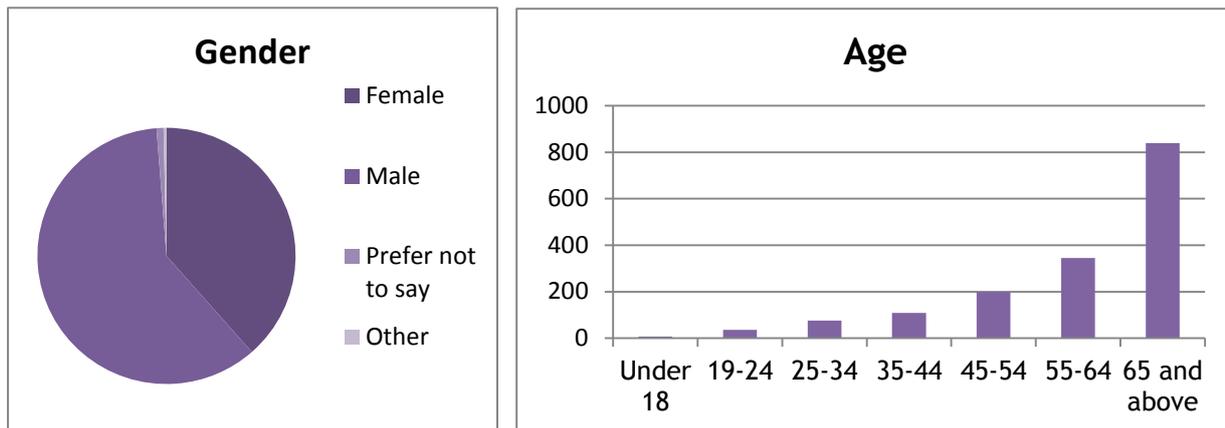


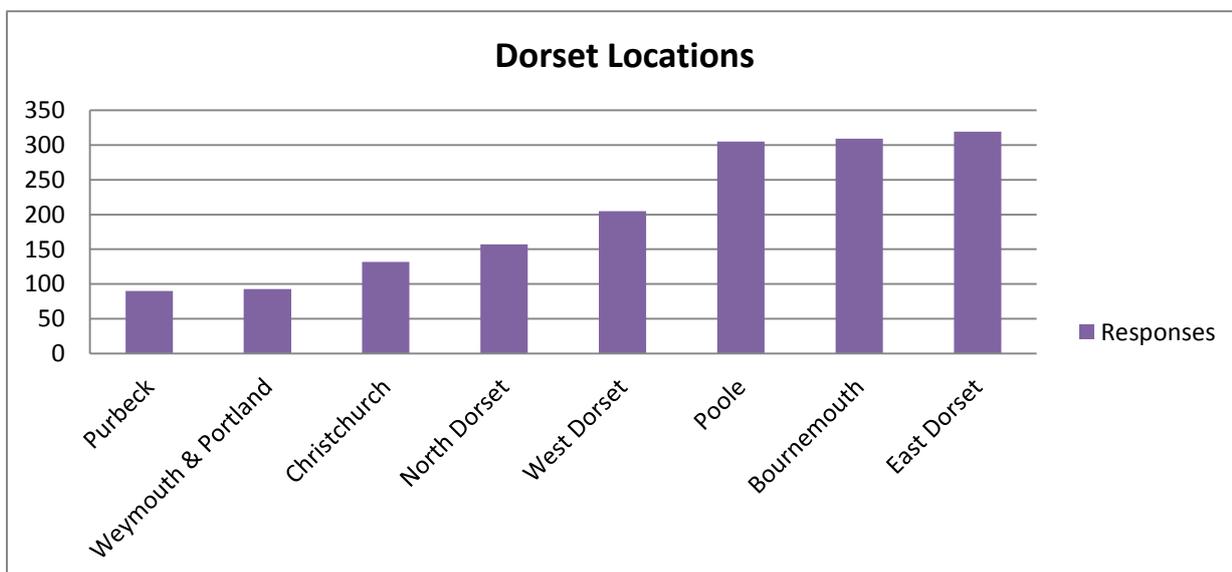
Use of Force Consultation Report

About the consultation

In July 2017, Dorset Police and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner asked residents to take part in a consultation about police use of force. This coincided with changes to national recording guidelines, which now require Dorset Police to regularly publish data on their officers' use of force. 1,621 people took part in the consultation.



