



Knowledge Exchange Seminar Series (KESS)

...is a forum that encourages debate on a wide range of research findings, with the overall aim of promoting evidence-based policy and law-making within Northern Ireland



Police Stop & Search Powers:

Understanding the Nature & Extent of Adversarial Contact Between PSNI and the Public

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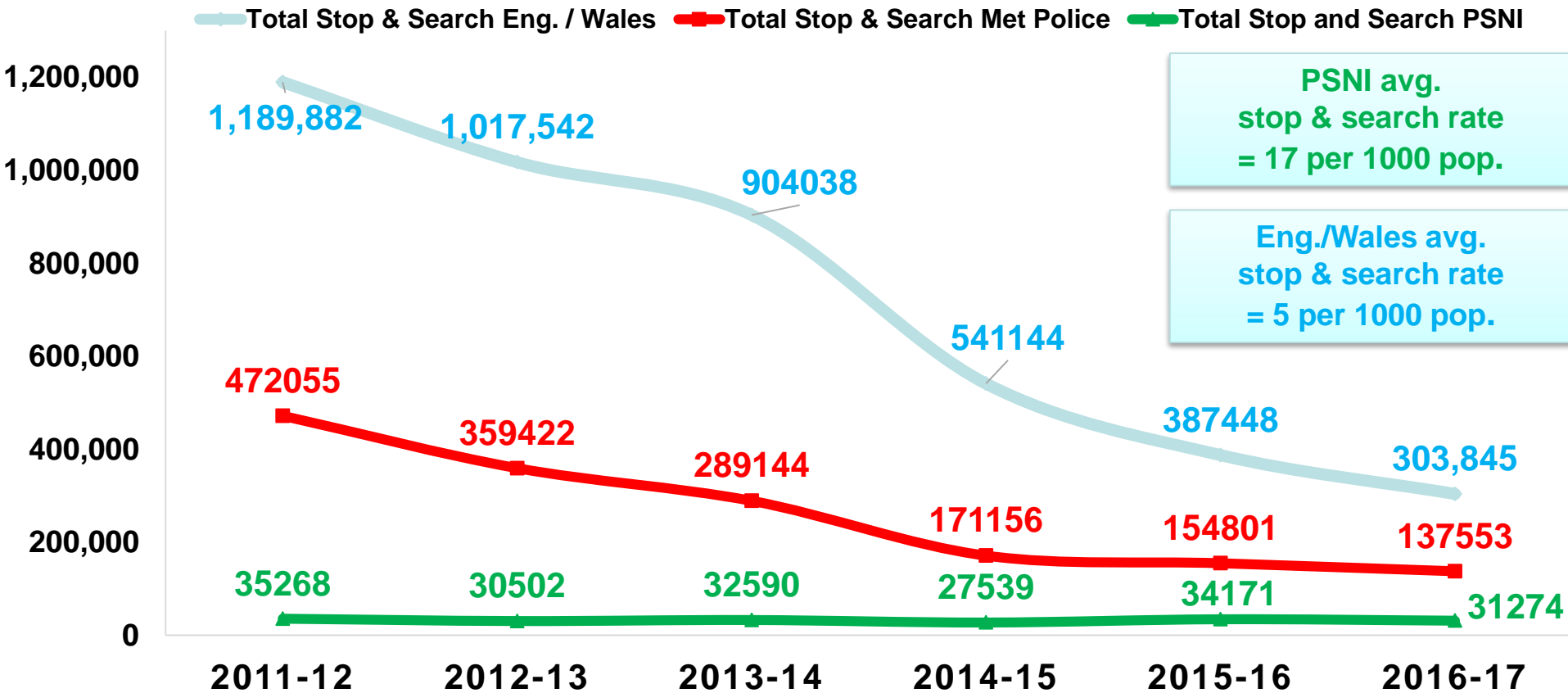
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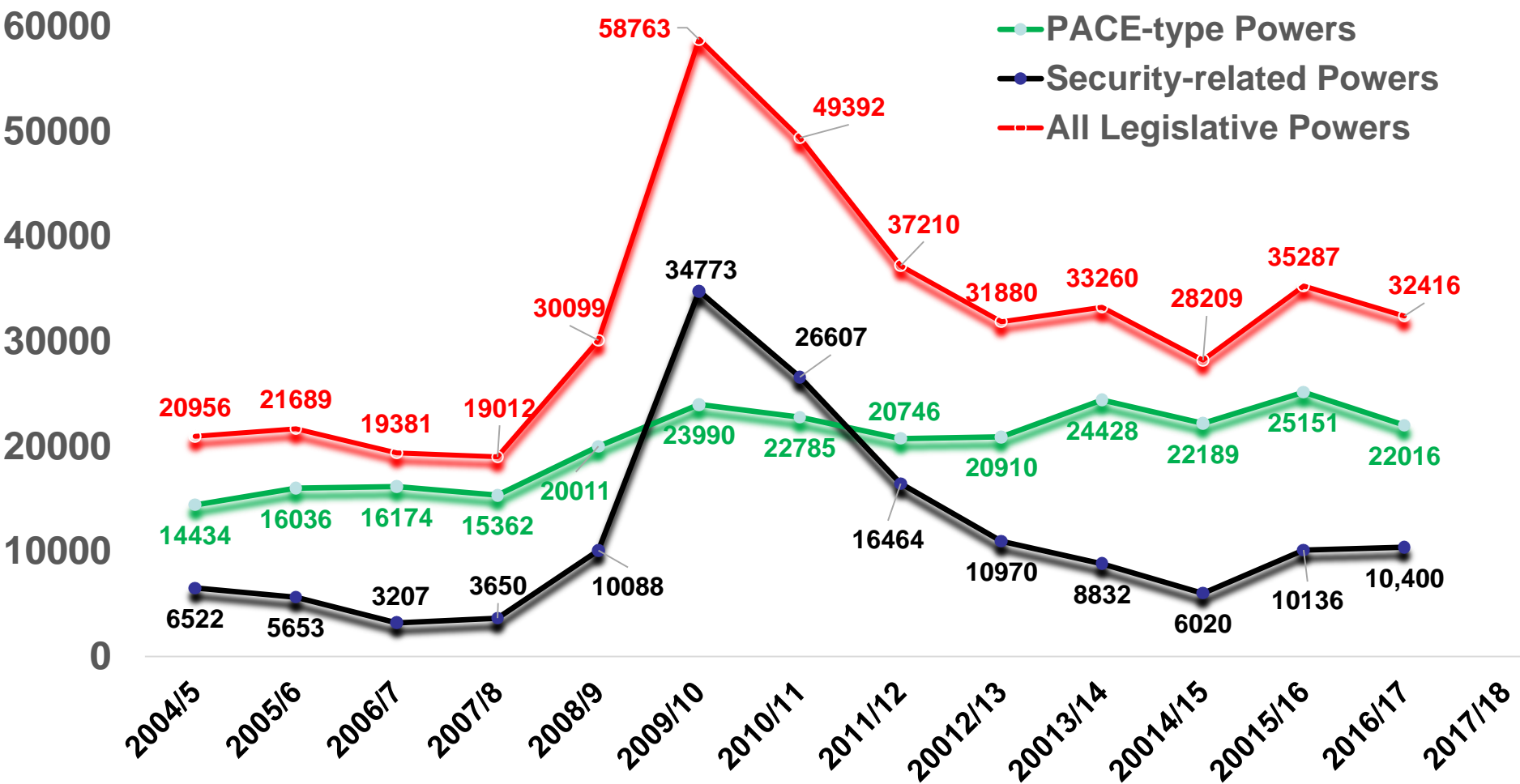
@drjohntopping

