

Use of Force

Analysis 2024/25

12 Months to March 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 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 161,262 (-8% on 2023/24) Incidents in 2024/25. There were 18876 (+19% 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	1502	8%	0%
East Cornwall LPA	2215	12%	22%
Plymouth LPA	4967	26%	19%
South Devon LPA	3490	18%	36%
Exeter, East & Mid Devon LPA	4761	25%	13%
North & West Devon LPA	1893	10%	28%
Out of Force/Non Identified	48	0%	-24%

Location of Use of Force – by Type

37% of forms submitted related to a **street/highway**
28% were in a **dwelling**
18% were on **open ground**

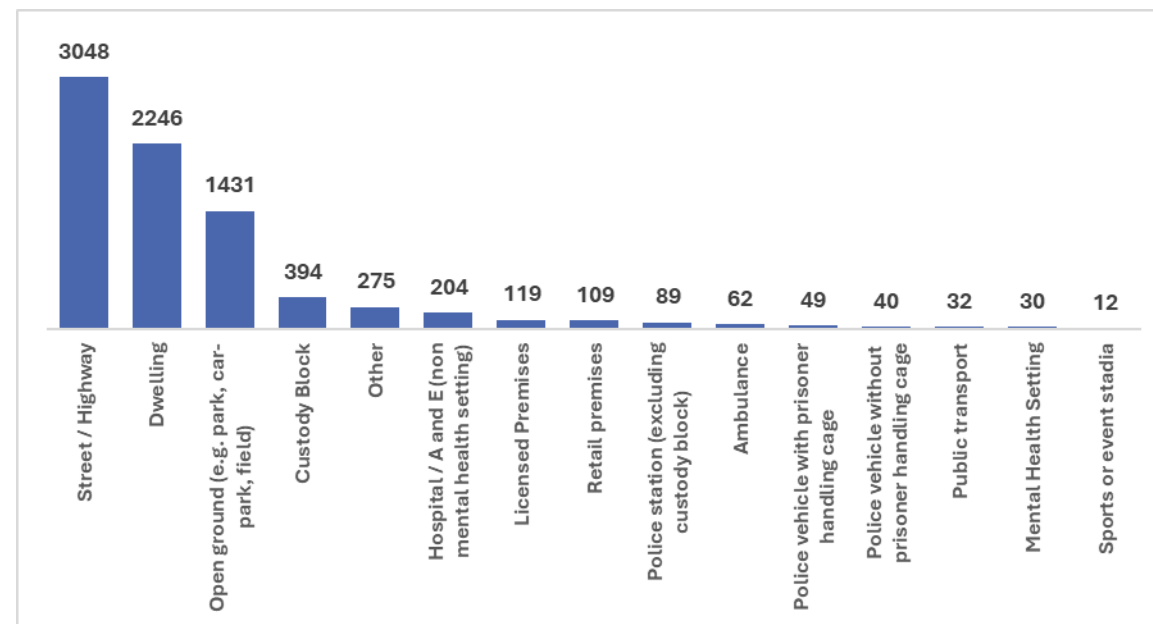
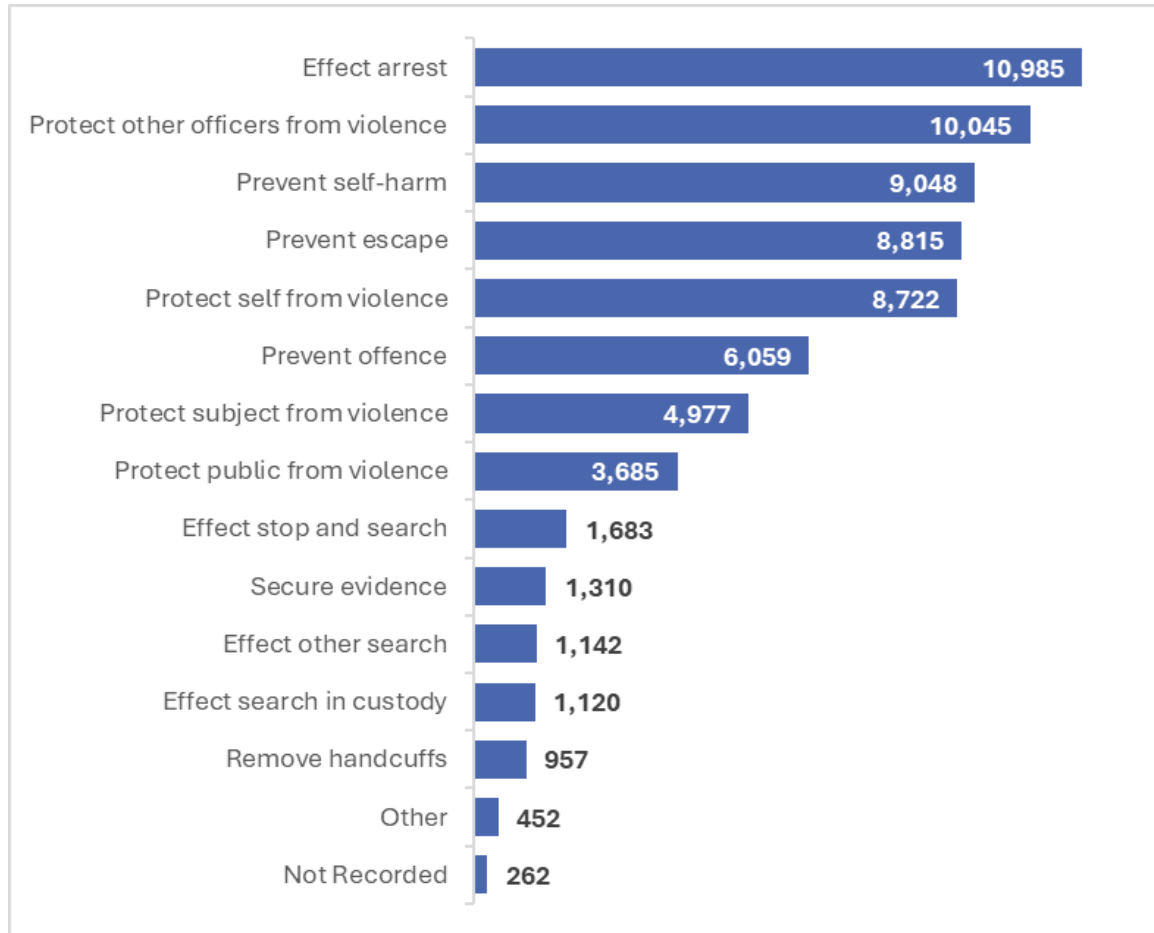


