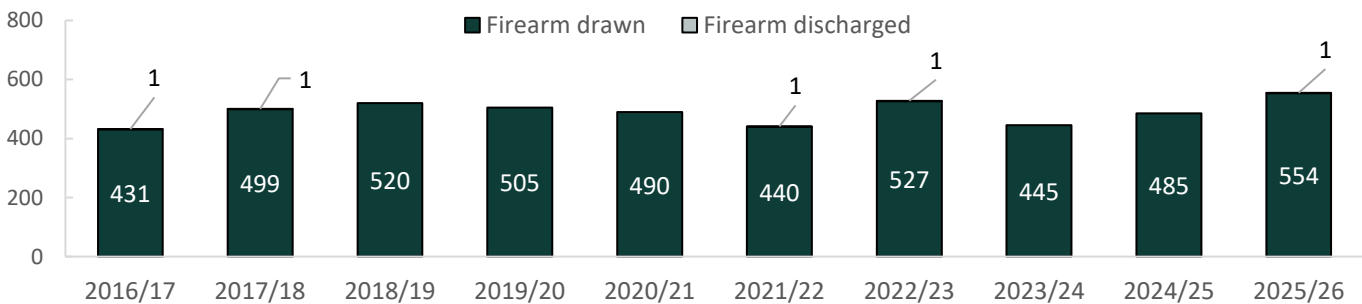


Figure 5: Police dogs, 2016/17 - 2025/26

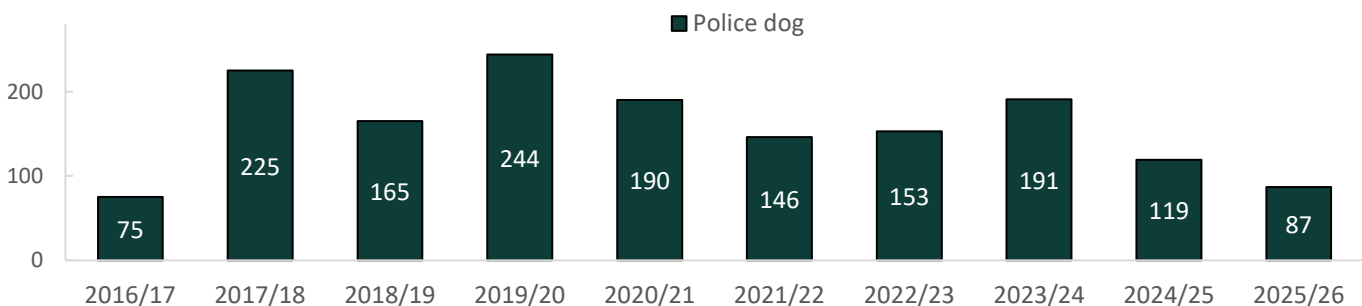


Figure 6: Conductive Energy Device (CED), 2016/17 - 2025/26

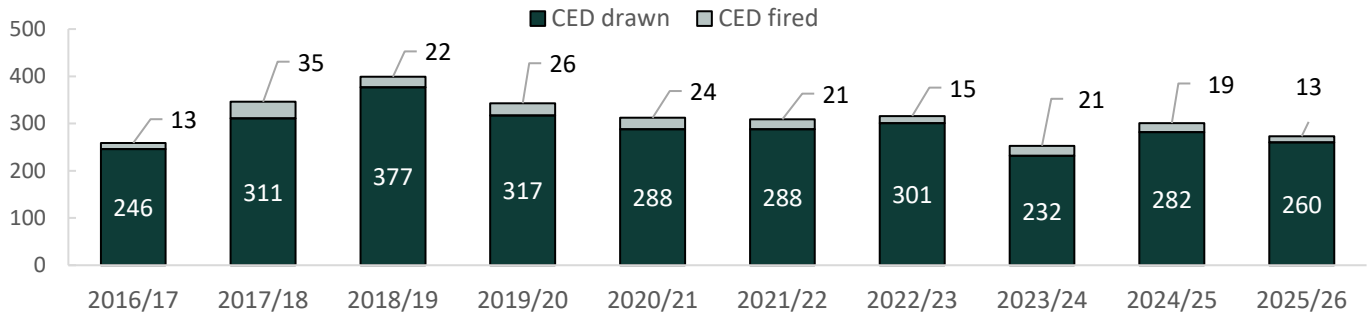


Figure 7: Water cannon used, 2016/17 - 2025/26