Changing Stop & Search Profiles: England & Wales, Met Police & PSNI

(source: Data.police.uk; PSNI data)



PSNI Stop & Search Trend 2004/5-2016/17 (source: PSNI, 2018)



PSNI District Stop & Search Rates 2016/17 (source: PSNI statistics, 2018)

PSNI District	Arrest Rate	Stop & Search rate per 1000 population	Crimes per 1000 population	Avg. arrest rate Eng. /Wales = 17%
Antrim & Newtownabbey	5.6%	10.7	48.9	Avg. arrest rate Eng. /Wales = 17%
Ards & North Down	5.4%	5.6	39.1	
Belfast City	9%	27.2	105.1	
Causeway Coast & Glens	5.1%	15.3	43.9	
Armagh, Banbridge & Craigavon	5.4%	17	47.8	
Derry City & Strabane	3.7%	25.1	62.7	
Fermanagh & Omagh	8.3%	11.5	43.1	
Lisburn & Castlereagh	6.7%	21.5	42.2	Avg. arrest rate PSNI = 6%
Mid & East Antrim	3.3%	15.9	40.3	
Mid Ulster	5.5%	11.5	34.6	
Newry & Mourne	3.5%	16.1	49.4	

PACE (NI) Order 1989: Reasonable Suspicion



Department of
Justice
www.dojni.gov.uk

POLICE & CRIMINAL EVIDENCE (NORTHERN IRELAND) ORDER 1989

CODE A

Code of Practice for the exercise by police officers of statutory powers of stop and search

Commencement - Transitional Arrangements

This Code applies to any search by police officers taking place after midnight on 31 May 2015.



