Profit before people:

Expansion of biometric policing technology in the UK

A report by

About us

Yorkshire Resists is a network of organisations and individuals working to resist the Hostile Environment across Yorkshire. Together with Racial Justice Network (RJN), we launched the #StopTheSCANdal campaign to fight against the implementation of biometric fingerprint scanners across West Yorkshire.

The **Racial Justice Network (RJN)** is a global majority and migrant-led charity that brings together groups, organisations and individuals with lived experience of racism and other intersecting oppressions to proactively work towards racial justice. Our organisation aims to raise awareness about, organise and mobilise around racial inequality and injustice by listening and working with the most marginalised communities, taking positive action for justice and solidarity.

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Summary

Corporate Interests...

An enormous outpouring of government money has been put into the Home Office Biometrics Programme surveillance system. Between 2016-2024, over £145,711,772.82 (£145.7m) has been spent on developing and servicing the Home Office Biometrics Programme. Many of the companies with high pay-outs to develop the surveillance technology have upheld racist regimes and violent infrastructures globally themselves.

Biometric Scanning by Police...

Based on the information received via Freedom of Information requests (FOIs) :

- 14 police forces claimed to not use any type of mobile Biometric scanning devices.
- 28 police forces claimed to use a type of mobile Biometric scanning devices. There has been a steady increase of police forces using this technology since 2019. As of July 2024, 35 local police forces and Immigration Enforcement use HOB Strategic Mobile or Rapid Search. (1)
- There is a disparity among police forces on what and how data is collected in terms of reasons why a person is being scanned, their gender and ethnicity.
- The diverse ways in which police record data makes accountability harder, especially for those communities disproportionately targeted.

Summary

Reasons a person is scanned...

- Most police forces searched both the law enforcement data base (IDENT1) and the Immigration and Asylum Biometric Database (IABS).
- The most frequent reasons for scans were for details doubted and/or suspected criminal, and under the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE).

Racial and Gender Targeting...

Black communities are by far disproportionately scanned and arrested in comparison with other racial and ethnic groups according to the FOI information and census data available.

- Black people are scanned about 4.71 times more than White people, relative to their population size.
- Asian people are scanned about 1.96 times more than White people, relative to their population size.
- Arab and East Asian (Chinese and Japanese) people are much more likely to be scanned for an "immigration" reason than any other ethnic group.
- Men are much more likely to be scanned than women according to the data provided via FOIs.
- Asian women were more likely to be scanned for immigration reasons than any other ethnic group.

Geopolitical context

Two years ago, Stop the Scan and Yorkshire Resists released its third report on police use of biometric fingerprint technology. In it, we argued that **biometric policing**, and its use as an extension of Hostile Environment immigration policies, was but one **part of a landscape of racism, anti-Blackness and colonial violence** in the UK. We struggled to find the words to describe the wounds inflicted on racially minortised and marginalised communities by this context. At the same time, we have seen a wave of inhumane legislation that continues to target those who carry the history of forced migration. Two years later, even as the scars of a global pandemic have not healed, we ask: **where are we now?**

Since the publication of our last report, we have seen **the ugliest outcome of Hostile Environment policies and racism** poured in our streets. For decades, the British media, and politicians have fanned the flames of discord with racist, Islamophobic, anti-Black and anti-migrant rhetoric and action. As a result, in Summer 2024, along with our siblings, friends, family and comrades, we witnessed **fascist violence** reminiscent of the riots of the 70s, 80s and 90s that many of our elders lived through. By scapegoating those seeking sanctuary and vilifying people who have migrated to the UK, **British media, politicians and those complicit** in sustaining these unequal power relations have created the conditions that have enabled and emboldened the far-right to mobilise against our communities.

Rather than reckon with responsibility for the inevitable outcomes, they have **capitalised on violence to push through surveillance technologies and policing powers that harm the same communities under attack**. They have steamrolled past systemic failings, and continue the surge in biometric and predictive policing systems.

In this report, we seek to go beyond the establishment's façade of 'protection and **unravel the harmful repercussions of this infrastructure.** We delve into the realm of biometric policing, **revealing alarming findings on handheld fingerprint scanners and spotlighting powerful corporate interests**. At the same time as capitalists profit from the carceral violence of Bibby Stockholm, their friends profit from the repression of our right to protest these forms of carceral violence.

Our belief in **building a world liberated from borders, police and incarceration** propels this analysis; as does our commitment to building solidarity with racialised communities by confronting racial harm, coloniality and instilling self-determination in our communities.

Finally, as this report delves into the implications of policing and hostile environment immigration policies, we reiterate our commitment to **standing in solidarity with all those affected by displacement, apartheid, genocide, ecocide, violence, and harm**. That is, we speak from our experience of the xenophobic, anti-Blackness surveillance state to the global anti-migrant surveillance industrial complex which privileges the profits of the few and ideologies of white supremacy. From Palestine to Sudan, Yemen to the Democratic Republic of Congo to Leeds, our struggles are interconnected.

Profit before People

The Mobile Fingerprinting Devices used by Police forces across England and Wales are one operational aspect of a broader data programme. The Home Office Biometrics (HOB) Programme results from a **mass accumulation of biometric data** sourced from various databases including the **immigration and asylum** biometric information system (IABS), and IDENT1 (Police biometric database).

The HOB programme is intended to "establish a distinct, digitised, and verifiable identity formed from an individual's biometric data"(2) and ease **data sharing** across national Home Office agencies, such as Immigration Enforcement and the Border Force, including platforms for DNA, fingerprint and facial matching. The HOB Programme also seeks to share fingerprint records and DNA with EU nations for "law enforcement" and "counter-terrorism"(3).

There have been shifts in legislation and staffing which allow for **increased data sharing across the Home Office and far less scrutiny**. The upcoming Data Use and Access Bill (4) will allow for easier and enforced data access, as well as "reducing bureaucracy for police"(5). Furthermore, although largely inadequate, one of the primary mechanisms for independent scrutiny of government policy on Biometric strategies, the Biometrics and Security Camera commissioner, has been an unappointed role since August 2024.

Profit before People

There is a **disregard for accountability, in favour of technosolutionism**. Technosolutionism describes the urge to create a technological fix for any issue in society (6). Reality is not this simple and relying on technology to be 'objective' and 'neutral' is a false premise (7). **A shortcut to an app will not solve the conditions where "crime" is produced, nor will it solve the reasons people are left with irregular migration status**. Technolosolutionism, as exemplified through the HOB programme, various Data Bills - such as the Data Use and Access Bill and the previous Data Protection and Digital Information Bill - and inadequate independent government scrutiny, is only a shortcut to paying out tech companies.

An **enormous outpouring of government money** has been put into this biometric/surveillance system. Between 2016-2024 over **£145,711,772.82 (£145.7m)** has been spent on developing and servicing the Home Office Biometrics Programme. Many of the companies with high pay-outs to develop the technology have upheld racist regimes and violent infrastructures globally themselves. They represent the **critical link between British Business and continued colonial dynamics**. Here are some of the companies:

- **IBM**, a cloud infrastructure company faced with accusations of **Digital colonialism** (8), the **racist** treatment of Black Staff Members(9), and protested to continue their business practices in **apartheid** South Africa, were **paid £3,149,845** in 2016 for level 2 HOB support (10) **£54,716,456.79** between 2022-2023 for their development and operation of the strategic matcher (11), and **£4,804,278.03** for licensing between 2022- 2024 (12).

Profit before People

- **BAE systems**, one of the **world's largest arms producers**, requested for investigation by the International Criminal Court for **aiding a humanitarian crisis and killing thousands** in Yemen, (13) and providing stealth Jets to Israel during their **ongoing genocide** of Palestinians in Gaza (14), were **paid £22,000,000** for work as "Home Office Biometrics Delivery Partner, providing additional resources and expertise to support the successful delivery of the HOB programme." (15)

- **IDEMIA** Identity & Security UK Limited were **paid £4,600,000** for Matcher Engine Software (MES) - a combination of biometric algorithm software and associated components that will provide the specialised capability to biometrically match a facial image to a set of encoded facial images between 2020-2025 (16).

- **NEC UK** were **paid £4,207,193** between 2019-2025 for "Orthogonal based finger matching engine software (MES) to be integrated to BMPS matching platform for matching and re-ranking of Ten-print, palm print and latent marks to support biometric searches of biometric records." (17)

- **Kinegistic Limited** were **paid £294,000** between 2017-2019 for HOB Vendor Management Service, this was not posted at the time of procurement, and only later for transparency reasons (18). **Identity E2E Ltd** were **paid £4,900,000** between 2016-2019 for Technical architecture services for the HOB Programme issued in accordance with the Digital Outcomes and Specialists Framework Agreement (RM1043iii) (19).

- **Fujitsu Services Ltd** were paid **£28,000,000** between 2018-2023 (22).

Profit before People

- **Mastek (UK) Ltd** were **paid £12,000,000** between 2016-2017 for Application development for the Home Office Biometrics programme. Let under the Crown Commercial Services framework: Digital Outcomes and Services framework ref RM1043iii (20).

- **Morpho UK Ltd** were **paid £7,040,000** between 2018-2023 (21).