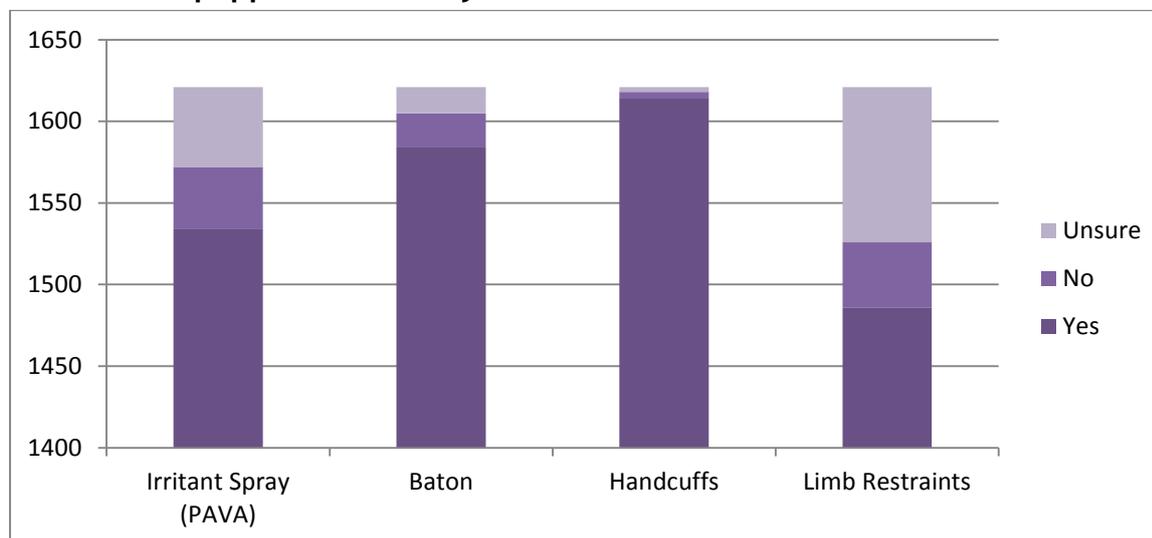
Ethnicity			
White		Asian/Asian British	
English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish	1476	Indian	3
Irish	5	Pakistani	2
Gypsy/Irish Traveller	3	Other	3
Other	41	Black/African/Caribbean/Black British	
Mixed/Multiple Ethnic Group		Caribbean	1
White & Black Caribbean	5	Other	2
White & Asian	6	Other ethnic group	
Other	5	Arab	2
		Other	4



Question 1: Were you aware that the following methods are classified as police uses of force?

Method of force	Yes	No	Unsure
Irritant spray (PAVA)	1,225 (75.6%)	320 (19.7%)	76 (4.7%)
Deploying a police dog	1,349 (83.2%)	223 (13.8%)	49 (3%)
Limb restraints	1,288 (79.45%)	272 (16.8%)	61 (3.8%)
Baton	1,550 (95.6%)	46 (2.8%)	25 (1.5%)
Firearms	1,541 (95.1%)	43 (2.7%)	37 (2.3%)
Taser	1,571 (96.9%)	36 (2.2%)	14 (0.9%)
Handcuffing	1,296 (80%)	272 (16.8%)	53 (3.3%)

Question 2: Every front line officer is equipped with irritant spray (PAVA), a baton, handcuffs, and has access to limb restraints. Do you feel every officer should be equipped in this way?



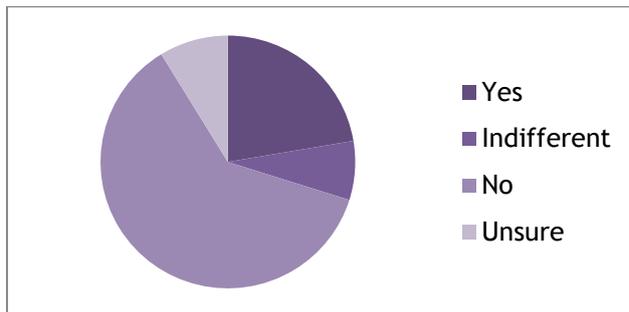
Question 3: Please complete the following statement with your opinion: Training 250 Dorset Police officers to carry a Taser is...

