

# Police Complaints Information Bulletin: Merseyside



Reporting Period: 01 April 2024 - 31 March 2025 (Q4 2024/25)

Most Similar Force (MSF) Group: Cleveland, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, West Midlands, West Yorkshire

## About this bulletin

This bulletin presents information about complaints defined under the Police Reform Act 2002 (PRA 2002), as amended by the Police and Crime Act 2017. The legislation came into effect on 1 February 2020 (4 January 2021 for the British Transport Police).

It sets out performance against a number of measures and compares force results to their most similar force (MSF) group (where applicable) and with the overall result for all forces (national).

**Please note: Unless stated otherwise, tables within the bulletin consist of 'year-to-date' figures covering all matters being started or completed between the two dates.**

**Q1: 1 April to 30 June, Q2: 1 April to 30 September, Q3: 1 April to 31 December, Q4: 1 April to 31 March**

Where charts refer to separate quarters the dates are: Q1: 1 April to 30 June, Q2: 1 July to 30 September, Q3: October to 31 December, Q4 1 January to 31 March.

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## Acronyms used in this bulletin

**YTD** – Year to date figures, **SPLY** - Same period last year, **MSF** - Most similar force, **LPB** - Local policing body, **PRA** - Police Reform Act 2002

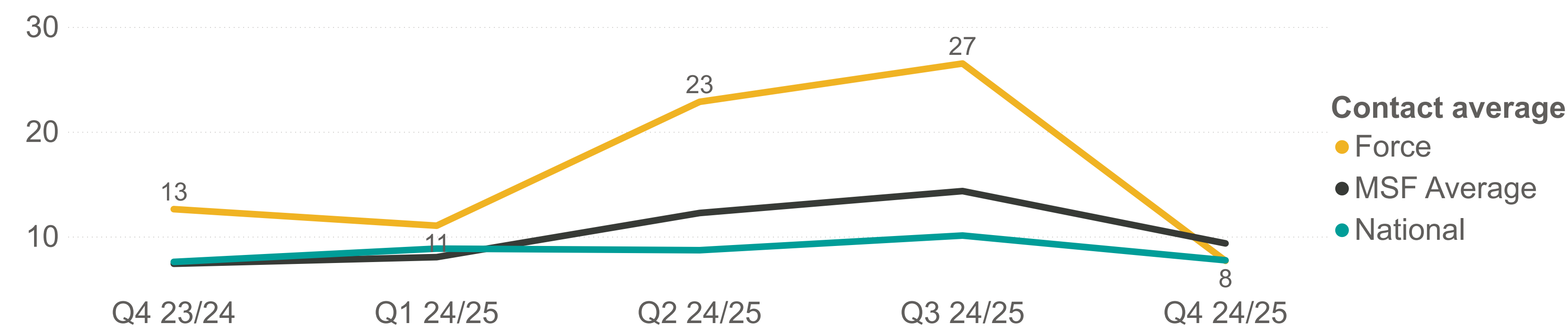
**Nat.** – National, **RPRP** – Reflective Practice Review Process, **UPP** – Unsatisfactory Performance Procedure



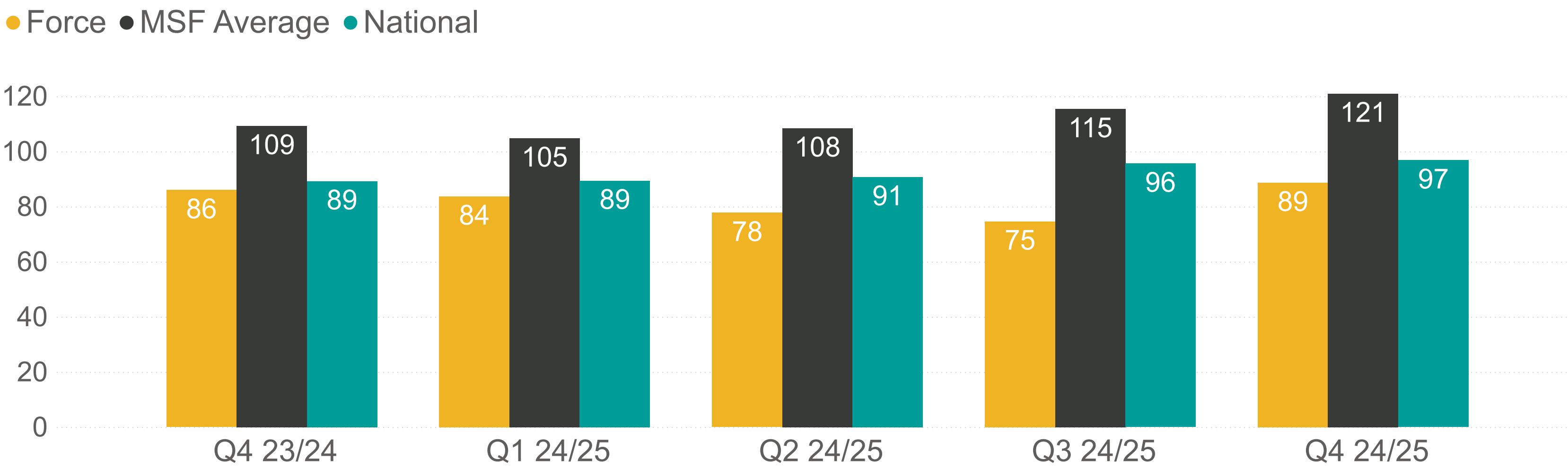
Section A1.1: Complaint cases and allegations logged

A complaint case is formed of one or more allegations. Numbers per 1,000 employees are used to demonstrate how the number of complaints/allegations against a force compare to their most similar force group and national figures. The force should contact the complainant and log the complaint as soon as possible after the complaint has been raised. Average to log/contact is from the customer perspective.