The Home Office Biometrics (HOB) Programme exemplifies our **increasingly militarised policing system**, and the ongoing reminder of how **lucrative technological racism** is. These technological practices and investments exacerbate the oppression of migrants and racialised people in the UK through their intrusive forms of surveillance and harassment that the biometrics programme produces in its operations. As we have reiterated over the years, this **roll out of technology has gone ahead with no real accountability or scrutiny**, allowing for racialised communities and migrants to be oversurveilled, overpoliced and harmed again.

We pay money to the organisations who engender destabilised and unsafe living conditions which force people to leave their homes. **If the £145m investment was poured into broader society instead, how might it transform our current conditions?** If we didn't invest into arms companies and war profiteers, or **funnel millions into tech companies who profit from neo-colonialism, extractivism and unequal economic relations to the global majority, how many would no longer be forced to migrate?**

Profit before People

West Yorkshire Police **paid £2,029,120 (£2m)** alone to **Motorola**, for the development of the *Pronto app* (23) which processes the biometric data used.

If you had £2,029,120 what would you spend it on in West Yorkshire?

3,588 children free school meals for a year, or 717 children over 5 years (24).

This could provide central heating to 2,147 homes for a year or 429 homes for 5 years (25).

The set-up costs of 20 community gardens from scrap, like that of Roxby Close (Lincoln Green, Leeds), an investment which would last even longer than 5 years giving communities safe spaces to flourish and grow by transforming neglected environments. (26)

Biometric Fingerprint Technology

What?

The technology consists of an app on a police officer's phone, along with a mobile fingerprint scanner. It can be used to almost instantly check fingerprints against those stored on either the Immigration and Asylum Biometric Database (IABS) or IDENT1 (law enforcement database).
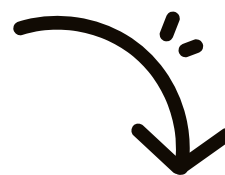
How?

The Biometric Service Gateway (BSG) retrieves data from the IABS and IDENT1 databases, interprets it, performs the necessary actions and sends it back to the mobile device. This system allows personal information to be quickly requested and shared between law enforcement and immigration enforcement.
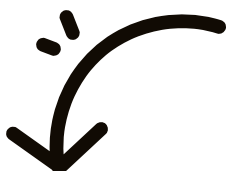
Under what powers?

Their use is regulated under Section 61(6A) of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)25 and further outlined in the PACE Code D (2017)26. Section 61 PACE and Code D also provide officers with the power to take a fingerprint by force by virtue of Section 117 of the Act.

The use of the scanners differs from Stop and Search. Officers can only scan the fingerprints of an individual in the case that:

- An offence has been committed (or suspected to have been committed).

AND

- No name has been provided by the individual *OR* the name provided is suspected to be false.

Anyone suspected of committing a crime or 'lying' about their identity can be stopped in the street and have their fingerprint scanned on the spot and searched in the police and immigration databases. Officers use their own discretion to determine how authentic or reliable a given identity is. This is a subjective judgement that has the potential to lead to even further discrimination against, for example, trans or non-binary people within Black and Brown communities.

Anyone with a migrant status (e.g., someone on a visa, with Indefinite Leave to Remain, people seeking asylum, refugees or precarious migrant status) will have their fingerprint in the Home Office immigration database (IABS). They will trigger an alarm on the app if scanned by the police. The police are obliged to contact the Home Office (e.g., phoning Command and Control units) to clarify if there is a need to detain a person due to an immigration issue.

Stop and Scan Process

1 offence

2 scan

3 search

4 Home Office flag

5 call Home Office

6 detention
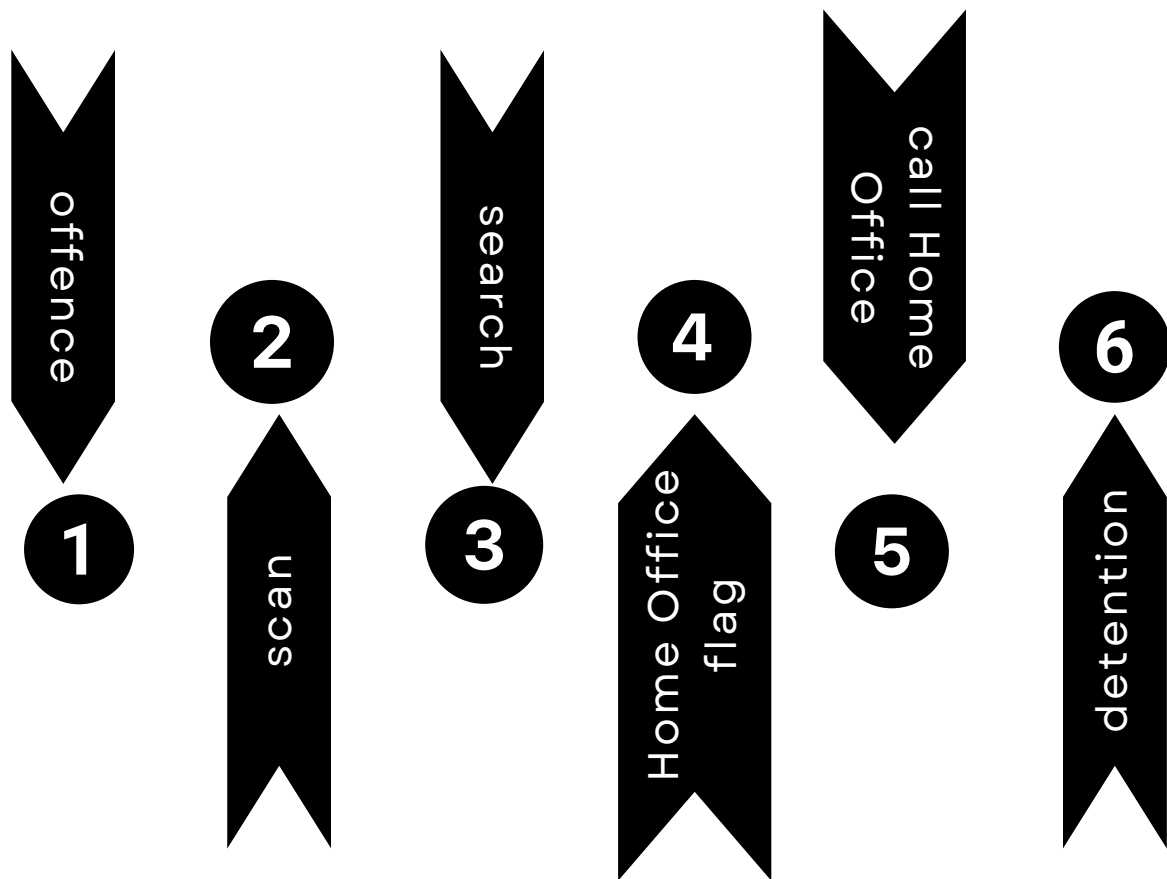
- It's up to the officers discretion as to what constitutes an offence.

- Officer judges whether the person is who they say they are.

- Officer can search criminal, immigration or both data bases.

- Flag is returned if there's activity linked to person (i.e. on a visa).

- If flag is returned, the officer must call Home Office Command and Control.

- Home Office might put person in indefinite detention or deport them.

Key Findings

This report details data collected via Freedom of Information requests (FOIs) concerning police use of mobile fingerprinting scans using the Biometric Services Gateway (BSG). We sent FOIs to all police forces in the UK (England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland) except two special police forces (Civil Nuclear Constabulary and Ministry of Defence). This resulted in requests to forty-four territorial police forces and one special police force (British Transport Police).

The request was for police statistics for **the period between 1 January 2022 to the date they responded to the FOIs. Most responses were issued in Autumn 2023 with a few given in early to mid 2024.**

Some police forces started using the BSG very recently. In such cases, information was provided from the date when they first started using this technology.

Police forces using BSG

Based on our FOIs, currently 13 police forces **do not** use the Biometric Services Gateway. These are:

1. Avon and Somerset (no longer in use after pilot)
2. British Transport Police (plans to use from October 2023)
3. Cleveland
4. Gwent
5. Northern Ireland (plan to reinstate use but no timeline given)
6. North Wales (considering implementing devices early-to mid 2024)
7. North Yorkshire
8. South Wales
9. Warwickshire
10. West Mercia
11. Wiltshire
12. Humberside
13. Cumbria

One police force - Greater Manchester Police - has begun using the BSG since our last FOIs for 2020-2022.