<i>...the right number of officers</i>	34.6%
<i>...not enough officers</i>	60.7%
<i>...too many officers</i>	4.6%

Question 4: Which of the following statements best reflects your views on arming police officers in Dorset?

<i>I am satisfied with the current level of armed officers in Dorset</i>	44.8%
<i>I would like to see more armed officers in Dorset</i>	38.3%
<i>I would like to see all officers armed in Dorset</i>	14.9%
<i>I would like to see fewer armed officers in Dorset</i>	1.9%

Question 5: Do you feel that compliant handcuffing should be subject to the 'use of force' recording process?



Yes: 22.3%

Indifferent: 7.5%

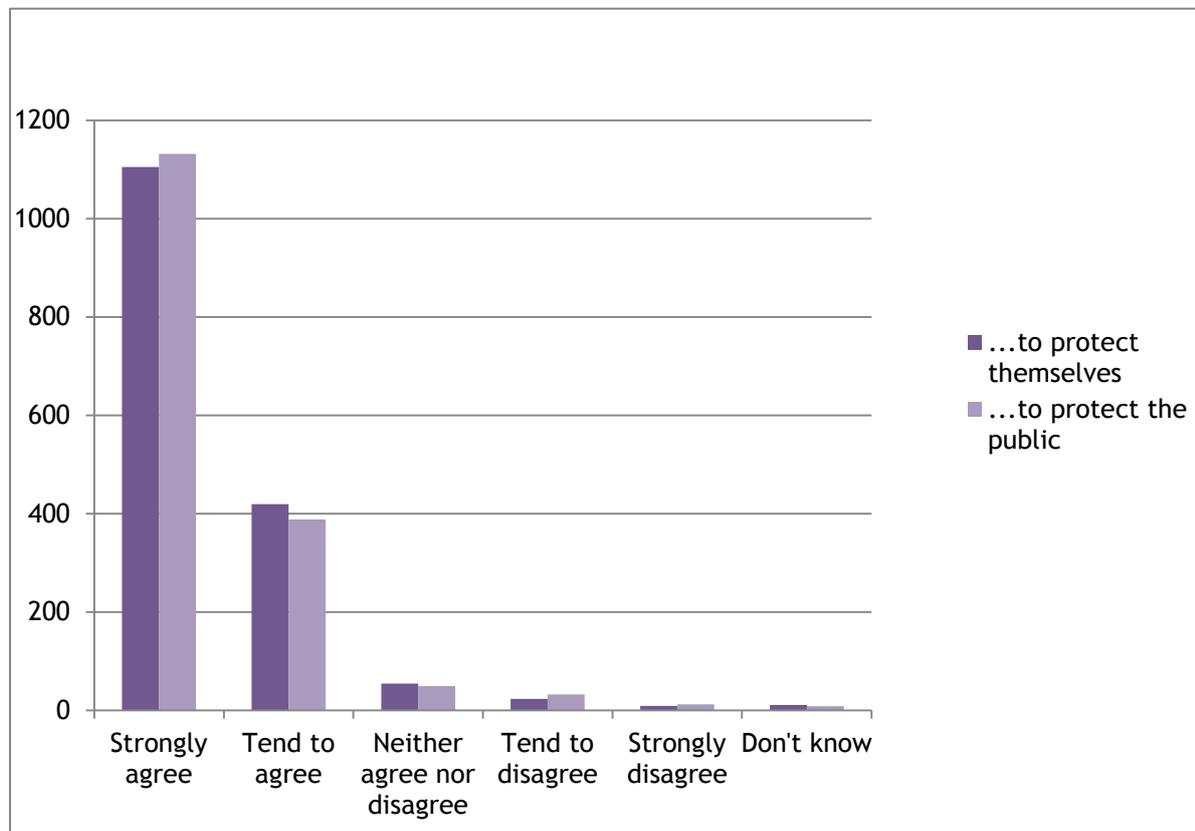
No: 61.4%

Unsure: 8.8%

Question 6: Please indicate whether you agree with the following statements:

	Strongly agree	Tend to agree	Neither agree nor disagree	Tend to disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know
I would feel safer if more police officers carried a Taser	40%	30.5%	18.8%	6.79%	2.8%	1.1%
If someone is threatening lethal harm to themselves, a police officer should use a Taser to disarm them	40.3%	34.8%	9.4%	9.8%	3.9%	1.8%
If someone is threatening lethal harm to another person, a police officer should use a Taser to disarm them	82.7%	14.6%	1.2%	0.4%	0.8%	0.3%
If someone is threatening to harm a police officer, a Taser should be used to disarm them	82.2%	13.3%	2.5%	0.8%	0.9%	0.3%
I would feel safer if more police officers carried a firearm	26.2%	24.4%	21.4%	15.6%	10.6%	1.9%

Question 7/8: Do you agree or disagree with the following statement: Taking everything into account, I trust that Dorset Police will use force appropriately...