Inspecting policing
in the public interest

Stop and Search Powers:
Are the police using them
effectively and fairly?

© HMIC 2013

ISBN: 978-1-78246-165-4

www.hmic.gov.uk

A legal test

CANNOT be based upon:



‘common sense’



Stereotyping / discrimination
on *any* grounds



Suspicion must be genuine,
based on objective information



Is Stop & Search Effective?



college.police.uk

Does more stop and search mean less crime?

Analysis of Metropolitan Police Service panel data, 2004–14

Paul Quinlan, College of Policing

Matteo Tiratelli, University of Manchester

Ben Bradford, University of Oxford

2017

Table. Associations between searches and crime (Metropolitan Police boroughs, 2004–14)

Broad crime category	Stop and search power	Lagged negative association	
		Week-on-week	Month-on-month
Total susceptible crime	All searches (any power)	Yes	Yes
Drugs offences	All searches (any power)	Yes	Yes
	Searches under specific powers	No	Yes
Violent crime (excluding domestic abuse)	All searches (any power)	No	No
	Searches under specific powers	Yes	No
Burglary	All searches (any power)	Yes	No
	Searches under specific powers	No	Yes
Robbery and theft	All searches (any power)	No	No
	Searches under specific powers	No	No
Vehicle crime	All searches (any power)	No	No
	Searches under specific powers	No	No
Criminal damage	All searches (any power)	No	No
	Searches under specific powers	No	No



Amber Rudd backs Met police chief on use of stop and search

Home secretary echoes Cressida Dick's endorsement of controversial tactic but cautions over indiscriminate use



Police carry out a stop and search in Hammersmith, west London. Photograph: Rex

The home secretary, Amber Rudd, has backed the Metropolitan police commissioner over the use of stop and search in tackling rising knife crime in a move that marks a change in tone since Theresa May was in the Home Office.

Evidence-based Policy:

Limited / weak effect on disrupting and deterring crime

Marginal impact on crime needs to weighed against negative social costs / effects of use

Policy-based Evidence:

If some is good, more must be better

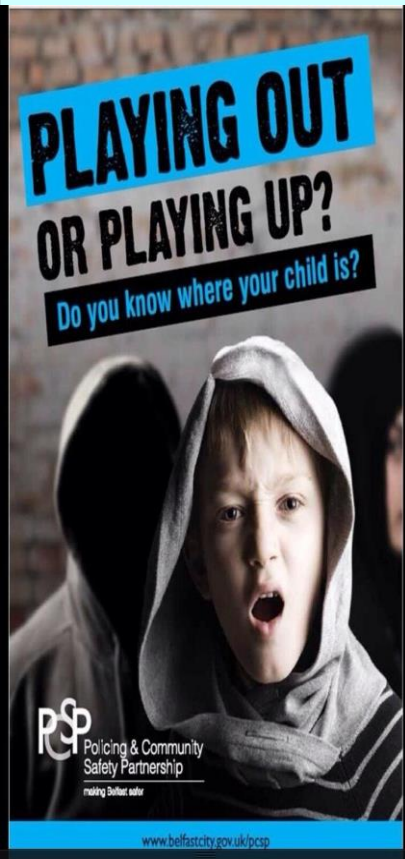
Visible, simple and quick response to complex crime problems which taps into popular law and order sentiment



Stop & Search: *Children & Young People*

Reading the Riots: 'Humiliating' stop and search a key factor in anger towards police

Interviewees said police treated them in a degrading way when they were stopped - particularly in strip-searching and handcuffing them

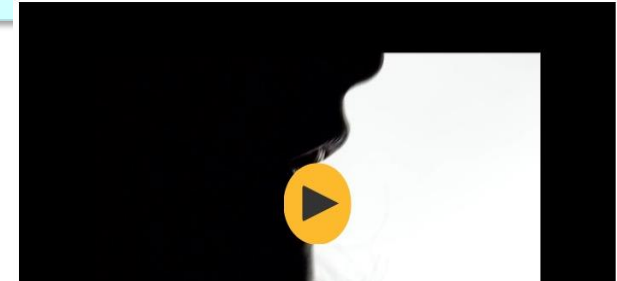


PSNI Overall Stop & Search Rate =
17 per 1000 pop.