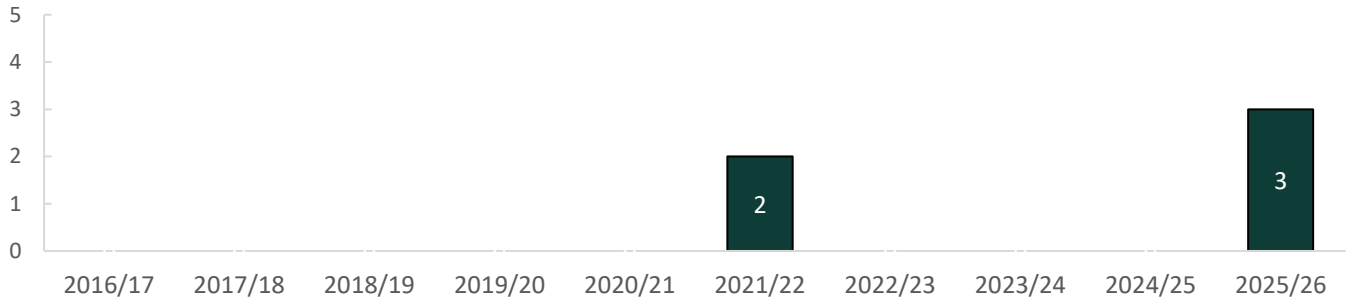


Figure 8: Handcuffs / Limb restraints, 2017/18 - 2025/26

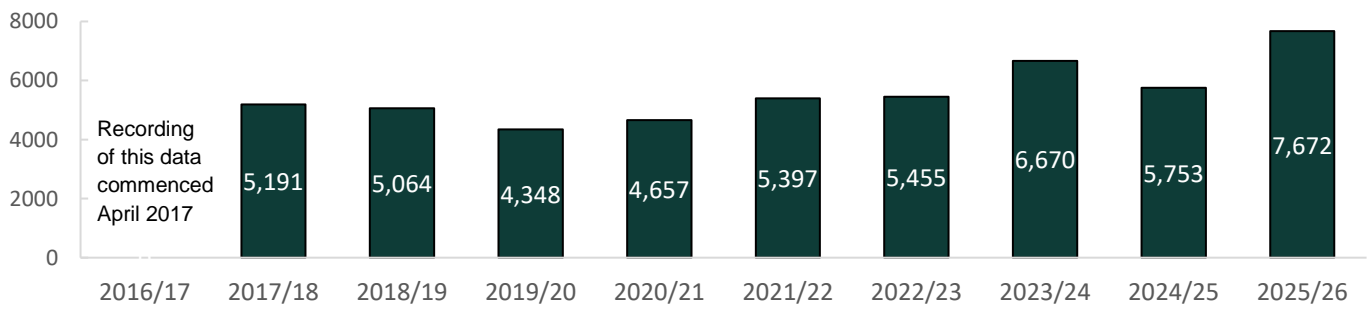


Figure 9: Unarmed physical tactics, 2017/18 - 2025/26

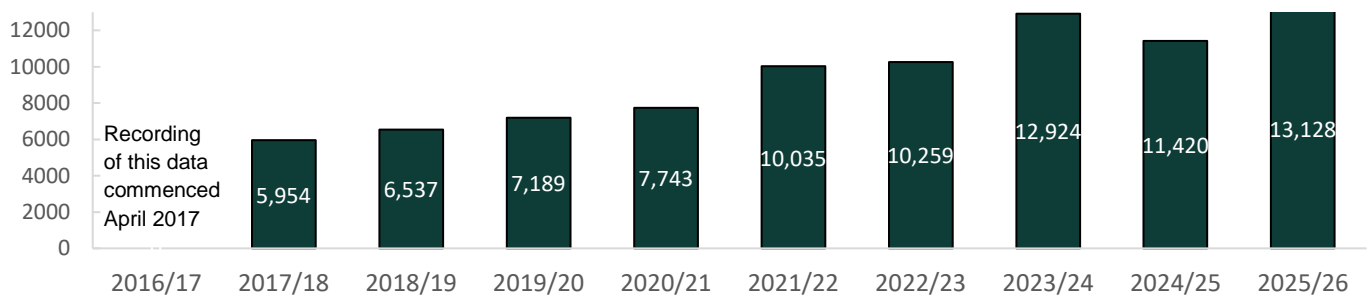
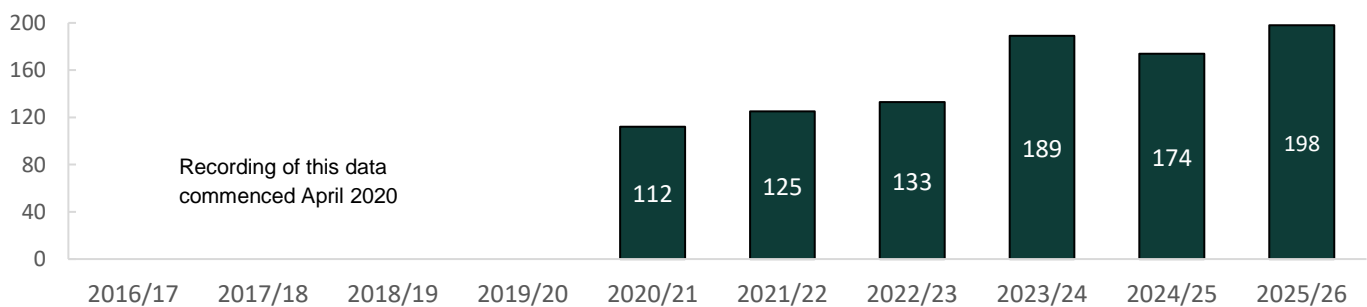