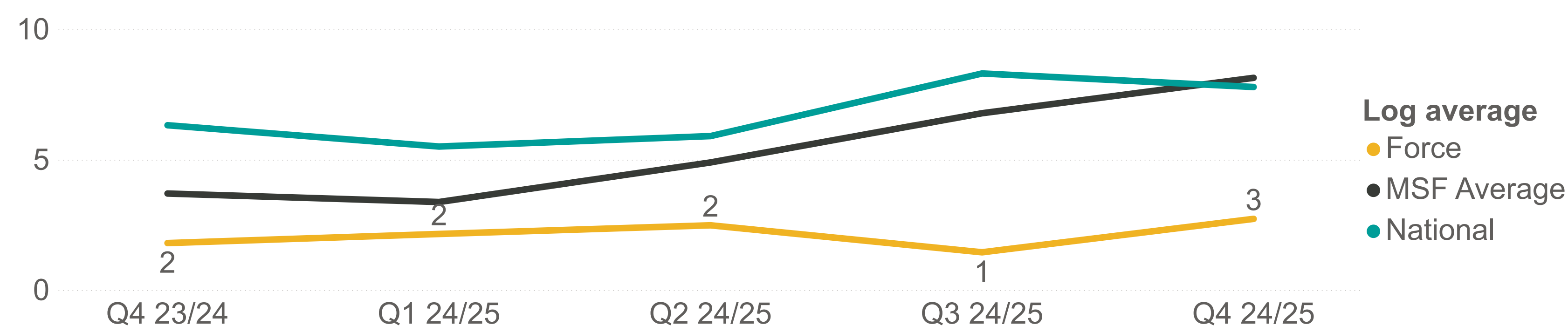
Note: Number of employees is a fixed number through the period, therefore complaints and allegations per 1,000 employees is higher for the full period (as in the table) than when broken down in to quarters (as per the charts)



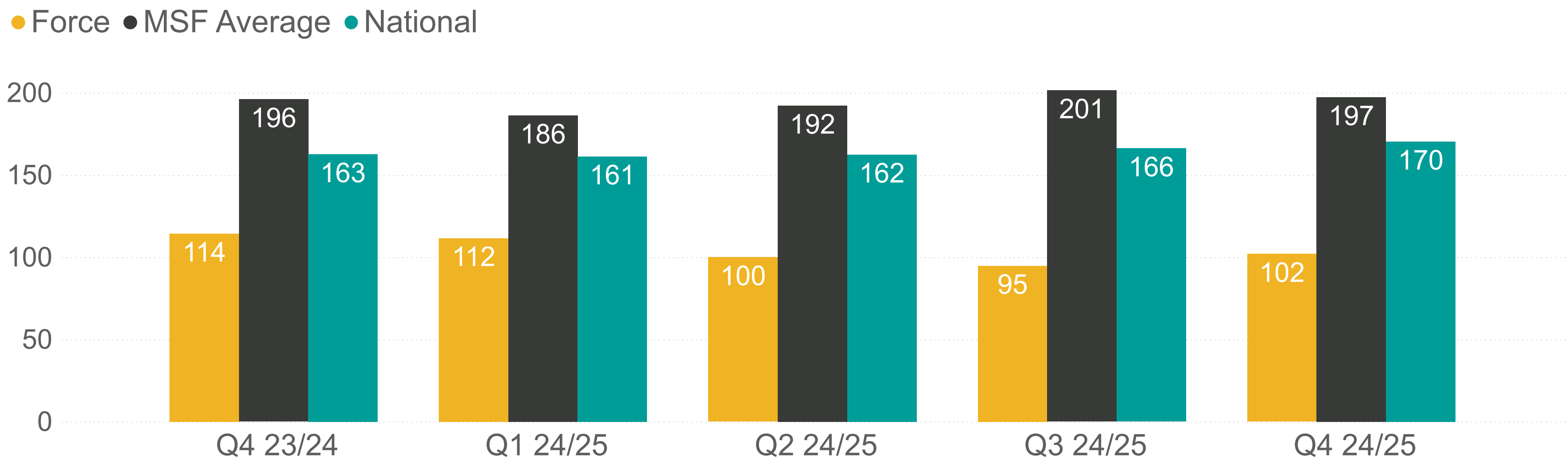
Complaints logged per 1,000 employees



Year to date	Complaints logged	Per 1,000 employees	Allegations Logged	Per 1,000 employees	Average working days to contact complainants	Average working days to log complaints
Force	2,293	325	2,883	408	17	2
SPLY	2,278	333	2,942	429	11	1
MSF Average	3,382	450	6,040	777	11	6
National	94,940	373	168,249	660	9	7



Allegations logged per 1,000 employees



For space reasons some figures in the above charts are not shown

Section A1.2: Reason for complaints to be logged under Schedule 3

Allegations should have an allegation category applied to them which will identify the root of what the allegation is about.

Forces can handle a complaint informally (known as Outside of Schedule 3), this should be used to deal with lower level complaints.

If a complaint is handled formally under Schedule 3, the force should record the reason why.