Stop & search rate 15-17 males =
82 per 1000 pop

Stop & search rate 18-24 year old
males =
117 per 1000 pop

c.33,000 children subject to
stop search
by PSNI 2010/11-17/18

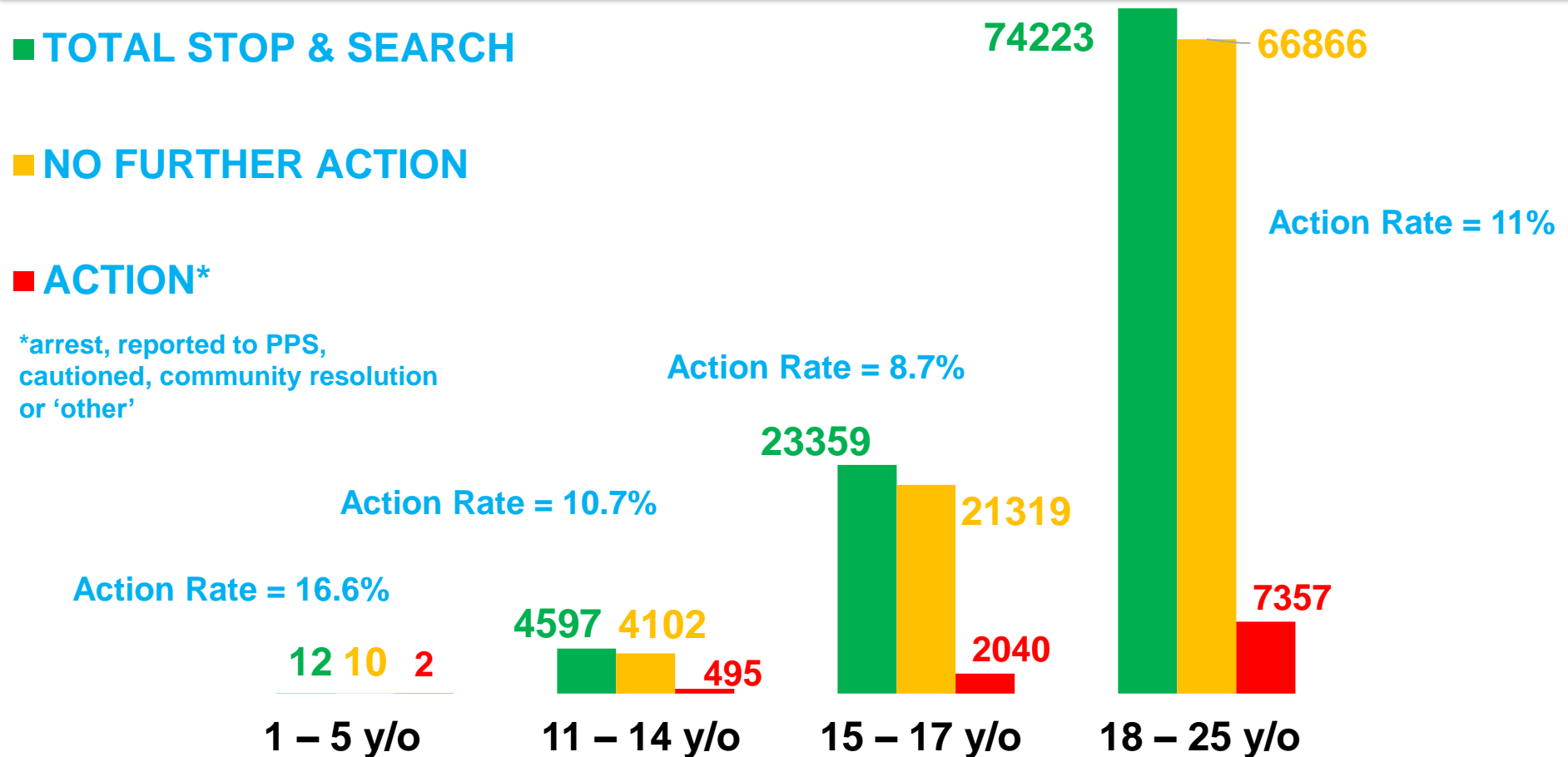


UK edition ▾
The Guardian

The rioters interviewed by the Guardian/LSE's Reading the Riots study were around eight times more likely to be stopped and searched than the average Londoner, figures show.