Figure 10: Spit and bite guards, 2020/21 - 2025/26 ⁽¹⁾



4. District

Table 2: Use of force by Policing District, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ⁽¹⁾

| Use of Force | Belfast City | Lisburn and Castlereagh City | Ards & North Down | Newry, Mourne & Down | Armagh City, Banbridge & Craigavon | Mid Ulster | Fermanagh & Omagh | Derry City & Strabane | Causeway Coast & Glens | Mid & East Antrim | Antrim & Newtownabbey | Total |
|--|--------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|---------------|
| AEP pointed | 34 | 2 | 12 | 4 | 10 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 3 | 79 |
| AEP discharged | 3 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 16 |
| Baton drawn only | 49 | 7 | 2 | 11 | 15 | 22 | 7 | 19 | 10 | 10 | 5 | 157 |
| Baton drawn & used | 43 | 1 | 4 | 3 | 22 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 5 | 8 | 10 | 120 |
| Irritant spray drawn only | 81 | 7 | 16 | 20 | 33 | 29 | 13 | 21 | 5 | 11 | 14 | 250 |
| Irritant spray used | 85 | 7 | 7 | 21 | 46 | 23 | 12 | 30 | 18 | 23 | 17 | 289 |
| Firearm drawn or pointed | 285 | 22 | 23 | 32 | 53 | 26 | 9 | 27 | 22 | 22 | 33 | 554 |
| Firearm discharged | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Police dog | 16 | 7 | 2 | 6 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 35 | 7 | 2 | 5 | 87 |
| CED drawn | 138 | 10 | 19 | 17 | 19 | 9 | 5 | 18 | 2 | 10 | 13 | 260 |
| CED fired | 9 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 13 |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 2,123 | 394 | 356 | 671 | 880 | 507 | 411 | 1,004 | 375 | 419 | 532 | 7,672 |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 4,434 | 641 | 469 | 1,057 | 1,556 | 837 | 571 | 1,720 | 431 | 553 | 859 | 13,128 |
| Spit and bite guard | 65 | 8 | 2 | 21 | 23 | 5 | 8 | 33 | 14 | 7 | 12 | 198 |
| Water cannon deployed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Water cannon deployed and used | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 7,365 | 1,107 | 914 | 1,863 | 2,665 | 1,468 | 1,049 | 2,922 | 894 | 1,077 | 1,503 | 22,827 |
| % of Use of Force | 32% | 5% | 4% | 8% | 12% | 6% | 5% | 13% | 4% | 5% | 7% | 100% |
| Uses per 1,000 population ⁽²⁾ | 21 | 7 | 6 | 10 | 12 | 10 | 9 | 19 | 6 | 8 | 10 | 12 |

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

(2) Rates per 1,000 population are calculated using NISRA's mid-2024 [population estimates](#).

5. Reason for use of force

Figure 11: Reason for use of force, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1, 2)