For more information on Schedule 3 of the Police Reform Act see [here](#):

[Guidance on capturing data about police complaints.](#)

Reason complaint case recorded under Schedule 3 (YTD)	Force	SPLY	MSF Average	National
AA/body responsible for initial handling decides	32	55	223	12,831
Complainant wishes the complaint be recorded	31	186	143	6,465
Dissatisfaction after initial handling	91	51	171	5,283
Nature of the allegation(s) in the complaint	12	7	307	7,593
Total	166	299	843	32,172

Reason complaint case recorded under Schedule 3 (YTD)	Force	SPLY	MSF Average	National
AA/body responsible for initial handling decides	19 %	18 %	21 %	40 %
Complainant wishes the complaint be recorded	19 %	62 %	18 %	20 %
Dissatisfaction after initial handling	55 %	17 %	27 %	16 %
Nature of the allegation(s) in the complaint	7 %	2 %	33 %	24 %



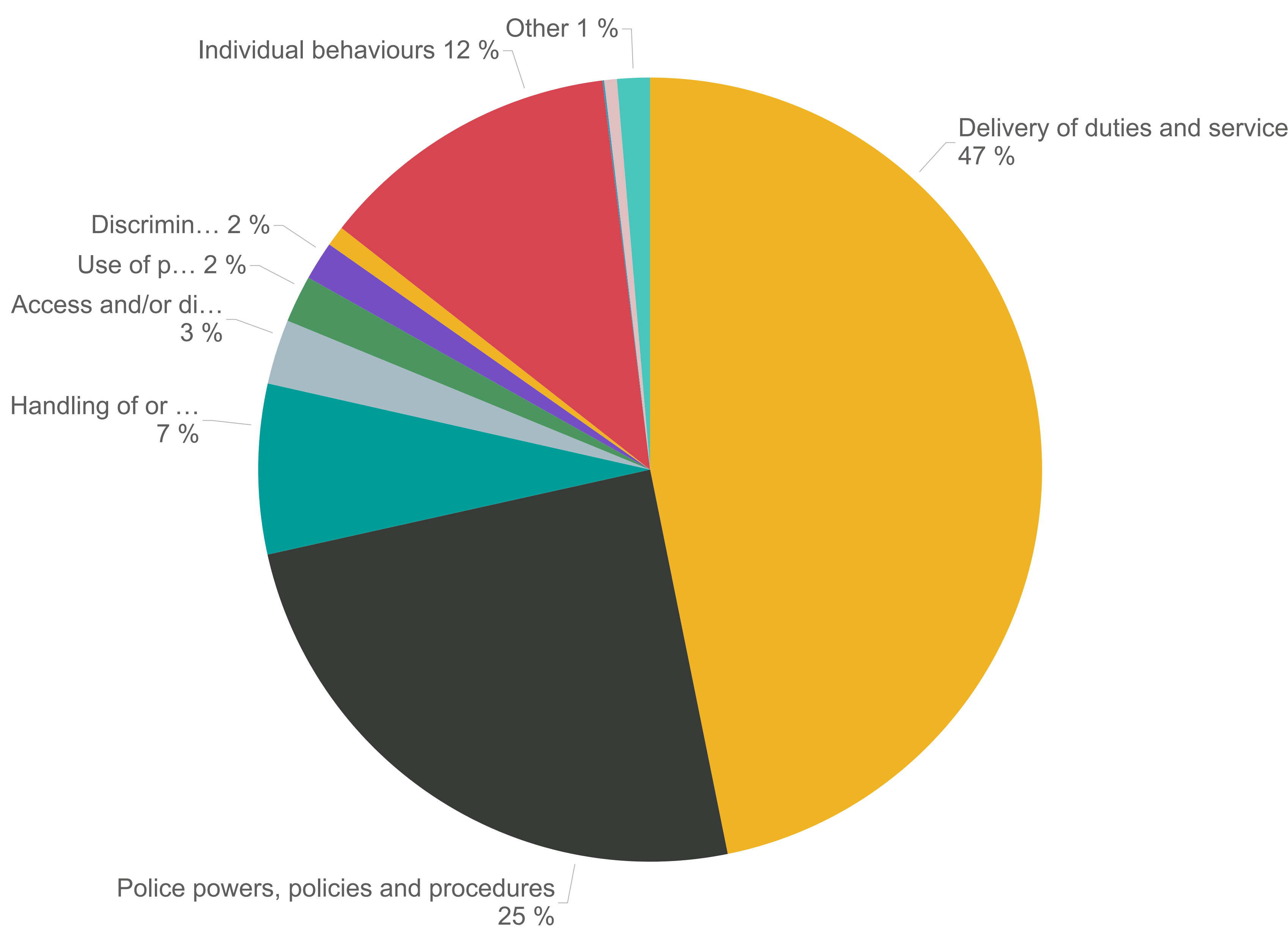
Section A1.3: Allegations logged – what has been complained about (YTD)

This section presents the three most commonly recorded categories for allegations that have been logged. A complaint case will contain one or more allegations and one category (and sub-category, where available) is selected for each allegation logged. Total % is of the total number of allegations logged. Allegations where the subcategory is 'none' are omitted from this table.