'whether justified or not, many...believe that the police routinely abuse their powers...The belief here is as important as the fact'
(Scarman, 1981:para.4.67)

Total PSNI Stop and Search 2010/11 – 2016/17: Outcomes By Age (source: PSNI Data)



‘The Chief Constable should ensure that in the exercise of their function, officers have regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of all persons under the age of 18 years...in the best interests of a child and in compliance with obligations under Article 3 of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child’ (Code of Practice A para 1.1)

If these fundamental principles are not observed the use of powers to stop and search may be drawn into question. Failure to use the powers in the proper manner reduces their effectiveness... (Code of Practice para. 1.3)



Research on PSNI Officers' Perceptions of Young People in North Belfast – June 2013



Police Service of Northern Ireland Code of Ethics 2008



“We have processes in place to ensure that stop and search powers are used properly, legitimately and proportionately in preventing and detecting crime”

(PSNI, 2017 *The Detail* TV, 29th March)





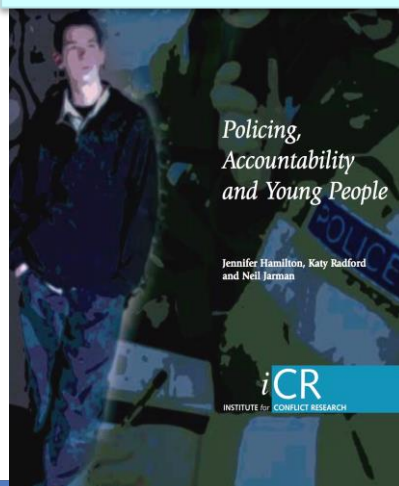
YOUNG PEOPLE'S ATTITUDES AND EXPERIENCES OF POLICING, VIOLENCE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY IN NORTH BELFAST

NORTHERN IRELAND POLICING BOARD JUNE 2005



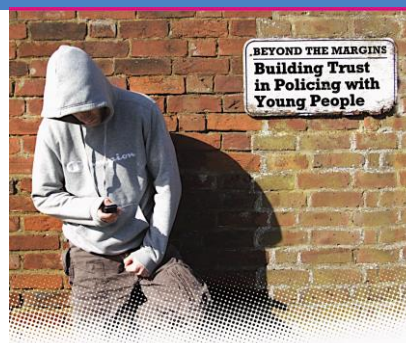
Being stop & questioned and being asked to move on were the two most frequently occurring forms of contact with PSNI

(Hamilton *et al.*, 2003)



Policing, Accountability and Young People

Jennifer Hamilton, Katy Radford
and Neil Jarman



BEYOND THE MARGINS Building Trust in Policing with Young People



Elizabeth Nelson
Raazi Santiago McBride
Olivia O'Riordan
Paul Smyth

March 2010

This project has been supported by the Joint Department of Foreign Affairs (Departmental Fund) and the search by the Community Relations Council. This is a joint project of Achieve Enterprises and the Institute for Conflict Research.

38% of young people reported experiencing 'disrespectful behaviour' whilst interacting with PSNI

29% of young people stopped & questioned without reason (Nelson *et al.*, 2010)

Since 1 April 2011...PSNI has included age information in restricted quarterly stop and search statistical reports that are provided to the Policing Board...A total of 4,827 (16%) were under 18 years. 12,434 (41%) were aged between 18 and 25 years...That does not of itself demonstrate that the powers are being used inappropriately *but it certainly should alert the PSNI to that possibility*' (NIPB, 2013)



Human Rights Thematic Review: Policing With Children and Young People Update on PSNI implementation of recommendations

An update report on PSNI implementation of 30 recommendations made in the thematic review published by the Policing Board on 26 January 2011

