

Use of Force

Analysis 2024/25

12 Months to September 2025

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.

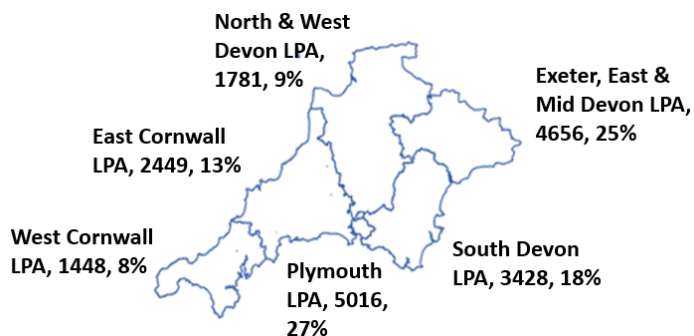
Presentation:

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

Use of Force - Locations

Devon & Cornwall Police attended 156,374 (-7% on 2023/24) Incidents in 2024/25. There were 18806 (+6% on 2023/24) 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.

Table showing the Volume of reports by LPA

Officer LPA	Volume	Percentage of forms submitted	Percentage change on previous year
West Cornwall LPA	1448	8%	-9%
East Cornwall LPA	2449	13%	26%
Plymouth LPA	5016	27%	16%
South Devon LPA	3428	18%	6%
Exeter, East & Mid Devon LPA	4656	25%	-3%
North & West Devon LPA	1781	9%	1%
Out of Force/Non Identified	28	0%	-56%

Location of Use of Force – by Type

39% of forms submitted related to a **street/highway**
26% were in a **dwelling**
16% were on **open ground**