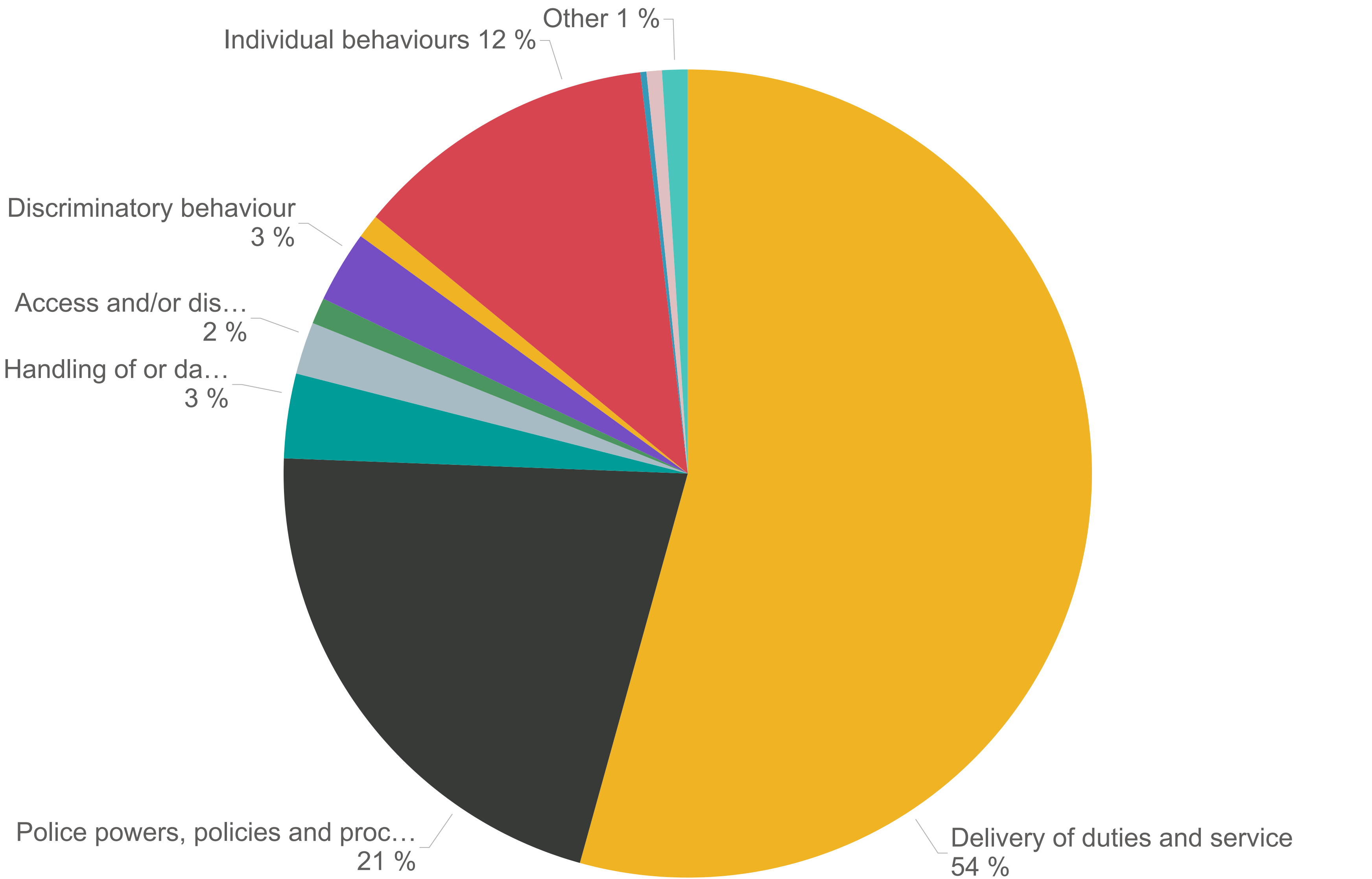
What has been complained about (YTD)

Year to date	Delivery of duties and service	Police powers, policies and procedures	Handling of or damage to property/ premises	Access and/or disclosure of information	Use of police vehicles	Discriminatory behaviour	Abuse of position/ corruption	Individual behaviours	Sexual conduct	Discreditable conduct	Other	Total
Force	1,350	712	202	77	56	46	24	360	2	15	39	2,883
SPLY	1,492	691	140	76	48	73	31	319	2	6	64	2,942
MSF Average	3,087	1,325	259	130	57	182	52	834	14	37	62	6,040
National	91,360	35,834	5,690	3,518	1,766	4,832	1,614	20,481	404	1,031	1,716	168,246

What has been complained about (force - year to date)



What has been complained about (national - year to date)



Section A1.4: Allegations logged – Top five allegation categories and their sub-categories (Year to date)