NOVEMBER 2013

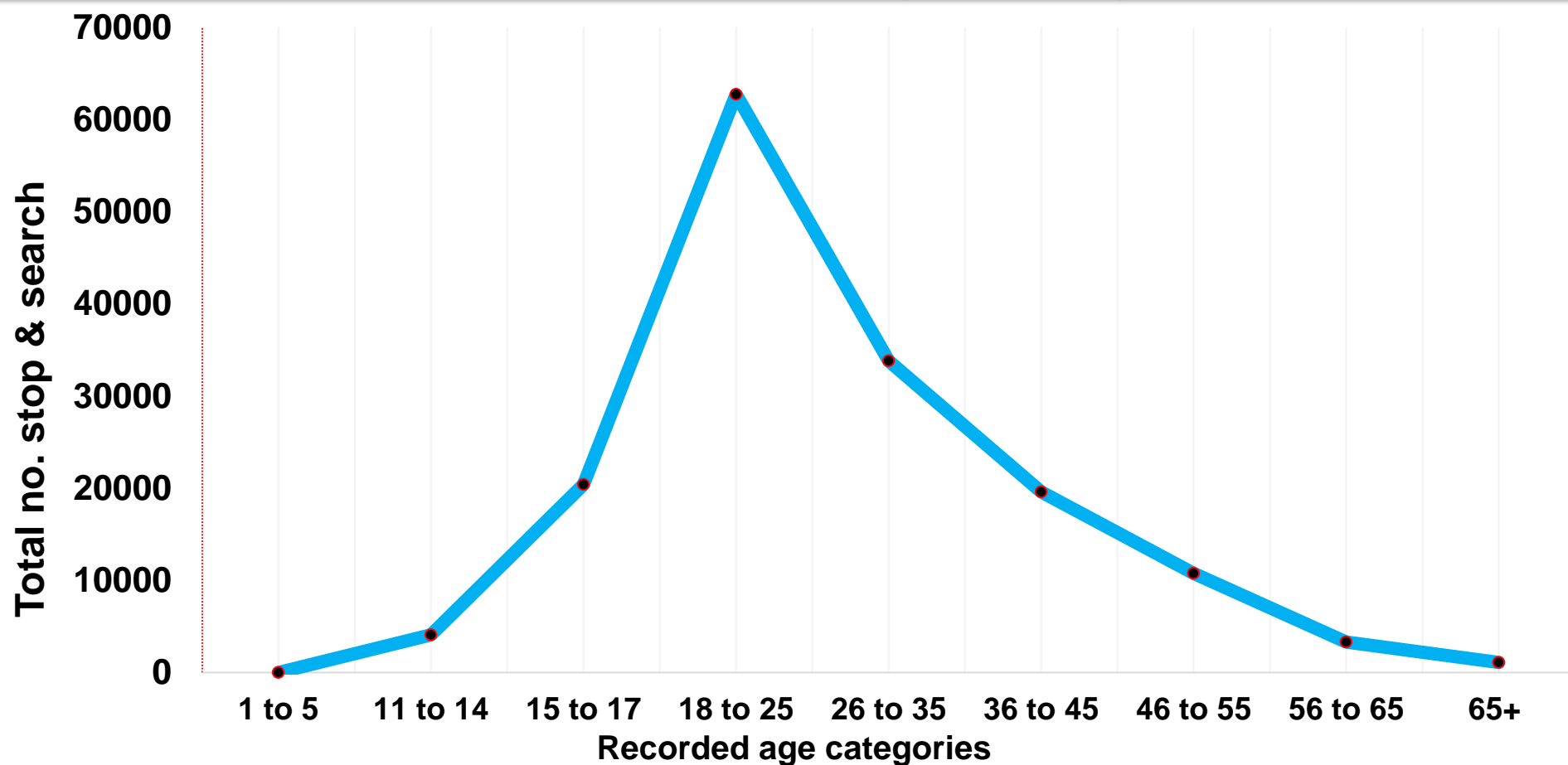
Preliminary findings substantiate qualitative data:

Disconnect between the *principles* of stop and search and practical *application* use of the power against children:

77% of 16y/o understand PSNI *must* have a reason to S&S, yet for direct S&S experiences by 16 y/o from YLT:

- PSNI gave *no clear reason* for the S&S in 69% of S&S
- The officer *did not give* name or station in 88% of S&S
- Details *were not recorded* on electronic device nor receipt/reference number given in 90% of S&S

Age Distribution of PSNI Stop & Search 2010/11 – 2016/17 (source: PSNI data)



Key Policy Issues: PSNI Stop & Search in NI



Very limited evidence of effectiveness for S&S

**Code of Practice A principles
brought into question**

Need to recognise community 'costs' of S&S

**More detailed public scrutiny through NIPB required:
legal/policy issues difficult to monitor – minimal vs.
maximal compliance**

**Evidence across U.K. shows S&S is an
operational *choice*, rather than absolute *necessity***

Need for dedicated S&S Independent Advisory Group

**BEST USE OF
STOP & SEARCH
SCHEME**





Northern Ireland
Assembly



**QUEEN'S
UNIVERSITY
BELFAST**



**The Open
University**



**Ulster
University**

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