Six police forces have consistently not used BSG based on our FOIs (up until mid 2024). These are:

1. British Transport Police
2. Cleveland
3. Gwent
4. North Wales
5. Warwickshire
6. West Mercia

28 forces who responded to our most recent FOI (2022-23) use the Biometric Gateway Service. These are:

1. Bedfordshire
2. Cambridgeshire
3. Cheshire
4. Derbyshire
5. Devon and Cornwall
6. Dorset
7. Durham
8. Dyfed-Powys
9. Essex
10. Gloucestershire
11. Greater Manchester
12. Hampshire
13. Hertfordshire
14. Kent
15. Lancashire
16. Leicestershire
17. Metropolitan Police
18. Merseyside
19. Northamptonshire
20. Northumbria
21. Nottinghamshire
22. Norfolk
23. Police Scotland (only used to identify deceased people)
24. Suffolk
25. Surrey
26. Thames Valley
27. West Midlands
28. West Yorkshire
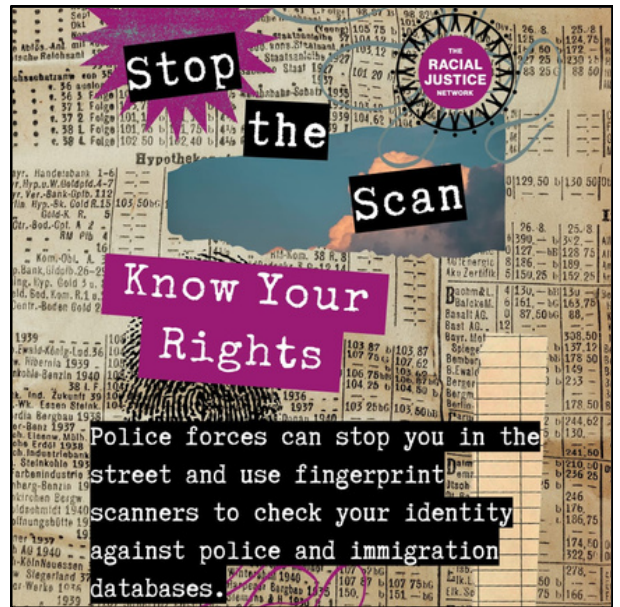
Stop The SCANdal
Know Your Rights Pamphlets.
Translations in multiple languages available here.

Of the forces who provided further information on the total number of scans:

Police forces	Scans
Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire & Hertfordshire*	254
Chesire	370
Derbyshire	543
Devon and Cornwell and Dorset (data given together)	960
Durham	44
Essex	2173
Greater Manchester	1,279
Hampshire & Thames Valley*	1001
Kent	2071
Lancashire	2497
Leicestershire	1572
Merseyside	2933
Metropolitan Police	16045
Northamptonshire	1481
Nottinghamshire	543
Surrey	1880
West Midlands	4947
West Yorkshire	1,582

*These forces did not disaggregate information among the highlighted police forces.

Scans and database searched

Of the forces who provided further information on the database searched, the total number of scans are shown in the table below.

Police force	IABS (immigration)	IDENT 1 (police)	Both
Chesire	1	1	368
Devon and Cornwell and Dorset (data given together)	0	0	960
Derbyshire	44	270	229
Essex	0	0	2173
Greater Manchester	233	1,057	0
Kent	639	1432	2071
Leicestershire	41	650	881
Merseyside	99	1,060	1,774
Metropolitan Police	0	0	16045
Northamptonshire	27	525	929
Nottinghamshire	159	384	0
West Midlands	2587	2360	0
West Yorkshire	182	574	826

Scans and database searched

Data based searched during a scan by police force

Legend: Both, IDENT1 (police), IABS (immigration)

Police forces (left to right): West Yorkshire, West Midlands, Nottinghamshire, Northamptonshire, Merseyside, Leicestershire, Kent, Greater Manchester, Essex, Derbyshire, Devon, Cornwell and Dorset, Chesire
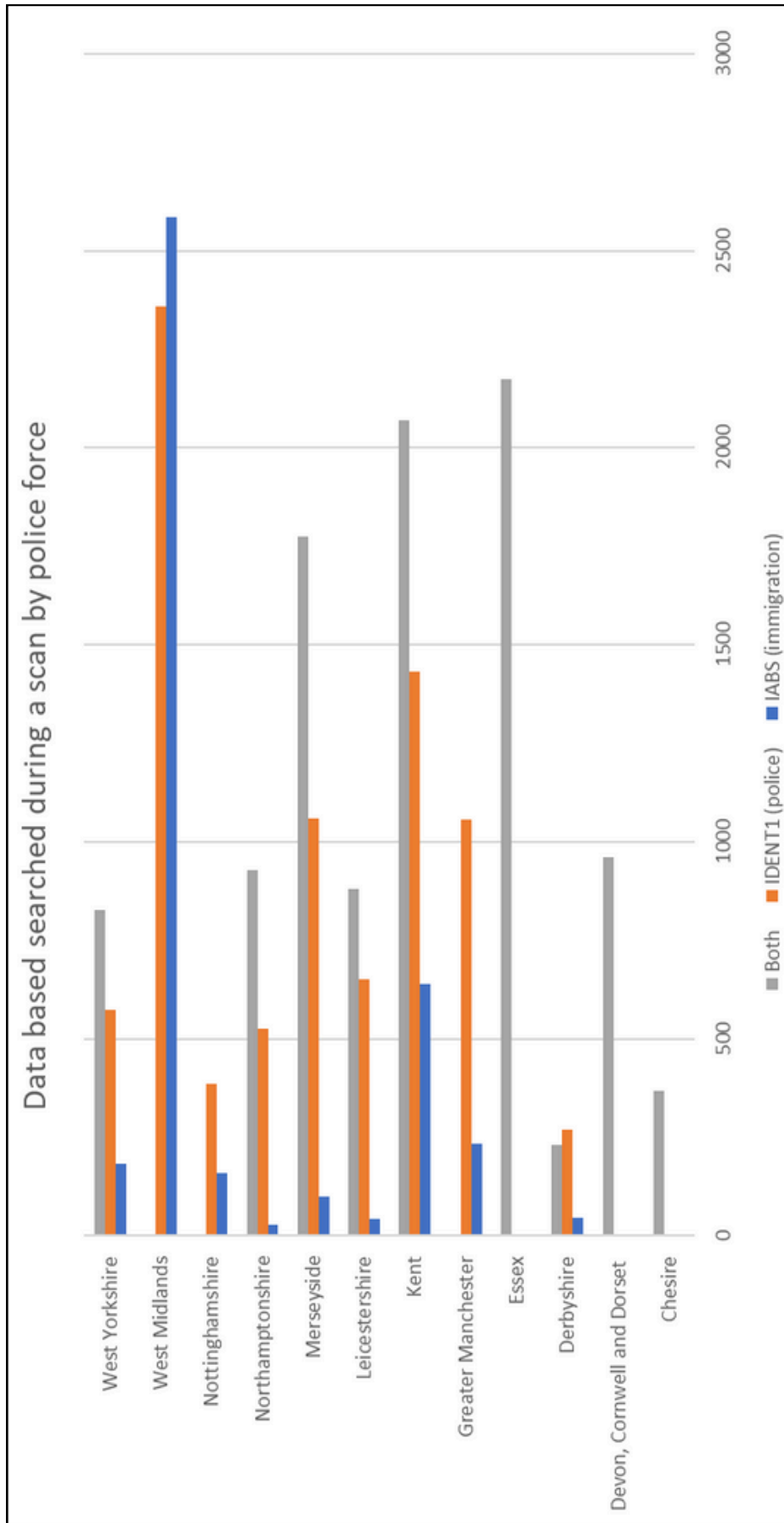
Scans and database searched

Metropolitical police searched both data bases for all the 16,045 scans they did during the period covered by the FOI.

Of those scans we have information on, the number of scans which led to a match are as follows:

- Cheshire received 86 matches (unclear which database received a positive match).
- Greater Manchester police had 119 IABS matches and 432 IDENT1 matches.
- Kent had 205 IABS matches and 419 IDENT1 matches.
- Merseyside had 310 successful matches when both databases where searched, 16 IABS database matches and not clear how many IDENT1 only matches.
- Northamptonshire had 164 responses of which 192 were for the IDENT1 database, 6 for the IABS and 46 for both databases.
- West Yorkshire police 56 arrested for immigration offenses and 206 for criminal offenses.

Scans that led to matches and/or arrests

- In Leicestershire, 44 people were arrested for immigration offences (of these only 3 arrested when only IABS database was checked), 109 people arrested for criminal offence (of these 52 arrested when only IDENT1 was checked).
- Merseyside police arrested 107 people following a police/immigration check, 4 individuals were arrested for immigration offences and 51 people for criminal offences.
- In Northamptonshire, 27 people were arrested for immigration offences and 136 individuals for criminal offences.
- West Yorkshire police arrested 56 individuals for immigration offences and 206 people for criminal offences.

Police force	Total of scans	% of people arrested after scan
Leicestershire	1572	9.73%
Merseyside	2933	5.52%
Northamptonshire	1481	11%
West Yorkshire	1582	16.56%

West Yorkshire Police have the highest rate of scans leading to arrest based on the information we have. They were also the force with more immigration arrests.

Reasons stopped and scanned

Very few police forces disaggregated the reason why they executed a stop and scan. Only 8 police forces provided data for this question. Across these forces, the number one reason provided as to why people are stopped and scanned is because a police officer doubts the details given or the person refused to give their details to the officer, or a suspected offence was committed. It is not possible to tell from the FOI data what percentage of those are for details doubted and which ones are because the person refused.

It is alarming that in the case of Leicestershire, of the 70 people scanned under "duty of care", the only 2 people arrested were Black.