Category	Year to date Subcategory	Force		SPLY		MSF Average		National	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
Delivery of duties and service	Total	1,348	47 %	1,489	51 %	3,087	52 %	91,353	54 %
	General level of service	614	45 %	816	55 %	709	29 %	29,691	32 %
	Police action following contact	413	31 %	404	27 %	1,497	42 %	37,667	41 %
	Decisions	201	15 %	144	10 %	472	16 %	13,479	15 %
	Information	120	9 %	125	8 %	409	13 %	10,515	12 %
	Searches of premises and seizure of property	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	0 %
Police powers, policies and procedures	Total	712	25 %	690	23 %	1,325	22 %	35,830	21 %
	Use of force	181	25 %	159	23 %	365	27 %	8,826	25 %
	Searches of premises and seizure of property	132	19 %	121	18 %	207	17 %	4,603	13 %
	Stops, and stop and search	119	17 %	115	17 %	71	6 %	1,790	5 %
	Power to arrest and detain	104	15 %	79	11 %	209	15 %	6,460	18 %
	Other policies and procedures	66	9 %	75	11 %	108	8 %	3,735	10 %
	Detention in police custody	43	6 %	51	7 %	203	14 %	5,122	14 %
	Evidential procedures	41	6 %	73	11 %	80	6 %	2,631	7 %
	Bail, identification and interview procedures	20	3 %	13	2 %	68	5 %	2,122	6 %
	Out of court disposals	6	1 %	4	1 %	11	1 %	540	2 %
	Information	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	0 %
	Total	360	12 %	319	11 %	834	13 %	20,480	12 %
	Impolite language / tone	101	28 %	87	27 %	205	26 %	5,352	26 %
	Unprofessional attitude and disrespect	90	25 %	73	23 %	241	30 %	5,808	28 %
Individual behaviours	Overbearing or harassing behaviours	89	25 %	86	27 %	125	15 %	3,415	17 %
	Impolite and intolerant actions	58	16 %	39	12 %	175	18 %	3,098	15 %
	Lack of fairness and impartiality	22	6 %	34	11 %	88	10 %	2,807	14 %
	Total	202	7 %	140	5 %	258	5 %	5,556	3 %
	Handling of or damage to property/ premises	202	100 %	140	100 %	258	100 %	5,555	98 %
	Police action following contact	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	0 %
Handling of or damage to property/ premises	Total	77	3 %	76	3 %	130	2 %	3,518	2 %
	Disclosure of information	48	62 %	45	59 %	78	63 %	2,349	67 %
	Handling of information	13	17 %	18	24 %	36	23 %	789	22 %
	Use of police systems	10	13 %	3	4 %	12	10 %	245	7 %
	Accessing and handling of information from other sources	6	8 %	10	13 %	4	4 %	133	4 %
	Decisions	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
	Information	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	2	0 %
	Access and/or disclosure of information								

This section presents the three most commonly recorded categories for allegations that have been logged. A complaint case will contain one or more allegations and one category (and sub-category, where available) is selected for each allegation logged.

Total % is of the total number of allegations logged. Allegations where the subcategory is 'none' are omitted from this table.



Section A1.5: National complaint factors

Year to date Factors on all allegations	Force		SPLY		MSF Average		National	
	Allegations Logged	% Allegations Logged	Allegations Logged	% Allegations Logged	Allegations Logged	% Allegations Logged	Allegations Logged	% Allegations Logged
Investigation	792	27 %	742	25 %	2,203	34 %	65,409	39 %
None	510	18 %	833	28 %	1,083	19 %	31,766	19 %
Arrest	414	14 %	337	11 %	787	12 %	21,786	13 %
Roads/traffic	356	12 %	277	9 %	422	7 %	10,386	6 %
Stop and/or search	216	7 %	192	7 %	158	3 %	3,755	2 %
Premises search	156	5 %	120	4 %	220	4 %	4,308	3 %
Neighbourhood policing	144	5 %	133	5 %	314	4 %	7,856	5 %
Custody	134	5 %	125	4 %	368	6 %	9,989	6 %
Domestic / gender abuse	127	4 %	95	3 %	410	5 %	9,507	6 %
Call Handling	110	4 %	107	4 %	215	4 %	7,140	4 %
VAWG - dissatisfaction handling	99	3 %	43	1 %	357	5 %	7,183	4 %
Mental health	66	2 %	87	3 %	227	3 %	5,164	3 %
Drugs / alcohol	52	2 %	35	1 %	68	1 %	2,046	1 %
Child protection / CSA / CSE	32	1 %	10	0 %	107	1 %	3,021	2 %
Public order incident	23	1 %	15	1 %	43	1 %	1,327	1 %
Social media	22	1 %	15	1 %	35	1 %	720	0 %
Hate Crime	21	1 %	10	0 %	32	1 %	942	1 %
Missing persons	18	1 %	6	0 %	49	1 %	1,077	1 %
Death	15	1 %	18	1 %	58	1 %	1,585	1 %
VAWG - police perpetrated	13	0 %	5	0 %	51	1 %	1,085	1 %
Covert policing	8	0 %	9	0 %	4	0 %	86	0 %
Restraint equipment	7	0 %	9	0 %	79	1 %	1,866	1 %
Serious injury	6	0 %	21	1 %	17	0 %	346	0 %
Police dogs or horses	4	0 %	3	0 %	4	0 %	102	0 %
Firearms	3	0 %	11	0 %	19	0 %	742	0 %
Fraud	3	0 %	8	0 %	24	0 %	1,113	1 %
Taser	1	0 %	1	0 %	8	0 %	196	0 %
VAWG - police victim	1	0 %	2	0 %	3	0 %	141	0 %
Coronavirus - other	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	0 %
Coronavirus - police powers on infectiou	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	1	0 %
Coronavirus - police powers on restricti	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %
PPDA	0	0 %	0	0 %	2	0 %	65	0 %
PPDA - Police victim	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	4	0 %
Unknown	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	28	0 %
VAWG' - dissatisfaction handling	0	0 %	0	0 %	3	0 %	19	0 %
VAWG' - police victim	0	0 %	0	0 %	3	0 %	24	0 %

This section presents information that shows the situational context of the dissatisfaction expressed in a complaint.

Each allegation should have a single category selected. However, multiple factors can be selected on a single allegation. Therefore, the sum of factors will not equal the total allegations logged in each category and the percentages here will add up to over 100%. Please refer to our [Guidance on capturing data about police complaints](#) for definitions of categories and factors.



