

Use of Force

Analysis 2025/26

12 Months to June 2026

Data limitations to note:

This summary provides an insight into the number and content of the submitted use of force forms.

It should be noted that this does not provide an overview of the incidents themselves.

More than one form can be submitted against an individual incident if multiple officers are involved. It should also be noted that each form submitted can include multiple reasons for the use of force and various tactics may have been used. Details of the subject on the forms submitted will be duplicated. Therefore, figures provided are purely an indication of the forms themselves.

Data Quality:

A minority of records are missing some demographic data following the implementation of a new computer system.

This is being investigated and controls introduced to improve data quality.

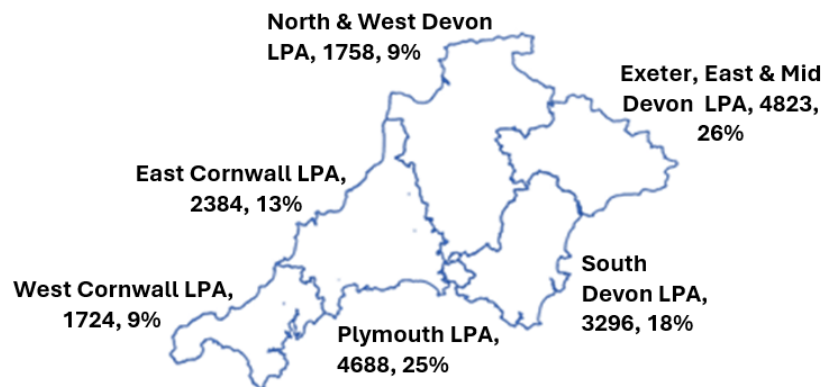
Presentation:

This presentation has been split into different themes; Location, Reason, Tactics and Subject.

Use of Force - Locations

Devon & Cornwall Police attended 150,019 (-5% 12 months to Jun 25) Incidents in a year to Jun 26.
There were 18728 (-2% 12 months to Jun 25) Use of Force submissions in the same period.

Location by Local Policing Area (LPA)



Plymouth and Exeter, East & Mid Devon have the majority of Use of Force reports (51%).

Location of Use of Force – by Type

37% of forms submitted related to a **street/highway**
23% were in a **dwelling**
14% were on **open ground**