Reasons stopped and scanned

Police force	Details doubted/ refused/ not asserted	Suspected criminal	Visually unidentifiable	Mental health/ duty of care	Deceased	Immigration	Suspected escaped convict	PACE (offense)	Training
Derbyshire	0	293	0	46	121	83	0	0	0
Leicestershire	1439	0	0	70	63	0	0	0	0
Merseyside	0	2064	846	0	0	0	23	0	0
Northamptonshire	1354	0	0	73	54	0	0	0	0
Surrey	0	0	0	46	97	452	0	1257	28
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	165	354	0	0	1062	0

Reasons stopped and scanned

Durham and Met Police presented information differently:

Police Force	administration	on behalf of another authorised agency	subject of a process or investigation	transaction log and other audit checks	vehicle/person stopped	vehicle involved in accident	Abandoned or parked and unattended vehicle	Child access inquiries	Moving vehicle	update/confirm/broadcast	Blank
Durham	10	1	7	1	2	5	0	0	0	0	0
Met police	269	61	1123	93	3308	38	4	5	358	46	10739

Reasons for police use of biometric scanners

Reasons police use of biometric scanner

Legend: Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Merseyside, Northamptonshire, Surrey, West Yorkshire

Categories (top to bottom): training, PACE, suspected escaped convict, immigration, deceased, mental health/ duty of care, visually unidentifiable, suspected criminal, details doubted/ refused/ not asserted

Reasons police use of biometric scanner

Legend: Durham, Met police

Categories (top to bottom): update/confirm/broadcast, Moving vehicle, Child access inquiries, Abandoned or parked and unattended..., vehicle involved in accident, vehicle/person stopped, transaction log and other audit checks, subject of a process or investigation, on behalf of another authorised agency, administration

Scans according to ethnicity

While in absolute numbers white North Europeans have been scanned the most. However, when compared to the percentage of resident population by ethnicity: **White Europeans consistently have the lowest rate of being stopped and scanned according to the numbers of police forces who included this information in our FOI requests.** It is important to note that police did not provide disaggregated data of white population, instead only using the categories 'White North European' and 'White South European'. It is paramount we recognise the Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities have continuously been criminalised by police. Therefore, while statistics were not provided for these communities, it is extremely likely they are disproportionately impacted by stop and scan.

Percentage of scans according to ethnicity calculated by the total number of scans provided by police forces who provided such data (see below)*

- White people represent 36.40% of total scans yet they represent 82% of total UK population.
- **Black people represent 9.16% of total scans yet they represent 4% of the total UK population.**
- Asian people represent 7.76% of total scans yet they represent 9.3% of total of UK population.
- Other ethnic minority people represent 4.14% of total scans yet they represent 3% of total of UK population.
- 42.52% of scans did not identify the ethnicity of the person being scanned.

*UK comparison using data from the 2021 Census Data

Police force	White North European	White South European	Black	Asian	Arab	Chinese	Unknown	Total
Chesire	208	36	23	64	19	4	16	370
Devon and Cornwell and Dorset	509	83	127	59	45	14	123	960
Derbyshire	309	34	45	64	29	10	52	543
Durham	23	0	2	0	1	0	0	26
Leicestershire	531	265	208	250	53	35	230	1572
Merseyside	1827	194	173	226	227	35	0	2682
Metropolitan police	1527	1146	1393	792	377	70	10740	16045
Northamptonshire	797	208	177	123	37	14	125	1481
Surrey	1108	0	201	196	47	19	88	1659
West Yorkshire	847	147	119	316	39	40	74	1582
Total	7686	2113	2468	2090	874	241	11448	26920

*Some forces recorded a very high percentage as 'Unknown': Merseyside (78.9% of 13,067 scans); and Metropolitan (66.9% of 16,045 scans) so the real likelihood of disproportionate scanning on racially minortised communities could be much higher.

Total number of scans according to ethnicity of person scanned

Total number of scans provided by police forces according to ethnicity of person scanned

Legend: Chinese, Arab, Asian, Black, White South European, White North European

Categories: West Yorkshire, Surrey, Northamptonshire, Metropolitan Police, Merseyside, Leicestershire, Durham, Derbyshire, Devon, Cornwell and Dorset, Chesire
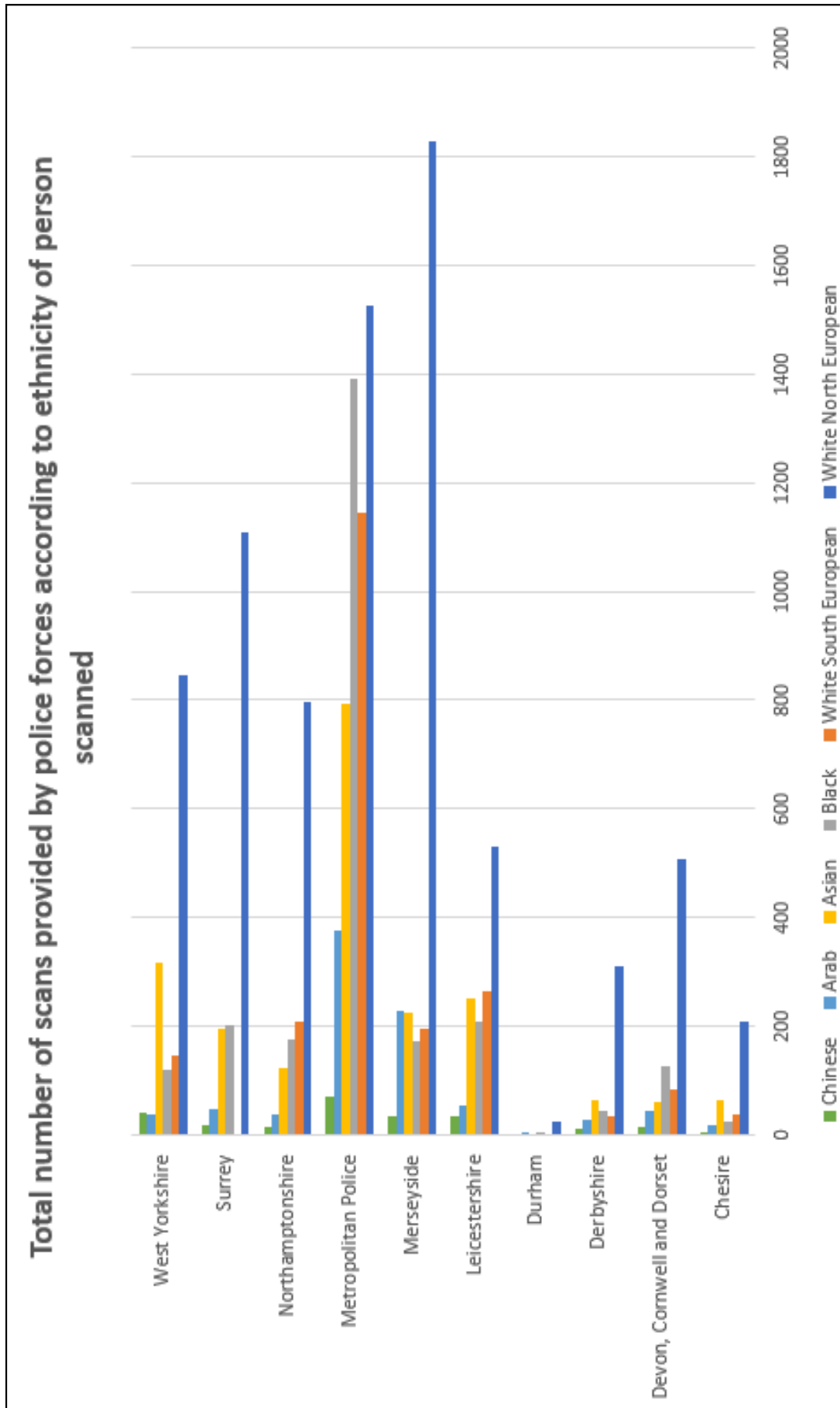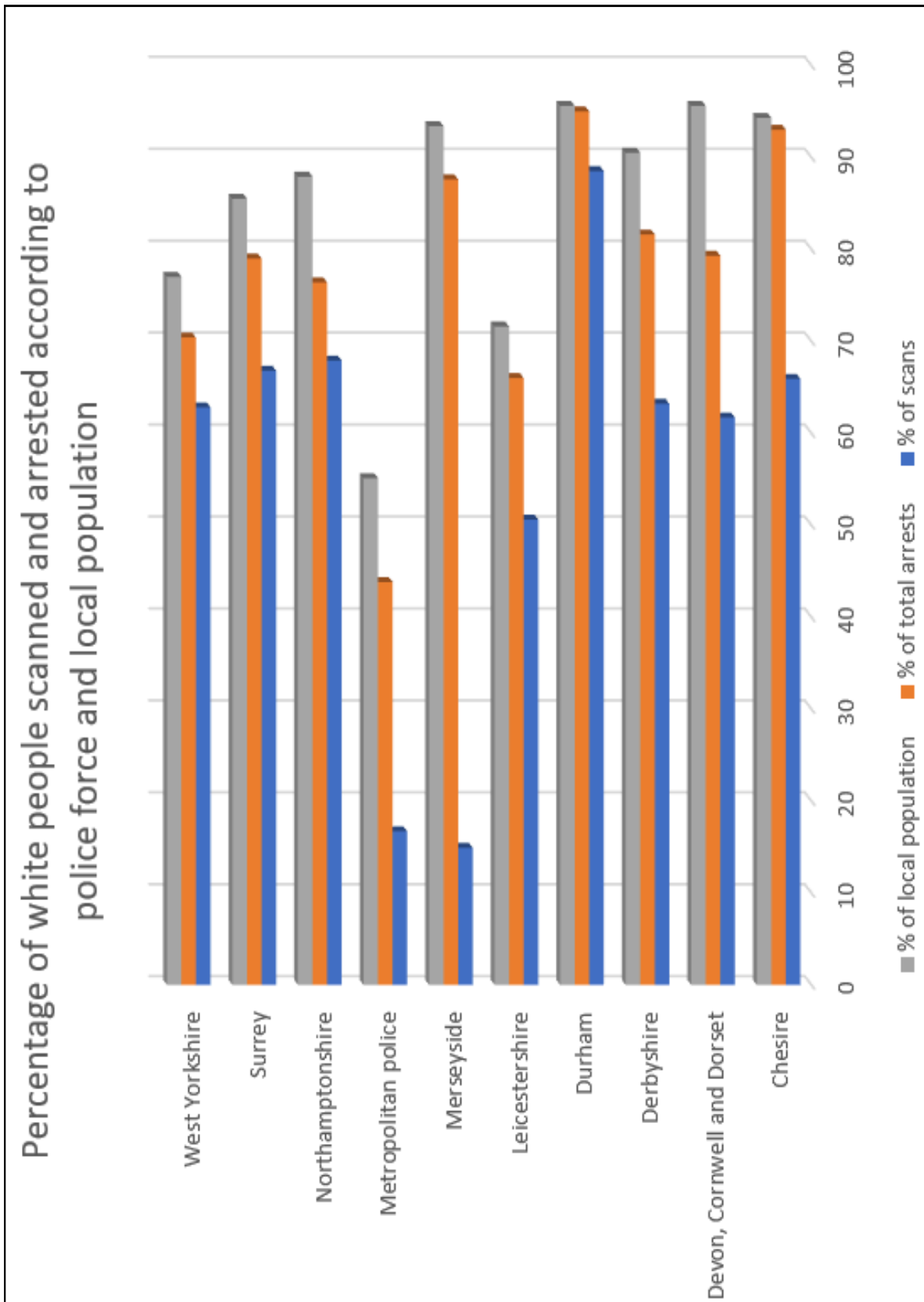
Disproportionality by force and ethnicity