Section A1.6: National complaint factors on top five allegation categories

Factors on top five allegation categories (Year to date)	Delivery of duties and service	Police powers, policies and procedures	Handling of or damage to property/ premises	Access and/or disclosure of information	Individual behaviours
▼					
VAWG - police perpetrated	0	0	0	2	4
VAWG - dissatisfaction handling	77	10	1	2	4
Taser	0	1	0	0	0
Stop and/or search	21	139	11	0	41
Social media	10	1	0	6	2
Serious injury	3	3	0	0	0
Roads/traffic	101	91	27	6	73
Restraint equipment	1	6	0	0	0
Public order incident	8	9	1	0	4
Premises search	16	87	41	0	12
Police dogs or horses	0	3	0	0	0
None	278	46	40	35	65
Neighbourhood policing	76	15	6	4	34
Missing persons	11	1	0	0	6
Mental health	31	21	1	0	4
Investigation	592	69	44	15	45
Hate Crime	16	0	0	0	1
Fraud	2	1	0	0	0
Firearms	1	2	0	0	0
Drugs / alcohol	15	28	1	1	5
Domestic / gender abuse	81	20	5	3	14
Death	12	2	0	0	1
Custody	25	77	15	2	12
Covert policing	1	1	1	2	3
Child protection / CSA / CSE	18	8	1	2	3
Call Handling	81	5	0	0	18
Arrest	83	236	35	2	53
Total	1,335	693	198	75	343

This section presents information that shows what people are complaining about using a combination of allegation categories and factors against the police force.

Categories capture the root of the dissatisfaction expressed in a complaint. Factors capture the situational context of the dissatisfaction expressed in a complaint.

The combination of categories and factors provides a richer picture of what people are complaining about compared to the categories alone.

Each allegation should have a single category selected. However, multiple factors can be selected on a single allegation. Therefore, the sum of factors will not equal the total allegations logged in each category. Please refer to our [Guidance on capturing data about police complaints](#) for definitions of categories and factors.

The table below shows a breakdown of allegations logged with the focus national complaint factors.

IOPC Police Data Year Quarter	VAWG - dissatisfaction handling	VAWG - police perpetrated	VAWG - police victim	Total
▼				
Q4 23/24	21	1	1	23
Q1 24/25	22	2	1	25
Q2 24/25	23	11	0	34
Q3 24/25	22	0	0	22
Q4 24/25	32	0	0	32
Total	120	14	2	136

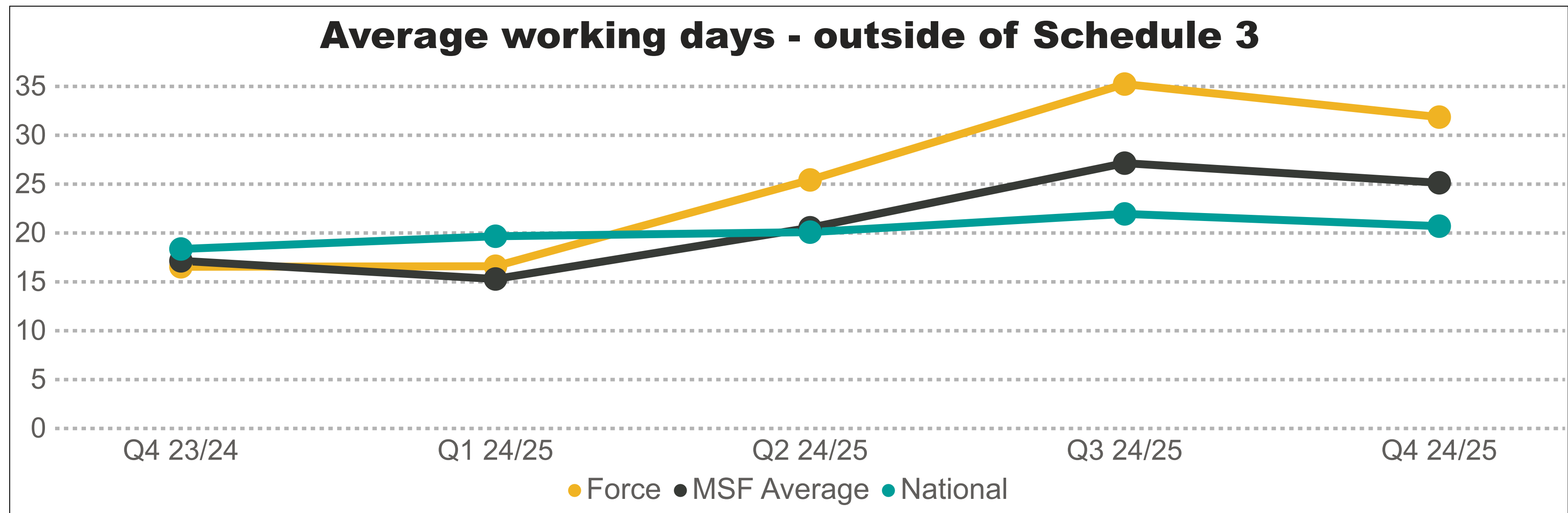
Section A2: Allegations timeliness

This section presents the time it takes the force to finalise allegations by how they were handled. It gives a breakdown of allegations handled informally outside of Schedule 3 and those that were handled formally by either by investigation or handled other than by investigation. Timeliness is calculated from the date the allegation was received by the force to the day the complainant is informed of the allegation decision.