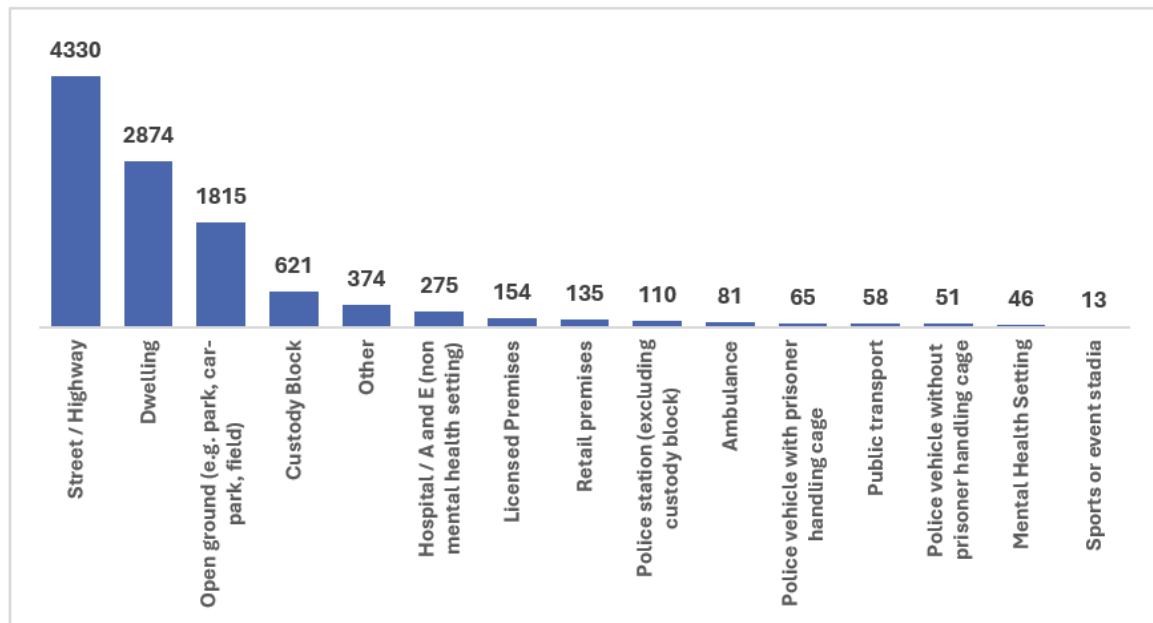
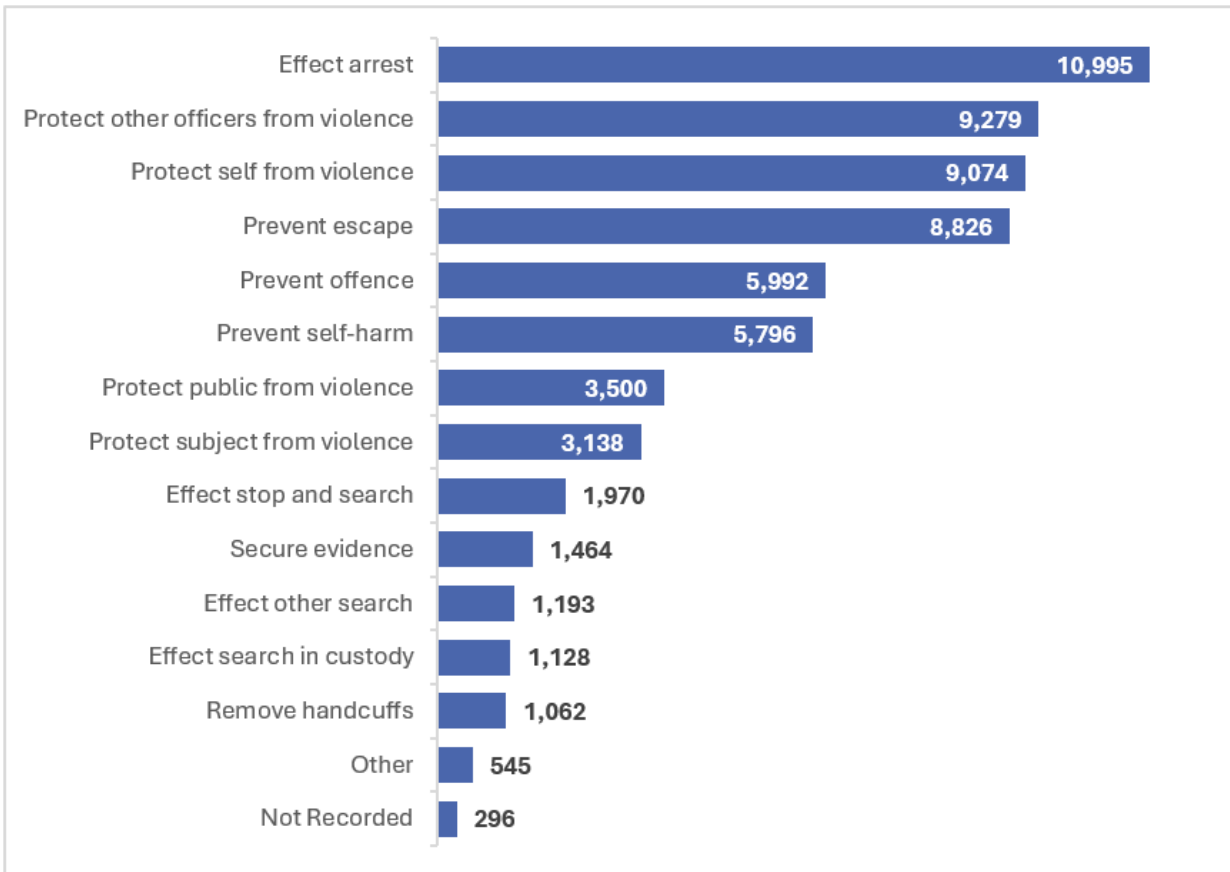