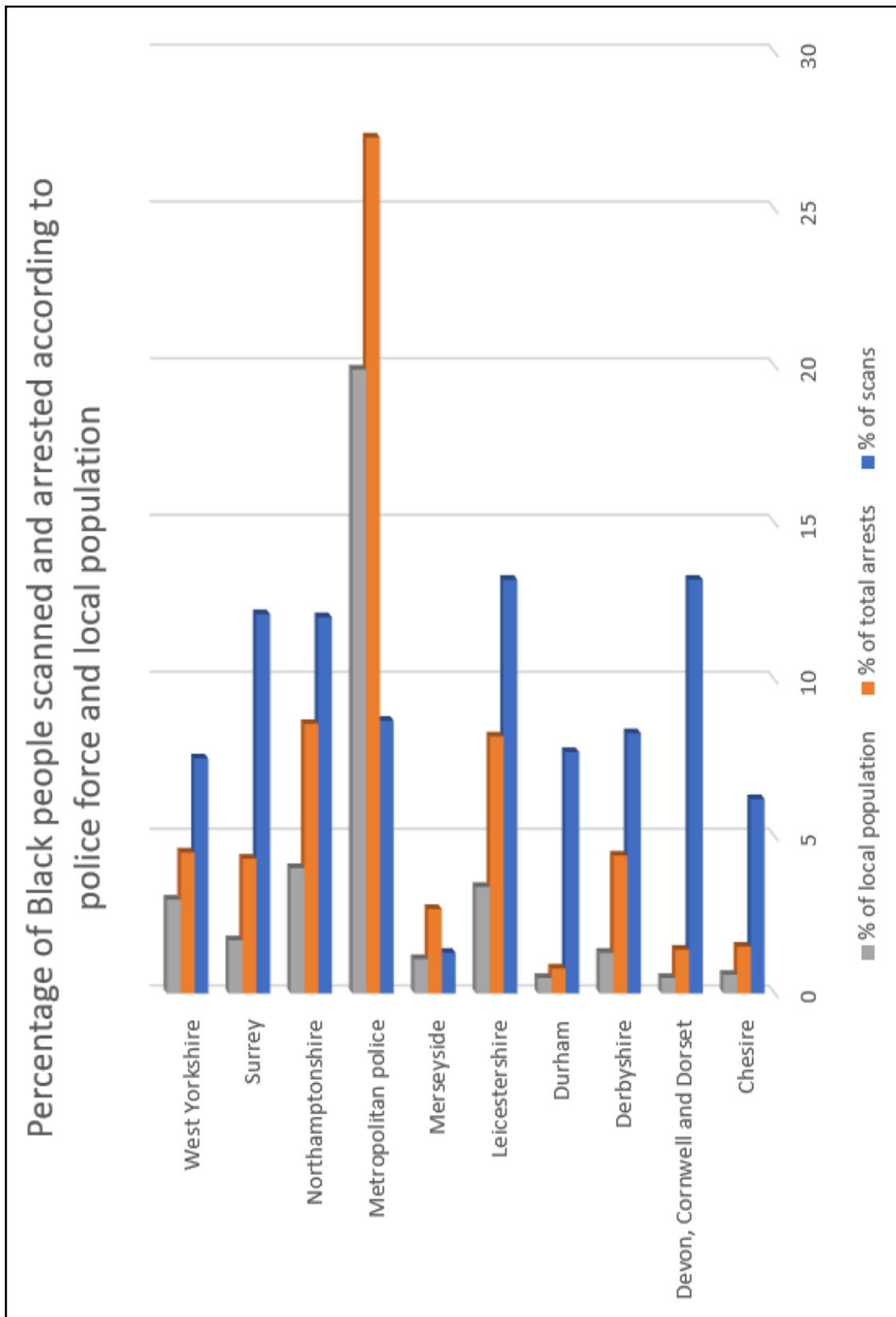| Force Jurisdiction	White			Asian, Asian British (inc. Chinese)			Black, Black British, Caribbean or African		
	% of Scan	% of total arrests	% of Local Population	% of Scans	% of total arrests	% of Local Population	% of Scans	% of total arrests	% of Local Population
Cheshire (370 Scans)	65.9	93	94.3	18.4	1.4	2.3	6.2	1.5	0.6
Leicestershire (1572 scans)	50.6	66	71.6	18.1	12.8	20.2	13.2	8.2	3.4
Northamptonshire (1481 scans)	67.9	76.4	87.9	9.3	3.1	4.5	12	8.6	4
Surrey (1659 scans)	66.8	79	85.5	13	6	7.7	12.1	4.3	1.7
West Yorkshire (1582 scans)	62.8	70.4	77	10.1	15.2	16	7.5	4.5	3
Derbyshire (543 scans)	63.2	81.6	90.5	13.6	6.5	5.2	8.3	4.4	1.3
Devon & Cornwall & Dorset (960 scans)	61.7	79.3	95.6	7.6	1.2	1.5	13.2	1.4	0.5
Durham (26 scans)	88.5	95	95.6	0	1.4	2.2	7.7	0.8	0.5
Merseyside (13067 scans)	14.9	87.6	93.4	2.9	1.3	2.5	1.3	2.7	1.1
Metropolitan (16045 scans)	16.7	43.8	55.1	5.4	14.6	5.8	8.7	27.3	19.9

Disproportionality by force and ethnicity continued

Force Jurisdiction	Mixed or Multiple Ethnic Groups			Other Ethnic Group (inc. Arab)		
	% of Scans	% of total arrests	% of Local Population	% of Scans	% of total arrests	% of Local Population
Cheshire (370 Scans)		1.5	1.6	5.1	1.5	0.7
Leicestershire (1572 scans)		2.8	2.7	3.4	1.5	2.1
Northamptonshire (1481 scans)		3.4	2.6	2.5	0.9	1
Surrey (1659 scans)		3.7	3.4	2.8	1.7	1.7
West Yorkshire (1582 scans)		3.8	3	2.5	1.1	2
Derbyshire (543 scans)		3.5	1.9	5.3	1.3	1
Devon & Cornwall & Dorset (960 scans)		0.8	1.6	4.7	0.6	0.9
Durham (26 scans)		0.9	1.2	3.8	0.6	0.7
Merseyside (13067 scans)		2.4	1.9	2.8	1.9	1.2
Metropolitan (16045 scans)		6.1	13	2.3	4.1	6.3

Disproportionality by force and ethnicity continued

Percentage of white people scanned and arrested according to police force and local population

Legend:
- % of local population (grey)
- % of total arrests (orange)
- % of scans (blue)

Categories: West Yorkshire, Surrey, Northamptonshire, Metropolitan police, Merseyside, Leicestershire, Durham, Derbyshire, Devon, Cornwell and Dorset, Chesire

Disproportionality by force and ethnicity continued

Percentage of Black people scanned and arrested according to police force and local population

Legend:
- % of local population (grey)
- % of total arrests (orange)
- % of scans (blue)

Categories: West Yorkshire, Surrey, Northamptonshire, Metropolitan police, Merseyside, Leicestershire, Durham, Derbyshire, Devon, Cornwell and Dorset, Chesire

Disproportionality by force and ethnicity continued

Percentage of Asian people (including Chinese) scanned and arrested according to police force and local population

Legend: ■ % of local population   ■ % of total arrests   ■ % of scans

Categories: West Yorkshire, Surrey, Northamptonshire, Metropolitan police, Merseyside, Leicestershire, Durham, Derbyshire, Devon, Cornwell and Dorset, Chesire

# Disproportionality by force and ethnicity continued

Black communities are by far disproportionately scanned and arrested in comparison with other racial and ethnic groups according to the FOI information and census data available.