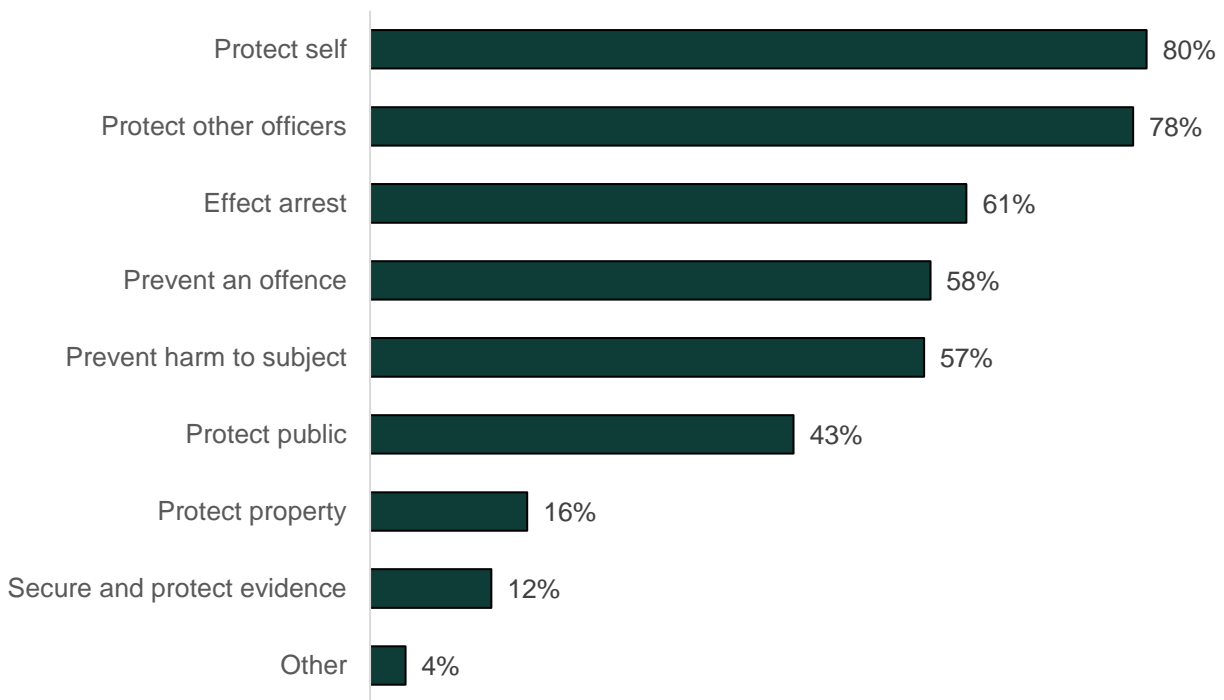


Table 3: Use of force by reason, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1, 2, 3)

| Use of Force | Protect self | Protect other officer | Effect arrest | Prevent an offence | Prevent harm to subject | Protect public | Protect property | Secure or protect evidence | Other |
|-----------------------------|--------------|-----------------------|---------------|--------------------|-------------------------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------|
| AEP | 82% | 91% | 39% | 59% | 71% | 67% | 17% | 17% | 0% |
| Baton | 86% | 70% | 54% | 59% | 23% | 59% | 21% | 9% | 4% |
| Irritant spray | 90% | 84% | 66% | 59% | 36% | 51% | 18% | 10% | 4% |
| Firearm | 96% | 95% | 62% | 70% | 42% | 75% | 15% | 28% | 2% |
| Police dog | 84% | 82% | 84% | 62% | 23% | 71% | 23% | 29% | 2% |
| CED | 93% | 96% | 60% | 72% | 79% | 71% | 14% | 25% | 1% |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 77% | 75% | 70% | 53% | 57% | 44% | 16% | 14% | 3% |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 79% | 79% | 57% | 59% | 59% | 41% | 16% | 11% | 4% |
| Spit and bite guard | 92% | 96% | 19% | 54% | 15% | 38% | 19% | 0% | 1% |
| Total | 80% | 78% | 61% | 58% | 57% | 43% | 16% | 12% | 4% |

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

(2) An officer may report more than one reason for using each type of force.

(3) Reason is not recorded on the use of force form when using the water cannon.

6. Impact factors

Figure 12: Impact factors relating to use of force, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1, 2)