Chart showing Reasons for Use of Force



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

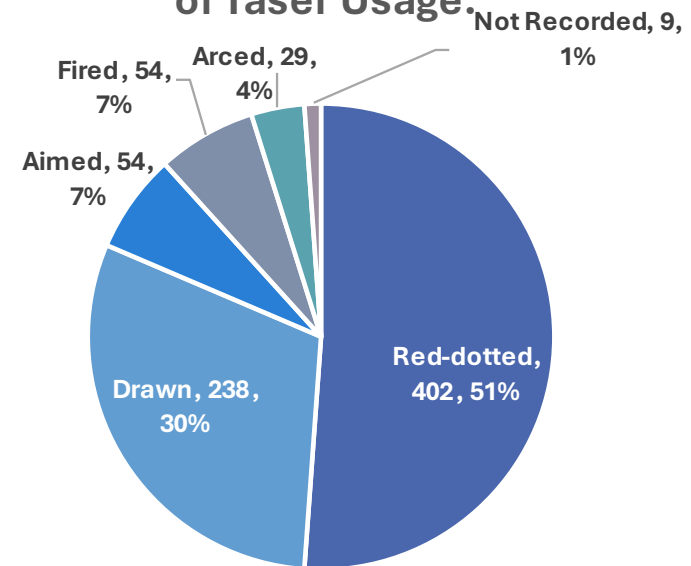
In 2024/25 **Unarmed Skills** and **Compliant Handcuffing** are the most common Use of Force tactics in Devon & Cornwall Police.

Table showing reported Tactics used.

Tactics used	Volume	Percentage
Unarmed Skills*	7338	24%
Compliant Handcuffing	6960	23%
Non-compliant Handcuffing	5179	17%
Restraint**	5030	16%
Other / Improvised	4527	15%
Taser	786	3%
Irritant Spray	597	2%
Firearm aimed	100	0%
Police Dog	105	0%
Baton	80	0%
Not Recorded	193	1%



Pie Chart showing the breakdown of Taser Usage.



*Unarmed skills includes pressure points, strikes, restraints, and take-downs.
 **Restraint, of this category, Spit Guard was used 338times (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	28	0%	65%
11 - 17	1903	10%	23%
18 - 34	7960	42%	19%
35 - 49	5279	28%	21%
50 - 64	1549	8%	12%
65 and over	198	1%	33%
Not Recorded	1959	10%	16%

Table showing Officer perceived Gender.

Perceived Gender	Officer Reports	Percentage	Percentage change on Previous year
Male	12,932	69%	21%
Female	3,959	21%	16%
Other	32	0%	-6%
Not Recorded	1,953	10%	16%

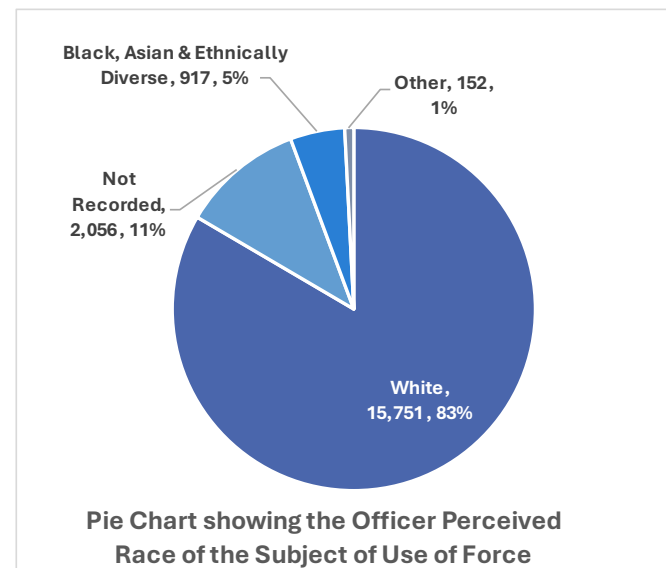
Age – in **42%** of the forms submitted the subject was aged between **18 – 34 years**.

Gender – in **69%** of the forms submitted the subject was **Male**.

Race – **83%** of the forms submitted the subject was perceived as **White**. **Not Recorded** is more than all the other Race groups combined.

Table showing Officer perceived race.

Perceived Race	Officer Reports	Percentage	Percentage change on Previous year
White	15,751	83%	19%
Black (or Black British)	381	2%	9%
Mixed	342	2%	43%
Asian (or Asian British)	185	1%	3%
Chinese	9	0%	80%
Other	152	1%	67%
Not Recorded	2,056	11%	19%



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



End