Chart showing Reasons for Use of Force



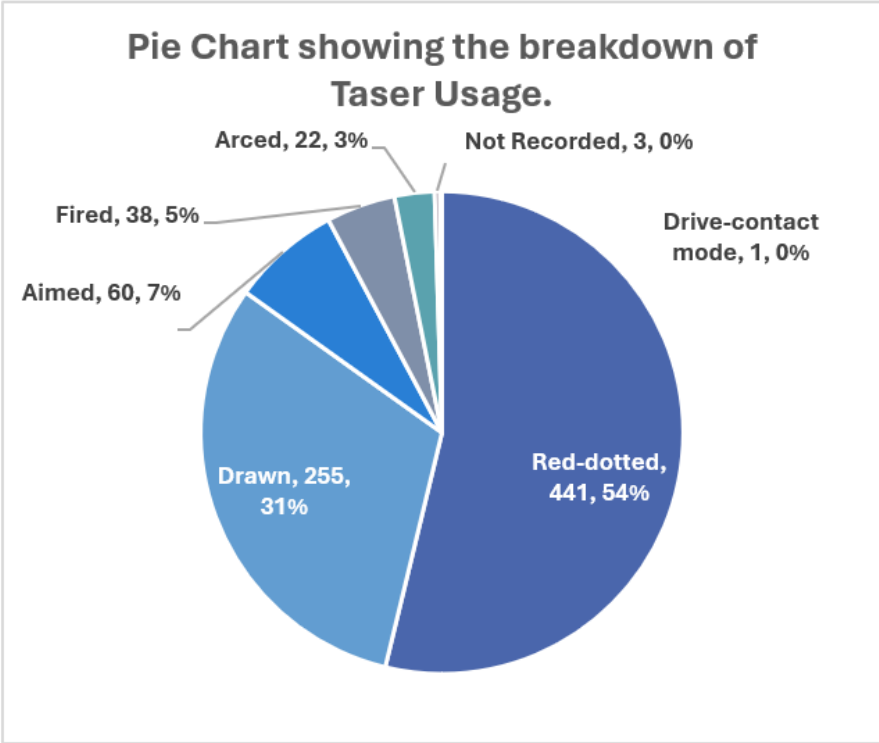
In 2024/25 Use of Force in Devon & Cornwall has been predominantly used to **‘Effect Arrest’**, and as a form of **‘Protection’** and **‘Prevention’**.

Use of Force - Tactics

In 2024/25 **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*	7045	23%
Compliant Handcuffing	7256	24%
Non-compliant Handcuffing	5010	16%
Restraint**	4872	16%
Other / Improvised	4599	15%
Taser	820	3%
Irritant Spray	562	2%
Firearm aimed	95	0%
Police Dog	105	0%
Baton	40	0%
Not Recorded	87	0%



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

**Restraint, of this category, Spit and bite Guard was used 314 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.

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

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	39	0%	160%
11 - 17	1761	9%	-7%
18 - 34	8155	43%	12%
35 - 49	5859	31%	19%
50 - 64	1764	9%	25%
65 and over	234	1%	54%
Not Recorded	994	5%	-52%

Table showing Officer perceived Gender.

Perceived Gender	Officer Reports	Percentage	Percentage change on Previous year
Male	13,822	73%	17%
Female	3,982	21%	3%
Other	32	0%	-9%
Not Recorded	970	5%	-53%

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

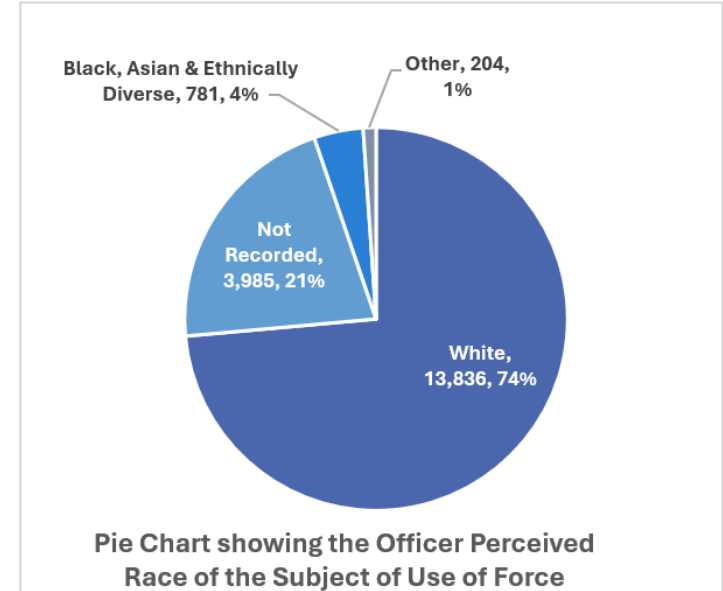
Gender – in **73%** of the forms submitted the subject was **Male**.

Race – **74%** of the forms submitted the subject was perceived as **White**.

Not Recorded
We are working with our IT supplier to resolve an identified problem in the Officer Perceived race selections. This means that **Not Stated** is being overstated.

Table showing Officer perceived race.

Perceived Race	Officer Reports	Percentage	Percentage change on Previous year
White	13,836	74%	-6%
Black (or Black British)	356	2%	-5%
Mixed	252	1%	-18%
Asian (or Asian British)	166	1%	-6%
Chinese	7	0%	0%
Other	204	1%	108%
Not Recorded	3,985	21%	88%



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



End