Free text comments

Throughout the consultation, some participants opted to leave additional free text comments. A total of 2,066 comments were added. The key trends across these comments have been identified below.

Concerns over some methods of force:

“I’m concerned about possible dangerous and lasting effects to the nervous system of an innocent person by the use of [irritant] spray or Taser on their body.”

“You need to consider what health conditions a suspect may have and [that] these may not be easily apparent. Unintentional consequences are not only harmful to the suspect’s family but also to the police officers themselves...”

The current policing environment, particularly in relation to violent crime and terrorism:

“In these days of increasing violence by criminals and particularly terrorists, the police should have every means at their disposal to protect both the public and themselves from violent and life threatening attacks.”

“In the wake of recent terrorist attacks in the UK we have learned that the police (one of whom died) had insufficient equipment to protect themselves, so I think officers are entitled to have self-preservation equipment too. However, this will open another debate, which is hopefully what this survey will contribute to.”

“Increased risk of serious injury to officers (significant target to extremist groups) as highlighted by recent events. Although there is a risk that Tasers will be deployed too freely, the officers that are dealing with increased numbers of dangerous individuals need to be able to incapacitate attackers quickly, without the use of lethal force or without the need to get into close proximity (and thus put themselves at risk of harm).

“An increasing population and more sophisticated types of crime, demands more sophisticated training and use of these methods to deal with modern day crime.”

The need to protect police officers:

“Police officers should have whatever is necessary to protect themselves and members of the public.”

“If I were a front line officer often single crewed, I would want to know I could stop someone quickly to then be restrained. Anyone who thinks differently should go out with an officer and see how they feel then.”

“Society is becoming more and more detached from each other, losing the sense of community. Criminals are becoming more dangerous, I think it’s right police protect themselves and others around them.”

“Society will have to decide what type of police service it requires. The public is more challenging and with less resources, police officers have to be able to defend themselves and the public in violent situations.”

The importance of good training:

“Every year or so there should be a short course given by a senior officer to (a) reinforce the rules and legal issues involved in the deployment of force (b) discuss a selection of actual cases where force was deployed and any lessons learnt.”

“I believe deeper training is required for officers to protect themselves from injury if they are in conflict with citizens. This is psychological as well as skill based...”

Trust in the Force to make the right decision:

“Dorset Police should be authorised to train as many officers as they feel appropriate based on their knowledge and requirements.”

“I would have thought the police are the ones with the knowledge of the extent of the problems involved, and would rely on their judgement of the necessary numbers.”

“I would like to see as many armed officers in Dorset as the Chief Constable considers necessary.”

The relationship between police use of force and violent offending:

“If you equip ‘up’ the numbers of police having access to these items, then the ‘bad guys’ will ‘up’ scale their use of offensive weapons. It’s a vicious circle. Tasers have a use - but should only be used in rare circumstances and by a small number of officers.”

“I believe that if you arm police officers with any weapon this incites felons to upgrade their weapons.”

“I firmly believe arming all police officers will lead to an increase in criminals carrying firearms. I would strongly oppose arming every police officer.”

Relationships with communities:

“I would like to know that all officers are armed, but not necessarily “see” as this might antagonise some members, or even frighten, some members of the public and may give rise to comments about a ‘police state’”

“Never routinely arm the British Police! Please do not do that, specialist firearms officers in sufficient number yes, absolutely but not every officer with firearms, that would be the end of British policing as we know it.”

“Whilst it would be easy to say all should be armed, I feel this goes against what our police forces stand for. Whilst we have challenging times ahead of us it is important to keep things in perspective.”

Praise for the police:

“The police are doing a dangerous and magnificent job in these difficult days - they should have every support and one would trust that they use the correct amount of force to suit the occasion.”

“I support you doing a difficult job. Thank you all.”

“I think the police perform a great job with the minimum amount of force and they should be strongly supported.”

“I think they do a fantastic job and wish to thank them.”