Disproportionality by force and ethnicity continued
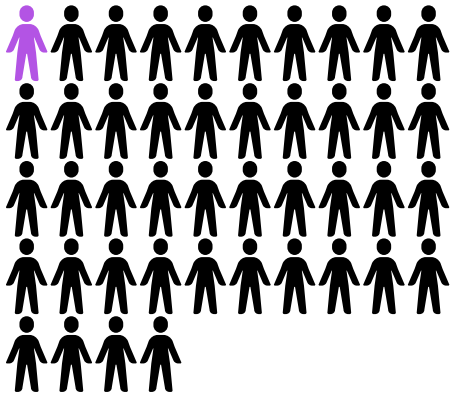
Black people are 43.9 times more likely to be scanned then a white person and Asian people 7 times more likely to be scanned in the combined jurisdiction of Devon, Cornwall and Dorset

Black people are 14.8 times more likely to be scanned then a white person and Asian people 11.4 times more likely to be scanned in Cheshire.
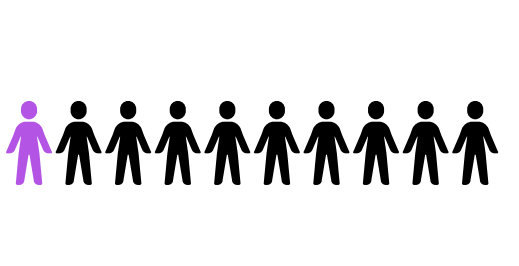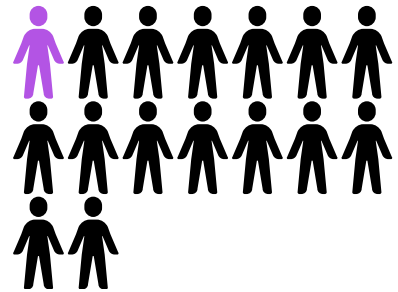
Black people are 9 times more likely to be scanned then a white person and Asian people 2.2 times more likely to be scanned in Surrey.

Black people are 9 times more likely to be scanned then a white person and Asian people 3.8 times more likely to be scanned in Derbyshire.

Black and Asian people are 7 times more likely to be scanned then a white person in Merseyside.

Disproportionality by force and ethnicity continued

Black people are 5.5 times more likely to be scanned then a white person and Asian people 1.3 times more likely to be scanned in Leicestershire.

Black people are 3.9 times more likely to be scanned then a white person and Asian people 2.7 times more likely to be scanned in Northamptonshire.

Black people are 3.1 times more likely to be scanned then a white person and Asian people 0.8 times more likely to be scanned in West Yorkshire.

Other ethnic groups (including Arab people) are 15 times more likely to be scanned then a white person in Merseyside.

Other ethnic groups (including Arab people are 10.5 times more likely to be scanned then a white person in Cheshire.

Scans according to people's ethnicity and reasons for scan for Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Surrey and West Yorkshire who provided cross reference information

Reason for Scan	White North European	White South/ Dark European*	Black	Asian	Arab/ Middle Eastern/ North African	Chinese
offence/ details doubted	1820	581	470	424	127	78
duty of care (Mental Capacity Act 2005)	209	9	38	36	7	1
Deceased (Coroners and justice act)	520	8	16	31	0	3
Immigration	739	207	158	273	72	69
Training	26	0	0	2	0	0

- While most police forces list it as 'white north European' and 'white south European', some list 'dark European' instead of 'south European'.
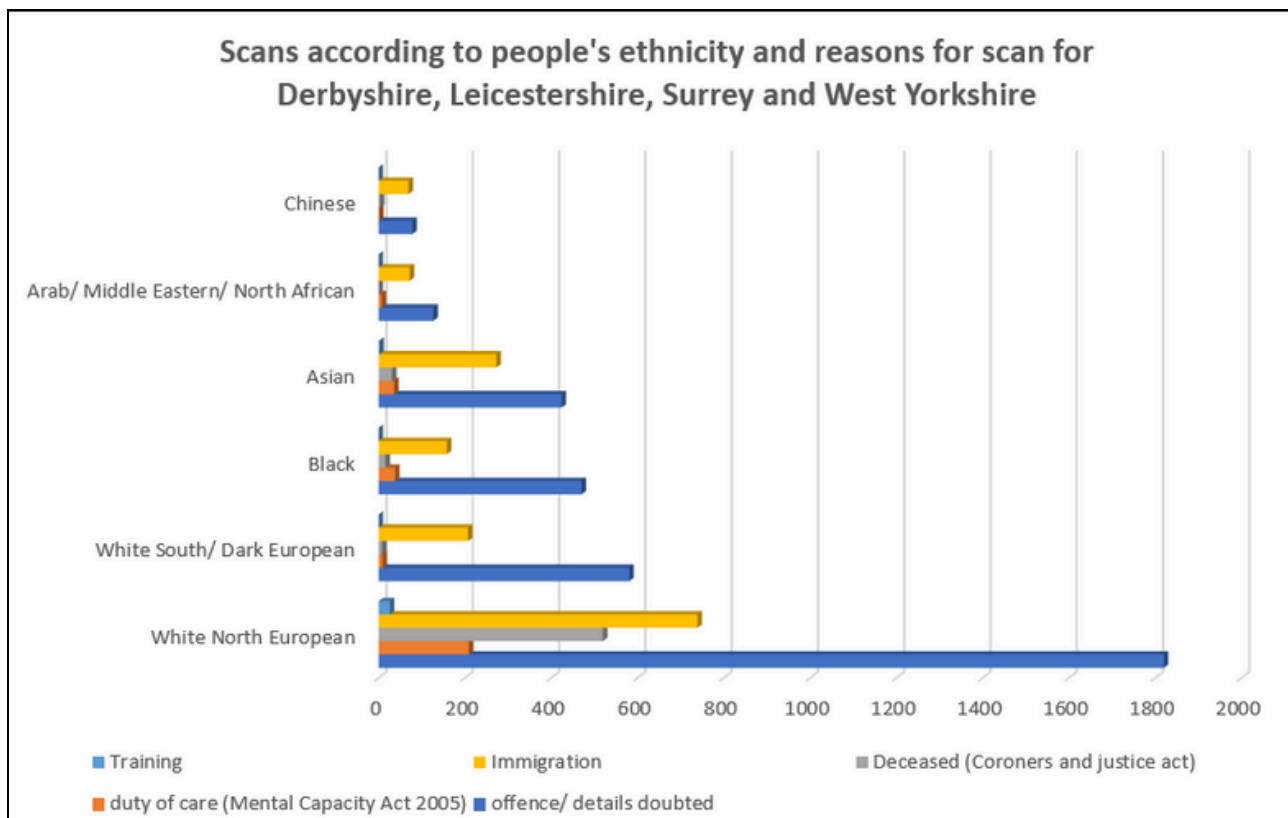
Scans according to people's ethnicity and reasons for scan for Derbyshire, Leicestershire, Surrey and West Yorkshire

Disaggregated information of people's ethnicity and reasons for scans

Police forces	Ethnicity + reason of scanning + if it led to arrest (for those who provided arrest info)
Derbyshire (543 scans)	of 45 Black people scanned only 2 were deceased, 0 duty of care, 4 immigration and 39 offence
	of 64 Asian people scanned only 9 duty of care, 0 deceased, 23 immigration and 32 offence
	of 29 Arab people scanned only 8 immigration rest 21 offence
	of 10 Chinese people scanned, 2 offence and 8 immigration
	of 52 unknown people scanned only 10 immigration and rest 42 offence
	of 34 white southern European people scanned only 10 immigration rest 24 offence
	of 309 white northern European people scanned only 19 immigration, 110 deceased, 37 duty of care and 147 offence
Leicestershire (1572)	of 208 Black people scanned only 6 were for duty of care and 4 deceased, the 198 left were details doubted. 3 arrested for immigration and 13 for criminal offences
	of 250 Asian people scanned only 6 were for duty of care and 4 deceased, the 240 left were details doubted; 2 arrested for immigration and 16 for criminal offence
	of the 53 Arab people scanned only 1 was for duty of care, 52 were details doubted; 3 arrested for immigration and 4 for criminal offences
	of 35 Chinese people scanned, 1 was deceased, 1 duty of care, 33 details doubted; 7 arrested for immigration and 0 for criminal offences
	of 230 unknown people scanned, 12 deceased, 17 duty of care, 201 were details doubted; 2 arrested for immigration and 9 for criminal offences
	of 265 white South European people scanned, only 4 were for duty of care and 2 deceased, 259 were details doubted; 16 arrested for immigration and 27 for criminal offences
	of the 531 white North European people scanned, 35 were for duty of care, 40 deceased and 456 details doubted; 11 arrested for immigration and 40 for criminal offences