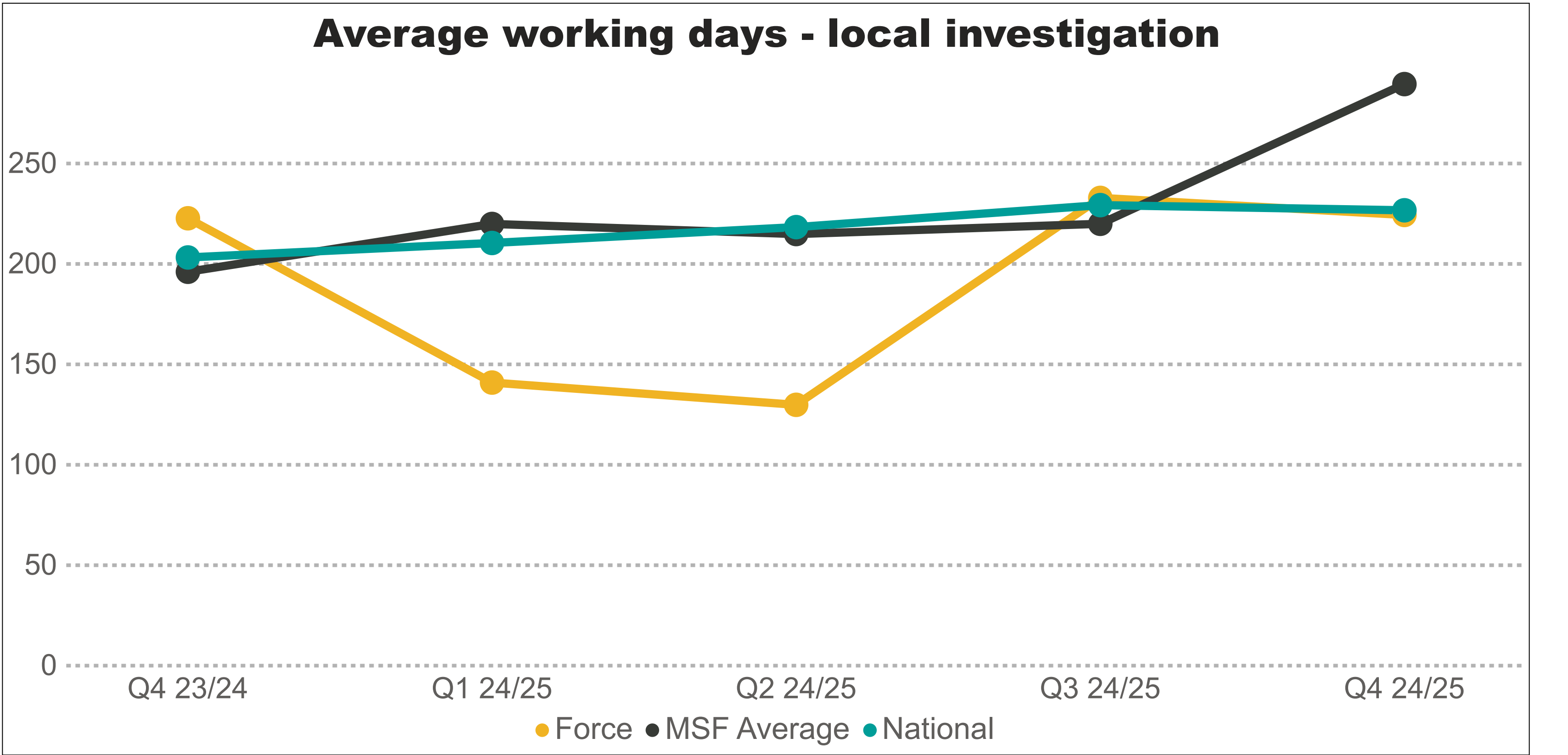
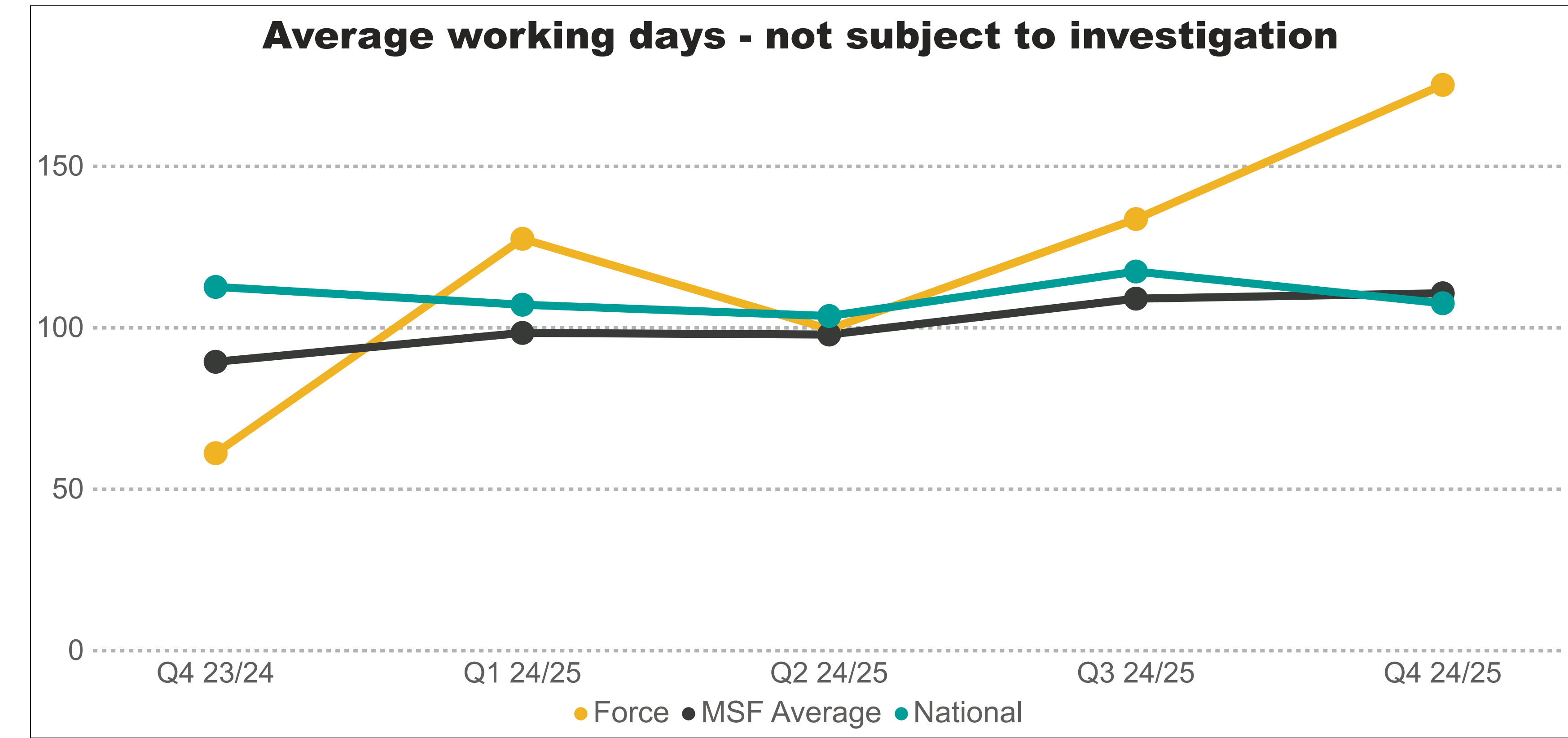
Independent investigation figures do not include conduct or death/serious injury investigations which are also investigated by the IOPC.