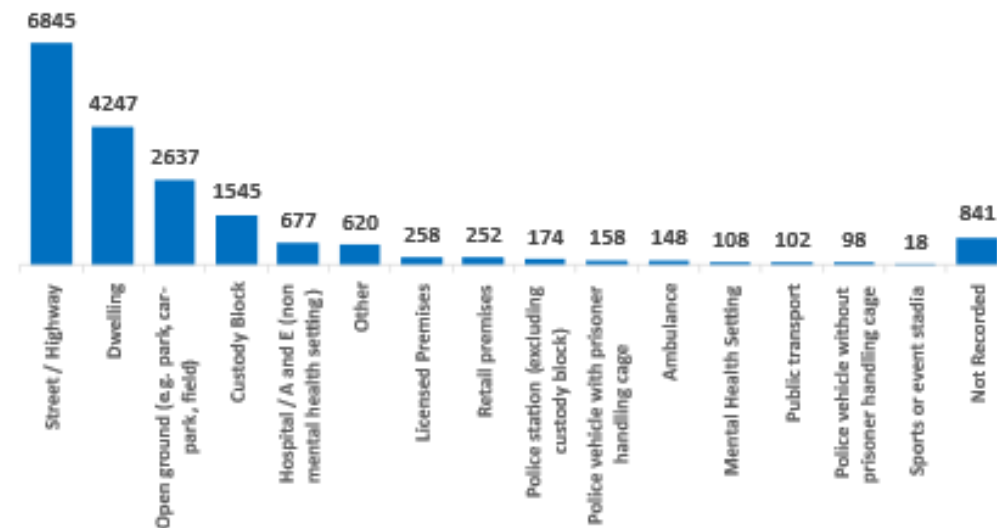
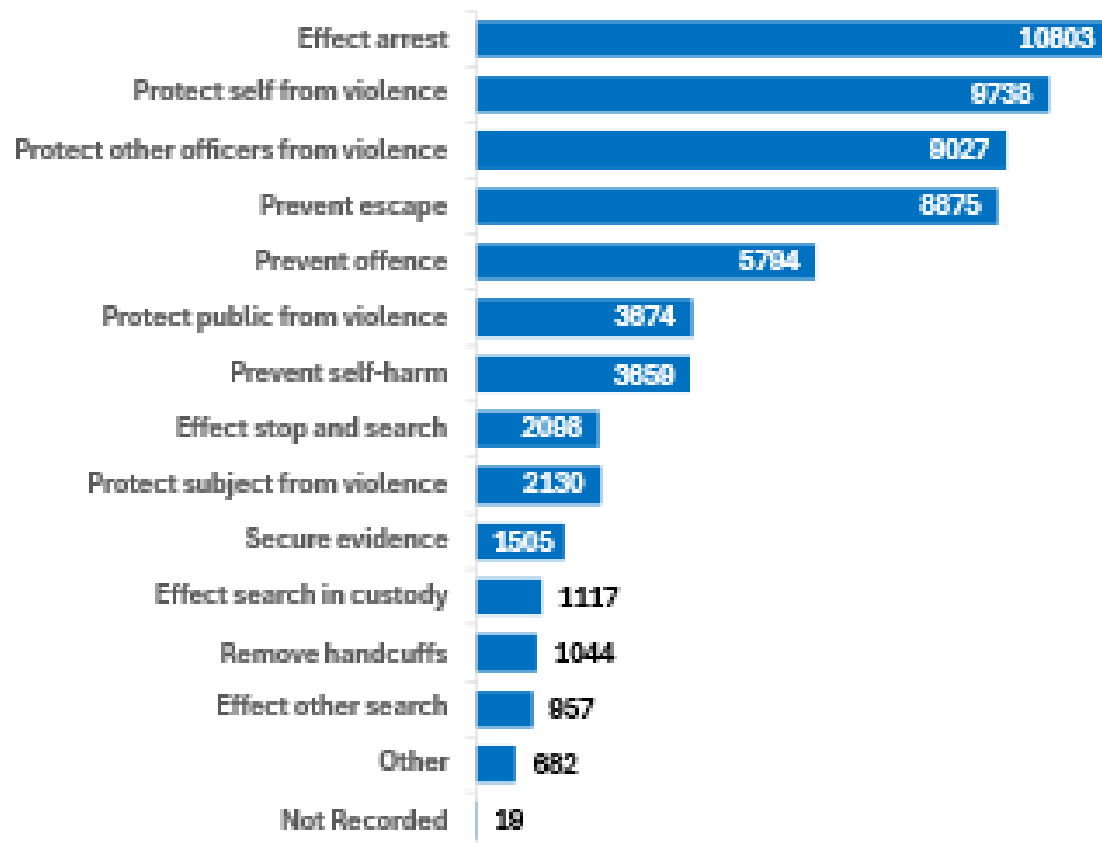


Table showing the Volume of reports by LPA

Officer LPA	Volume	Percentage of forms submitted	Percentage change on previous year
West Cornwall LPA	1724	9%	12%
East Cornwall LPA	2384	13%	1%
Plymouth LPA	4720	25%	-6%
South Devon LPA	3296	18%	-7%
Exeter, East & Mid Devon LPA	4823	26%	1%
North & West Devon LPA	1758	9%	-5%
Out of Force/Non Identified	23	0%	-55%

Reasons for Use of Force

Chart showing Reasons for Use of Force



In 12 months to June 26 Use of Force in Devon & Cornwall has been predominantly used to **‘Effect Arrest’**, and as a form of **‘Protection’** and **‘Prevention’**.