Disaggregated information of people's ethnicity and reasons for scans

| Police forces	Ethnicity + reason of scanning + if it led to arrest (for those who provided arrest info)
Surrey (1880)	Of 201 Black people scanned, 0 deceased, 45 for immigration, 7 for mental health and 149 for PACE
	Of 196 Asian people scanned, 2 deceased, 70 immigration, 0 mental health, 122 PACE, 2 for training
	Of 47 Arab people scanned, 0 deceased, 26 immigration, 1 mental health, 20 PACE
	Of 19 Chinese people scanned, 2 deceased, 14 for immigration, 3 PACE
	Of 221 dark European people scanned, 0 deceased, 59 immigration, 162 PACE
	Of 1108 white people scanned, 90 deceased, 205 immigration, 38 mental capacity, 749 PACE, 26 training
	Of 88 unknown people scanned, 3 deceased, 33 immigration, 52 PACE
West Yorkshire (1582)	of the 119 Black people scanned, only 10 deceased, 25 duty of care and 84 offence. 106 were checked against immigration database
	of the 316 Asian people scanned, 270 offence, 25 deceased, 21 duty of care, of the total of Asian people scanned, 178 were checked against the immigration database
	of the 39 Arab people scanned, only 5 duty of care, 0 deceased and 34 offence, 35 were checked against the immigration database
	of the 40 Chinese people scanned, only 5 duty of care, 0 deceased and 34 offence. All were checked on the immigration database
	of the 74 unknown people scanned, 33 deceased, 30 offence, 11 duty of care. 45 were checked against the immigration database
	of the 147 white Southern people people scanned, 5 duty of care, 6 deceased, 136 offence. 122 were checked against the immigration database
	of the 847 white northern people scanned, 468 offence, 280 deceased and 99 duty of care, 504 were checked against the immigration database

Scans according to ethnicity and reasons for the Metropolitan Police

| Reason for Scan	White North European	White South European	Black	Asian	Middle Eastern	Chinese
Administration	181	28	37	15	6	2
On behalf of another authorised agency	22	7	11	5	16	0
Subject of a process or investigation	313	178	374	155	85	18
Transaction log and other audit checks	50	4	13	24	2	0
Vehicle/person stopped	837	830	831	514	247	49
Vehicle involved in road traffic collision	18	2	12	4	2	0
Abandoned or parked and unattended vehicle	0	2	1	1	0	0
Child access inquiries	1	1	3	0	0	0
Moving vehicle	76	90	102	73	17	0
Update/ confirm/ broadcast	29	4	9	1	2	1
Total	1527	1146	1393	792	377	70

- The Met Police had an additional 1,989 scans where the reasons for scanning and the ethnicity of person stopped has been unaccounted for.

People scanned according to gender

- Only two police forces provided data according to gender:
  - Devon, Cornwell and Dorset (aggregated)
  - Surrey

87.6%
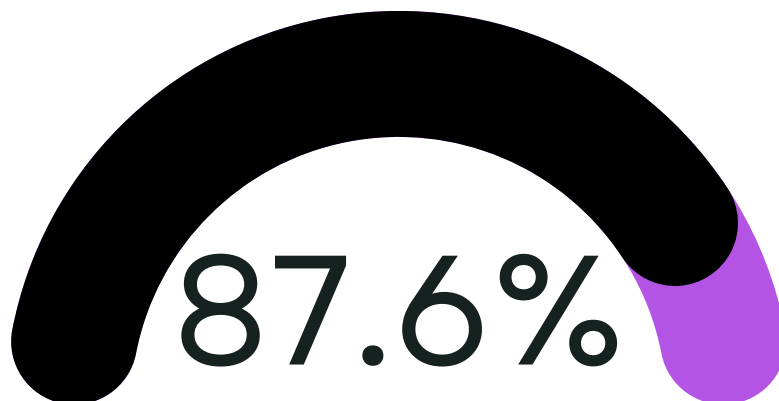
87.6% of people scanned by Devon, Cornwell and Dorset were men. While 11.97% were women and 0.41% were categorised as "unknown".

89%
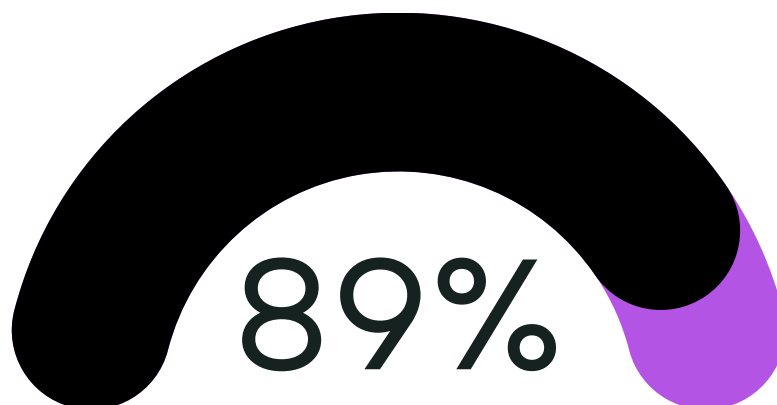
88.9% of people scanned by Surrey were men. While 10.53% were women and 0.47% were categorised as "unknown".

Women scanned according to ethnicity and reason for Surrey

- Only Surrey police provided data according to gender, ethnicity and reason of scan.

Surrey female	white North European	Black	Asian	Arab	Chinese/ Japanese	Dark European	Unknown
Coroner	12	0	0	0	0	0	2
Immigration	5	1	9	0	5	7	7
Mental capacity act	9	2	0	1	0	0	0
PACE	98	2	4	0	0	20	7
Training	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total	131	5	13	1	5	27	16

- Asian women were more likely to be scanned for immigration reasons than any other ethnic group.
- PACE was the number one reason women as a total were scanned.
- For the total number (9) of people scanned with "unknown" gender, as recorded by police, the majority (5) were for immigration reasons amongst White North European.

Men scanned according to ethnicity and reason for Surrey

Surrey male	White North European	Black	Asian	Arab	Chinese/ Japanese	Dark European	Unknown
Coroner	78	0	2	0	2	0	1
Immigration	195	44	61	25	9	52	26
Mental capacity act	29	5	0	0	0	0	0
PACE	650	146	118	20	3	141	45
Training	19	0	2	0	0	0	0
Total	971	195	183	45	14	193	72

- **PACE** (The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984) was by far the most common reason people were scanned across all ethnic groups:
  - For white people 66.94% of the total scans.
  - For Black people 74.87% of the total scans.
  - For Asian people 64.48% of the total scans.
  - For Arab people 44.44% of the total scans.
  - For Chinese/Japanese 21.42% of total scans.

- **Immigration** was the second most common reason why people were scanned across all ethic groups:
  - For white people 20.08% of the total scans.
  - For Black people 22.56% of the total scans.
  - For Asian people 33.33% of the total scans.
  - For Arab people 55.55% of the total scans.
  - For Chinese/Japanese 64.28% of the total scans.

Men scanned according to ethnicity and reason for Surrey

Percentage of men scanned according to most frequent reason by ethnicity
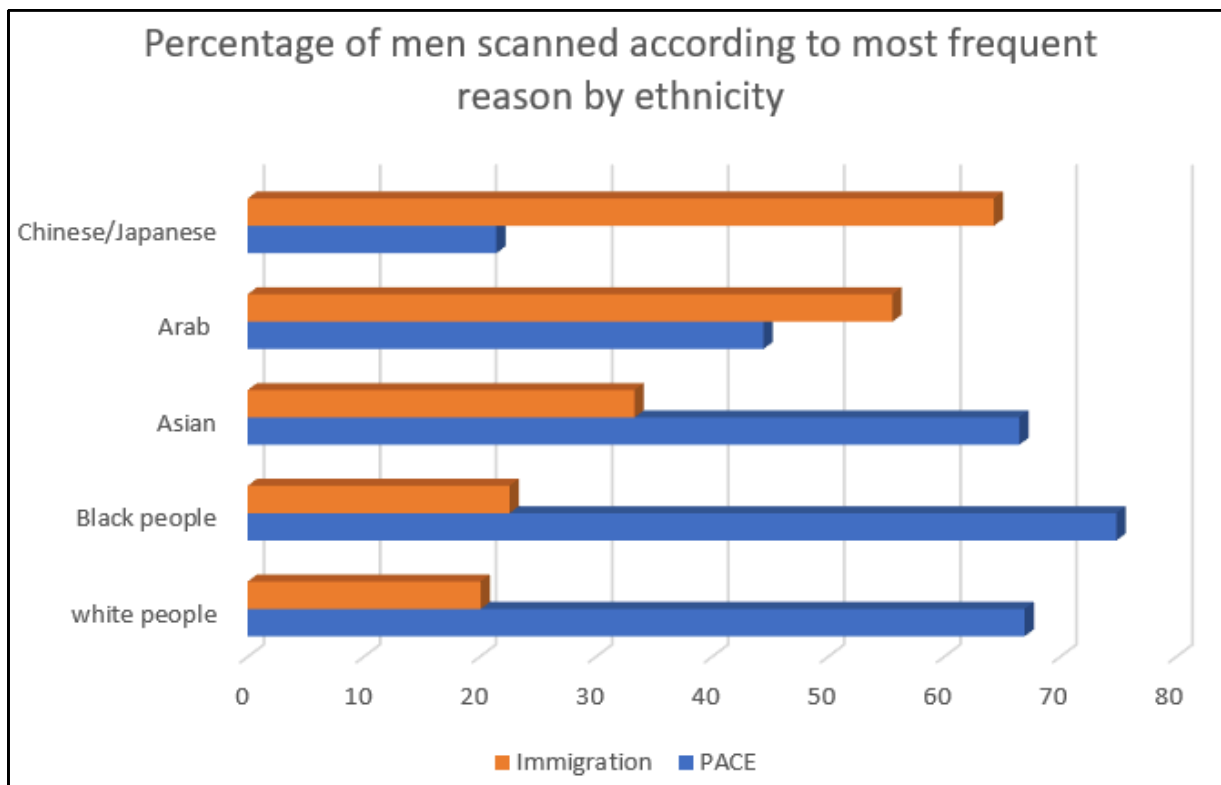
- **It is incredibly alarming to see Arab, Chinese and Japanese communities being scanned for immigration reasons far more disproportionate than any other ethnic groups.**
- Men by far are more likely to be scanned than other genders.