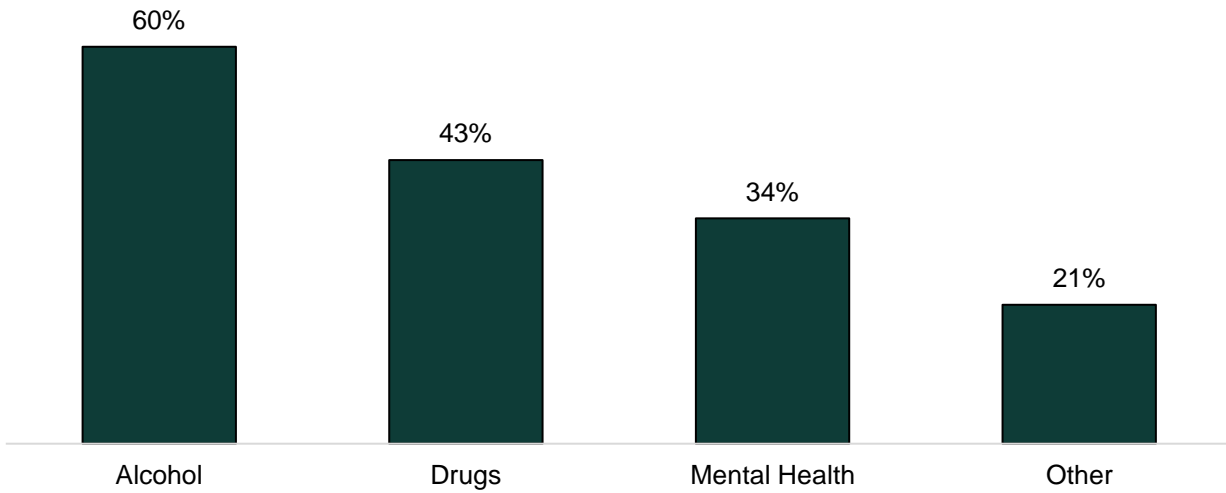


Table 4: Use of force by impact factor, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1, 2)

| Use of Force | Alcohol | Drugs | Mental health | Other |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|---------------|------------|
| AEP | 40% | 37% | 56% | 35% |
| Baton | 49% | 33% | 18% | 41% |
| Irritant spray | 62% | 43% | 32% | 20% |
| Firearm | 37% | 39% | 41% | 38% |
| Police dog | 39% | 32% | 33% | 40% |
| CED | 47% | 45% | 58% | 33% |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 57% | 39% | 30% | 22% |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 64% | 46% | 36% | 19% |
| Spit and bite guard | 73% | 63% | 42% | 6% |
| Water cannon deployed | - | - | - | - |
| Total | 60% | 43% | 34% | 21% |

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

(2) Impact factors are officer perceived. An officer may report more than one impact factor relating to each type of force.

7. Location of use of force

Table 5: Use of force by location, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1, 2)

| Use of Force | Roadway | Dwelling | Custody suite/dock | Hospital | Garden / driveway | Other ⁽³⁾ | Car park | Motor vehicle | Public park | Total |
|--------------------------------|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|----------------------|------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| AEP pointed | 11 | 46 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 79 |
| AEP discharged | 12 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 16 |
| Baton drawn only | 106 | 22 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 7 | 8 | 0 | 3 | 157 |
| Baton drawn & used | 83 | 10 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 8 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 120 |
| Irritant spray drawn only | 105 | 87 | 2 | 6 | 19 | 16 | 9 | 4 | 2 | 250 |
| Irritant spray used | 131 | 86 | 0 | 7 | 26 | 20 | 12 | 1 | 6 | 289 |
| Firearm drawn or pointed | 177 | 286 | 0 | 6 | 42 | 18 | 19 | 5 | 1 | 554 |
| Firearm discharged | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Police dog | 47 | 7 | 0 | 1 | 26 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 87 |
| CED drawn | 24 | 189 | 0 | 3 | 33 | 8 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 260 |
| CED fired | 2 | 10 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 13 |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 3,171 | 2,145 | 318 | 548 | 437 | 460 | 385 | 141 | 67 | 7,672 |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 5,353 | 2,431 | 1,970 | 933 | 597 | 769 | 511 | 450 | 114 | 13,128 |
| Spit and bite guard | 73 | 19 | 26 | 34 | 2 | 7 | 13 | 24 | 0 | 198 |
| Water cannon deployed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Water cannon deployed and used | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 9,299 | 5,340 | 2,316 | 1,545 | 1,207 | 1,319 | 969 | 631 | 201 | 22,827 |
| % of Use of Force | 41% | 23% | 10% | 7% | 5% | 6% | 4% | 3% | 1% | 100% |

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

(2) A use of force incident may involve multiple locations (e.g. an incident could begin in a dwelling but finish on the street outside if the person attempted to escape). However, the recording system does not allow for multiple locations to be included for one incident, so the primary location is likely to be recorded.

(3) Locations where force is less frequently used, for example, public buildings, trains and 'other' locations.

Locations where force is less frequently used, for example, public buildings, trains and 'other' locations.