Use of Force - Tactics

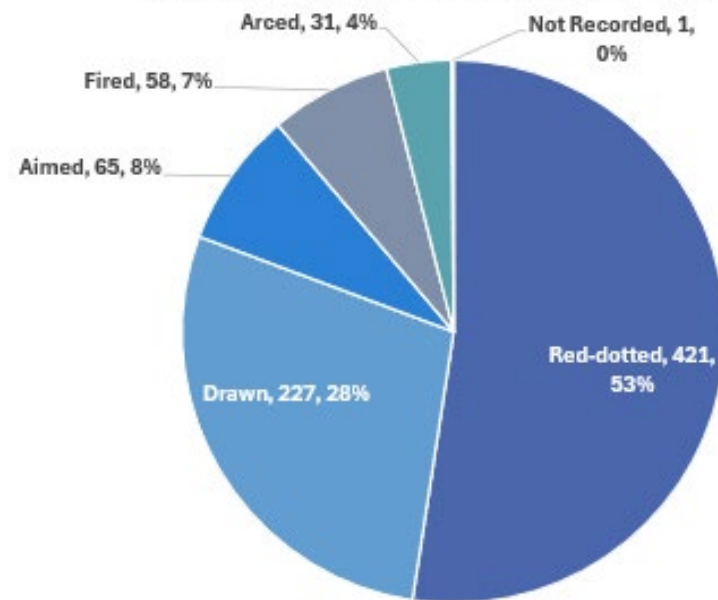
In 12 months to Jun 26 **Unarmed Skills** and **Compliant Handcuffing** are the most common Use of Force tactics in Devon & Cornwall Police.

Table showing reported Tactics used.

Tactics used	Volume	Percentage
Unarmed Skills*	7131	23%
Compliant Handcuffing	7377	24%
Non-compliant Handcuffing	5199	17%
Restraint**	5090	16%
Other / Improvised	4752	15%
Taser	803	3%
Irritant Spray	519	2%
Firearm aimed	86	0%
Police Dog	114	0%
Baton	57	0%
Not Recorded	32	0%



Pie Chart showing the breakdown of Taser Usage.



The pie chart shows the total tactics for Taser Usage, rather than the highest level of taser usage.

*Unarmed skills includes pressure points, strikes, restraints, and take-downs.

**Restraint, of this category, Spit and bite Guard was used 258 times (1% of total Tactics)

If the same tactic is used more than once by an officer at an incident it is only counted once.
However as more than one tactic can be used in a single incident then the overall totals for tactics used will be higher than the number of incidents recorded.

Use of Force – Subject Characteristics

This slide shows some of the characteristics of the subject of a Use of Force report.

Table showing Officer perceived Age.

Perceived Age	Officer Reports	Percentage	Percentage change on Previous year
0 - 10	45	0%	41%
11 - 17	2014	11%	6%
18 - 34	8078	43%	-1%
35 - 49	6425	34%	15%
50 - 64	1872	10%	11%
65 and over	230	1%	6%
Not Recorded	64	0%	-96%

Age – in **43%** of the forms submitted the subject was aged between **18 – 34 years**.

Table showing Officer perceived Gender.

Perceived Gender	Officer Reports	Percentage	Percentage change on Previous year
Male	14,253	76%	4%
Female	4,407	24%	12%
Other	32	0%	0%
Not Recorded	36	0%	-98%

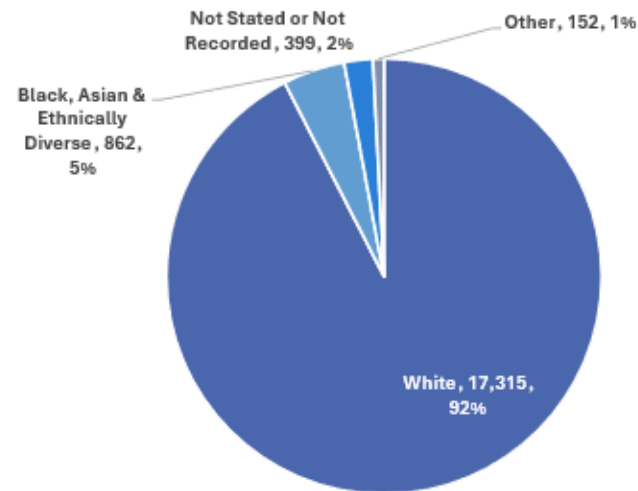
Gender – in **76%** of the forms submitted the subject was **Male**.

Race – **92%** of the forms submitted the subject gave defined their ethnicity as **White**.

Table showing Self Defined Ethnicity.

Self Defined Ethnicity	Officer Reports	Percentage	Percentage change on Previous year
White	17,315	92%	-1%
Black (or Black British)	367	2%	-2%
Mixed	284	2%	-5%
Asian (or Asian British)	174	1%	21%
Chinese	37	0%	185%
Other	152	1%	-16%
Not Stated or Not Recorded	399	2%	-43%

Pie Chart showing the Self Defined Ethnicity of the Subject of Use of Force



For clarity on the chart the Black, Asian and Ethnically Diverse groups have been combined.

End