Scans according to people's ethnicity and IABS (immigration) only scans

Police forces	White North European	White South European	Black	Asian	Arab	Chinese/ Japanese	Dark European	Unknown
Derbyshire (83 total)	19	10	4	23	8	8	0	11
Leicestershire (41 total)	2	12	8	7	3	0	0	9
Surrey (452 total)	205	0	45	70	26	14	59	33
West Yorkshire (182 total)	103	14	17	31	8	3	0	6
Total	329	36	74	131	45	25	59	59

- Of the total number of immigration scans (758):
    - white people represent 48.15%
    - Asian people 17.28%
    - Black people 9.76%
    - Dark European people 7.78%
    - Arab people 5.93%
    - Chinese/ Japanese people 3.29%

Based on the 182 immigration scans in West Yorkshire:

- White people represent 64.3% of immigration scans and 76.6% of population (64.3/76.6)= 0.84
- Black people represent 9.3% of immigration scans and 3.1% of population *(9.3/3.1)= 3 -3.571*
- Asian people represent 18.7% of immigration scans and 22.5% of population (18.7/22.5) = *0.83-0.988*

Therefore, Black people are 3.571 times more likely to scanned for immigration reason than a white person.

Conclusion

Since our 2021 report on the Mobile Biometrics, there have been multiple shifts nationally on usage. Various forces have taken up the technology, including **some forces predicting their use in the near future.** A small minority of forces have opted out of the technology. However, a larger minority have taken it upon themselves to develop location-specific apps to connect with the biometric services gateway.

The racial disproportionality of scans has increased, particularly towards **Black people,** and for people identified as **Arab/Middle Eastern and Chinese/Japanese.**

There is a also a disparity between the types of data collected by police forces, the national census, and regional databases regarding ethnicity, gender and reasons for scans. This makes the process of disaggregating the effects on ethnic groups problematic and laboursome, and **hides the true picture about the effects of Mobile Biometrics.**

The expansion of the Biometrics Service Gateway, under the Home Office Biometrics programme, includes the use of facial recognition technology at the hands of offices, known as Operator Initiated Facial Recognition. This will only **further entrench racial disparities of the technology** in addition to funding tech companies prepared with both the solution, the updates and the bugs for the service ongoing. Facial recognition expansion has been condemned by the biometrics commissioner of Scotland, with Scotland as an area noticeably absent from participating in Mobile Biometrics.

This report, along with others before this show a shocking rise in state surveillance, disproportionately affecting those already marginalised, disenfranchised and oppressed.

Conclusion

We remain open to using the tools at our disposal to monitor the use of this technology and fight for justice. However, this alone is not enough. Investment in community healing and reparative justice is critical and should take precedence.

As the Home Office Biometrics Programme continues to expand its mobile operations, we as *Stop the Scan* reflect on the following questions we assert as important for our fight.

- ***What does accountability and reparative justice mean in our communities rather than relying on the state for this?***
- ***How do we disrupt this technology, without asking for permission from our oppressors?***

As a culture, the tools for action reflect the hegemonic ideology of the dominant power structures. Just as the prominence of technology can lead to an overreliance on technical solutions (*techno-solutionism*), the prevalence of carceral and criminal justice technologies often results in similar responses within these systems. In an era marked by the decline of empires and the consolidation of power and resources among a diminishing and tech-driven elite, it is essential to reflect on how we nurture, support, and protect one another.

At the community level, establishing strong networks and pathways for support fosters a culture of care rather than merely reacting to crises as they arise. *Stop the Scan* continues to advocate for resourcing community initiatives, which serve as vital mechanisms for challenging surveillance, ensuring mutual protection, and facilitating communication during moments of harm and crisis.

Recommendations

01 — Stop using technology

The use of mobile fingerprint scanners and facial recognition software should immediately cease. It disproportionately is used on racially minoritised communities and does not help in keeping our communities safe. It is also an encroachment on our privacy.

02 — Firewall

Police officers should have no direct link to the immigration database. Mistakes have consistently been found in immigration information putting people being stopped and scanned in very vulnerable situations.

03 — Data protection

Remove "immigration control" exemption in Schedule 2, Part 1, paragraph 4 of the Data Protection Act 201811, which allows data processors to set aside an individual's GDPR data protection rights if fulfilling those rights would prejudice "the maintenance of effective immigration control" or "the investigation or detection of activities that would undermine the maintenance of effective immigration control."

04 — Fund community initiatives

Fund community advocates and grassroots organisations who are supporting racially minoritised individuals and migrant communities, particularly if they have been victims of hate crimes or state oppression.

05 — Implement Reviews

Police forces must implement recommendations from the MacPherson report to address institutional racism as well as the suggestions made in Liberty and Southall Black Sisters' police super complaint.

The Home Office must apply the recommendations made by the Windrush Lessons Learned Review. See also RJN's (2020) Hate Crime report on ways to address the intersection of crime and migrant oppressions.

06 — End Hostile Environment

End Hostile Environment policies which disproportionately affect Black and Brown migrant communities. These policies exacerbate existing inequalities and enforce material and emotional violence in our communities.

07 — End Stop and Search

Stop and search tactics are disproportionately used on racially minoritised communities, particularly Black young men. These tactics do not help keep our communities safe. Rather, they cause irreparable harm to our loved ones.

Know your rights

- It is important to remember you do not need to give your ID, or your details, if you are not suspected of an offence.

- If you possess a valid ID that proves your name and address, you are NOT obligated to provide fingerprints.

- If your ID is not accepted by the police, ask them why.

- If they allege that you have committed an immigration offence, insist on being given a full explanation as to why they suspect you. **Under the Equality Act 2010 it is illegal for an officer to stop you solely on grounds of your race, ethnicity or nationality.**

- Ask officers for a receipt of the stop.

What to do if the police question your identity.

Know your rights

- Stay composed and avoid obstructing police activities. You have the right to record your experience **and the officer's name and shoulder number.**
- Remember to stay **WISE, and ask officers**:
  - *Why have I been stopped?*
    - Ask what type of stop is taking place, and under what power.
  - *Is there suspicion of an offence?*
    - If there is no suspicion, you do not need to give details.
  - *Specific offence suspected?*
    - Question the offence, particularly if it is immigration based.
  - *Explain your grounds for suspicion*.
    - You can ask if you "fit a description", it cannot just be age, race and gender. You should also ask what item they are looking for, and if it's appropriate.

What to do if police take your prints.

Know your rights

- You can download a printable pocket size version of our Know Your Rights pamphlet via our Google Drive.
- You can ask for a number of our Know Your Rights flyers to be printed and sent to your preferred address by filling out this order form.
- Download a translated version of the pamphlet in the following languages here :
  - Русский (Russian)
  - Español (Spanish)
  - Italiana (Italian)
  - اردو (Urdu)
  - پښتو (Pashto)
  - سۆرانی کوردی (Sorani Kurdish)
  - 普通话 (Mandarin)
  - Română (Romanian)
  - Français (French)
  - Shqip (Albanian)
  - عربي (Arabic)
  - فارسی (Farsi)
  - ትግርኛ (Tigrinya)
- If you need a translation not currently offered please get in touch! Likewise if you are able to offer a translation to another language currently not on the list let us know.

Get a pocket version of Know Your Rights for your community.

Free 24 hr legal advice

Commons Legal

020 3865 5403

ITN Solicitors

020 3909 8100

Bindmans

020 7305 5638

Hodge Jones & Allen

0844 848 0222

MTC Solicitors

07956 308 127

KELLYS Solicitors

01273 674 898 /
0800 387 463 (night)

BLACK PROTEST LEGAL SUPPORT

@blkprotestlegal /
blackprotestlegal@protonmail.com

**If you have been stopped and scanned please contact us at
stopthescan@racialjusticenetwork.co.uk**

Support Stop the SCANdal campaign

Sharing our content via social media and with your wider networks always helps! Tag us using our social media and the hashtags #StopTheSCANdal #HandsOffOurPrints and #HandsOffOurBiodata

We welcome donations of any kind. You can donate via RJN website. If you have skills, networks or other ideas to support our campaign get in touch via email at stopthescan@racialjusticenetwork.co.uk or info@racialjusticenetwork.co.uk

Finally, we are always looking for volunteers from diverse backgrounds to be part and support RJN and Yorkshire Resists. You don't have to be based in West Yorkshire.

Websites　:　www.stopthescan.co.uk
www.racialjusticenetwork.co.uk

Email：　stopthescan@racialjusticenetwork.co.uk

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