8. Type of incident

Table 6: Use of force by type of incident, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ⁽¹⁾

| Use of Force | Crime | Domestic | Other | Custody | Public order | Firearms | Traffic | Terrorism | Total |
|--------------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-----------|---------------|
| AEP pointed | 9 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 65 | 0 | 0 | 79 |
| AEP discharged | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Baton drawn only | 51 | 16 | 5 | 1 | 60 | 3 | 21 | 0 | 157 |
| Baton drawn & used | 49 | 9 | 9 | 2 | 42 | 2 | 7 | 0 | 120 |
| Irritant spray drawn only | 156 | 42 | 19 | 2 | 17 | 4 | 10 | 0 | 250 |
| Irritant spray used | 163 | 47 | 24 | 0 | 43 | 7 | 5 | 0 | 289 |
| Firearm drawn or pointed | 98 | 20 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 415 | 5 | 1 | 554 |
| Firearm discharged | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Police dog | 43 | 14 | 2 | 0 | 9 | 16 | 3 | 0 | 87 |
| CED drawn | 36 | 5 | 9 | 1 | 0 | 209 | 0 | 0 | 260 |
| CED fired | 0 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 11 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 4,246 | 1,263 | 751 | 300 | 418 | 369 | 310 | 15 | 7,672 |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 6,300 | 1,678 | 1,324 | 1,742 | 1,163 | 460 | 434 | 27 | 13,128 |
| Spit and bite guard | 125 | 24 | 22 | 15 | 10 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 198 |
| Water cannon deployed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Water cannon deployed and used | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 11,277 | 3,124 | 2,181 | 2,063 | 1,777 | 1,566 | 796 | 43 | 22,827 |
| % of Use of Force | 49% | 14% | 10% | 9% | 8% | 7% | 3% | <1% | 100% |

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

9. Officer duty type

Table 7: Use of force by officer duty type, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ⁽¹⁾

| Use of Force | Local/Neighbourhood Policing | Armed Response Vehicle | Custody | Tactical Support Group | Other | Dog Handler | Specialist Firearms Officer | Traffic | Total |
|--------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------|-------------|-----------------------------|------------|---------------|
| AEP pointed | 0 | 78 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0 | 79 |
| AEP discharged | 0 | 4 | 0 | 11 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 16 |
| Baton drawn only | 112 | 3 | 0 | 26 | 15 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 157 |
| Baton drawn & used | 87 | 1 | 0 | 20 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 120 |
| Irritant spray drawn only | 235 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 7 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 250 |
| Irritant spray used | 274 | 5 | 0 | 6 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 289 |
| Firearm drawn or pointed | 80 | 432 | 0 | 2 | 8 | 0 | 31 | 1 | 554 |
| Firearm discharged | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Police dog | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 87 | 0 | 0 | 87 |
| CED drawn | 0 | 253 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 260 |
| CED fired | 0 | 13 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 13 |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 6,678 | 444 | 125 | 113 | 200 | 4 | 24 | 84 | 7,672 |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 10,203 | 657 | 1,463 | 394 | 263 | 19 | 56 | 73 | 13,128 |
| Spit and bite guard | 188 | 0 | 4 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 198 |
| Water cannon deployed | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Water cannon deployed and used | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 3 |
| Total | 17,857 | 1,893 | 1,592 | 577 | 512 | 111 | 121 | 164 | 22,827 |
| % of Use of Force | 78% | 8% | 7% | 3% | 2% | <1% | 1% | 1% | 100% |

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 2.

10. Gender, age group and ethnicity

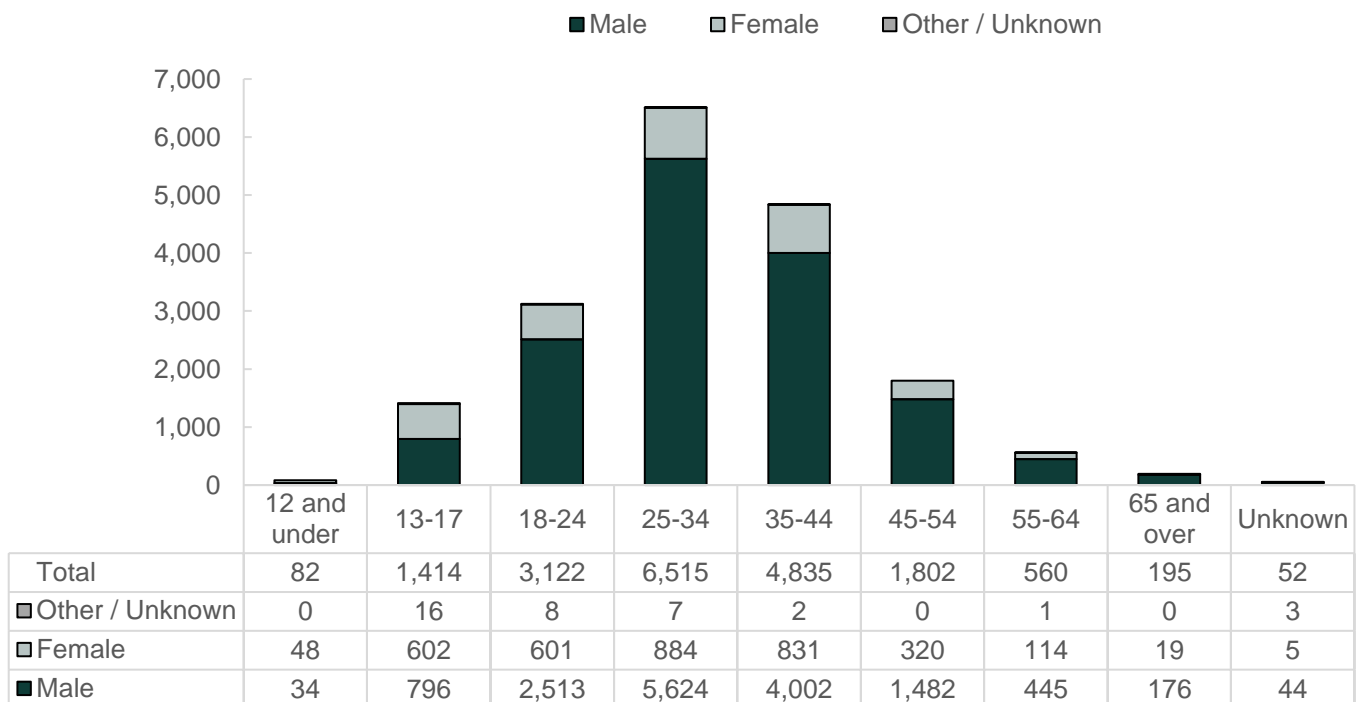
The figures in this section do not represent the number of people who were subject to use of force, but rather how many times force was recorded by police officers, disaggregated by gender, age and ethnicity.

More than one use of force report may be completed for the same individual. If two officers used force on one individual, each officer would submit a use of force report and the person's details would be recorded on both reports. Additionally, one officer may have used more than one type of force on the same individual and the person's details would be reported for each type of force used by the officer.

However, the exception to this is in the case of handcuffs / limb restraints and the various types of unarmed physical tactics. If handcuffs and limb restraints are used, or multiple types of unarmed physical tactics are used on an individual by the same officer, the person details will only be counted once.

In some cases, the person's information e.g. age, gender, ethnicity are recorded as perceived by the reporting officer, therefore should not be considered as reliable as self-reported data. On other occasions, such details are known or reported by the person.

Figure 13: Gender and age of those individuals on whom force was used, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1,2)



(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 10.

(2) Gender and age may be officer perceived.

Table 8 Gender of those individuals on whom force was used by type of force, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1, 2, 3)

| Use of Force | Male | Female | Other / Unknown | Total | Total number |
|-----------------------------|------------|------------|-----------------|-------------|---------------|
| AEP pointed | 91% | 9% | 0% | 100% | 82 |
| AEP discharged | 100% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 32 |
| Baton drawn only | 92% | 4% | 4% | 100% | 165 |
| Baton drawn & used | 95% | 5% | 0% | 100% | 123 |
| Irritant spray drawn only | 92% | 8% | 0% | 100% | 257 |
| Irritant spray used | 93% | 6% | 1% | 100% | 319 |
| Firearm drawn or pointed | 92% | 8% | <1% | 100% | 641 |
| Firearm discharged | 100% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 1 |
| Police dog | 93% | 5% | 1% | 100% | 92 |
| CED drawn | 93% | 7% | 0% | 100% | 296 |
| CED fired | 92% | 8% | 0% | 100% | 13 |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 82% | 17% | <1% | 100% | 7,356 |
| Unarmed physical tactic | 78% | 22% | <1% | 100% | 9,002 |
| Spit and bite guard | 82% | 18% | 0% | 100% | 198 |
| Total | 81% | 18% | <1% | 100% | 18,577 |

- (1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 10.
- (2) Gender may be officer perceived.
- (3) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer and as a result may not sum to 100%.

Table 9: Age of those individuals on whom force was used by type of force, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1, 2, 3)

| Use of Force | 12 and under | 13-17 | 18-24 | 25-34 | 35-44 | 45-54 | 55-64 | 65+ | Unknown | Total | Total number |
|-----------------------------|---------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|------------|-----------|-----------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| AEP pointed | 0% | 0% | 11% | 40% | 29% | 15% | 5% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 82 |
| AEP discharged | 0% | 3% | 25% | 3% | 6% | 6% | 3% | 0% | 53% | 100% | 32 |
| Baton drawn only | 0% | 10% | 21% | 30% | 25% | 7% | 1% | 1% | 5% | 100% | 165 |
| Baton drawn & used | 0% | 13% | 18% | 27% | 24% | 7% | 4% | 1% | 7% | 100% | 123 |
| Irritant spray drawn only | 0% | 4% | 17% | 41% | 29% | 7% | <1% | 1% | <1% | 100% | 257 |
| Irritant spray used | 0% | 3% | 18% | 36% | 29% | 11% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 100% | 319 |
| Firearm drawn or pointed | 0% | 2% | 14% | 36% | 30% | 12% | 4% | 2% | <1% | 100% | 641 |
| Firearm discharged | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 1 |
| Police dog | 0% | 7% | 25% | 30% | 24% | 13% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 100% | 92 |
| CED drawn | 0% | 1% | 8% | 38% | 34% | 13% | 5% | 1% | 0% | 100% | 296 |
| CED fired | 0% | 0% | 0% | 46% | 15% | 23% | 0% | 15% | 0% | 100% | 13 |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | <1% | 7% | 17% | 35% | 27% | 10% | 3% | 1% | 0% | 100% | 7,356 |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 1% | 9% | 17% | 35% | 25% | 9% | 3% | 1% | <1% | 100% | 9,002 |
| Spit and bite guard | 1% | 5% | 18% | 46% | 20% | 9% | 1% | 1% | 0% | 100% | 198 |
| Total | <1% | 8% | 17% | 35% | 26% | 10% | 3% | 1% | <1% | 100% | 18,577 |

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 10.

(2) Age may be officer perceived.

(3) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer and as a result may not sum to 100%.

Table 10: Ethnicity of those individuals on whom force was used, 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026 ^(1,2,3)

| Use of Force | White | Irish Traveller | Other Ethnic Group | Black | Mixed | Asian | Unknown | Total | Total number |
|-----------------------------|------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------|---------------|-----------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| AEP pointed | 91% | 0% | 0% | 7% | 0% | 0% | 1% | 100% | 82 |
| AEP discharged | 41% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 59% | 100% | 32 |
| Baton drawn only | 89% | 3% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 1% | 7% | 100% | 165 |
| Baton drawn & used | 86% | 5% | 2% | 2% | 1% | 1% | 3% | 100% | 123 |
| Irritant spray drawn only | 95% | 2% | 1% | 1% | <1% | 1% | <1% | 100% | 257 |
| Irritant spray used | 89% | 7% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 1% | 100% | 319 |
| Firearm drawn or pointed | 88% | 1% | 3% | 6% | 1% | 2% | 1% | 100% | 641 |
| Firearm discharged | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 1 |
| Police dog | 95% | 1% | 0% | 2% | 0% | 0% | 2% | 100% | 92 |
| CED drawn | 88% | 1% | 2% | 8% | 0% | 1% | <1% | 100% | 296 |
| CED fired | 100% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 13 |
| Handcuffs / limb restraints | 92% | 3% | 1% | 2% | <1% | 1% | <1% | 100% | 7,356 |
| Unarmed physical tactics | 95% | 2% | 1% | 2% | <1% | <1% | <1% | 100% | 9,002 |
| Spit and bite guard | 97% | 2% | 0% | 1% | 0% | 0% | 0% | 100% | 198 |
| Total | 93% | 2% | 1% | 2% | <1% | 1% | <1% | 100% | 18,577 |

(1) Guidance notes regarding these statistics have been provided at the start of section 10.

(2) Ethnicity may be officer perceived.

(3) Percentage figures are rounded to the nearest integer and as a result may not sum to 100%.

11. Background notes

Further information on how these statistics are collated, reported and used is included in the [Use of Force User Guide](#).

Use of force

A use of force is counted as when a police officer uses any of the following force tactics:

- Attenuating Energy Projectile (AEP) - pointed or discharged
- Baton – drawn only or drawn and used
- Irritant spray – drawn only or used
- Firearm – drawn or pointed, or discharged
- Police dog
- Conducted Energy Device (CED) – drawn (including aimed, arced, red-dotted) or fired (including drive-stun)
- Handcuffs / limb restraints (including flexi-cuffs)
- Unarmed physical tactics (including blocks/strikes, take downs, pressure points, physical restraints, other / improvised)
- Spit and bite guard
- Water canon – deployed or used

These are explained in more detail in Section 3 of the [Use of Force User Guide](#).

Useful links

The most recent statistics for police use of force in England and Wales and can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-use-of-force-statistics>