Allegations with 'invalid dates' have been removed from the data shown. Please refer to the performance framework counting rules and calculations on the [IOPC website](#) for an explanation of invalid dates.

Year to date	Outside of Schedule 3		Under Schedule 3 - not subject to investigation		Under Schedule 3 - by local investigation		Under Schedule 3 - by independent investigation	
Allegations	Number Finalised	Average days	Number Finalised	Average days	Number Finalised	Average days	Number Finalised	Average days
Force	2,131	28	514	132	188	195	10	880
SPLY	2,008	16	619	87	109	184	9	641
MSF Average	3,054	21	2,186	104	436	250	12	467
National	71,979	20	73,237	109	17,701	220	348	380



Year to date	Under Schedule 3 - by directed investigation	
Allegations	Number Finalised	Average days
Force	0	0
SPLY	0	0
MSF Average	1	255
National	23	618





Section A3.1: How allegations were handled and their decisions

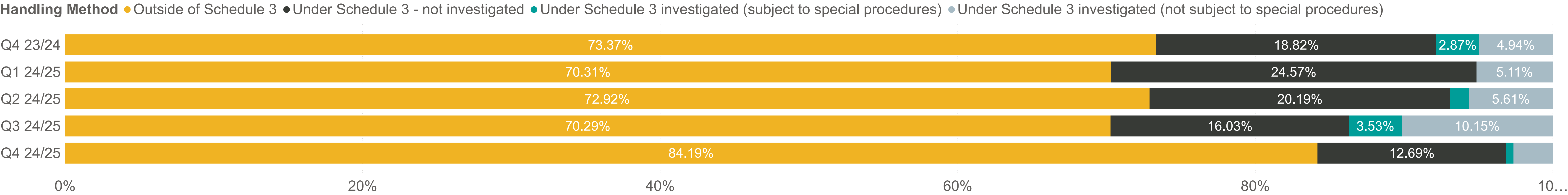
This section presents a breakdown of how allegations were handled information and the decisions being given. An allegation decision is logged for each allegation finalised.

The allegation decision reflects how the complaint case has been handled, with different decisions available for the different means of handling. Both the allegation decisions and the subsequent actions available will depend on two things: firstly, whether the complaint case has been handled outside or under Schedule 3; and secondly, the means of handling where it has been dealt with under Schedule 3.

Please refer to our [Guidance on capturing data about police complaints](#) for details of allegation decisions.

How allegations were handled (Year to date)	Force No.	Force %	MSF Average No.	MSF Average %	National No.	National %
Under Schedule 3 investigated (not subject to special procedures)	162	6 %	406	8 %	16,001	10 %
Under Schedule 3 investigated (subject to special procedures)	36	1 %	43	1 %	2,071	1 %
Under Schedule 3 - not investigated	514	18 %	2186	33 %	73,237	45 %
Outside of Schedule 3	2,131	75 %	3054	58 %	71,979	44 %
Total	2,843	100 %	5689	100 %	163,288	100 %

Force: percent of allegations finalised by handling method



How allegations were handled (Year to date)	Outside of Schedule 3				Under Schedule 3 - not investigated				Under Schedule 3 investigated (subject to special procedures)				Under Schedule 3 investigated (not subject to special procedures)			
Allegation decision	Force No.	Force %	National No.	National %	Force No.	Force %	National No.	National %	Force No.	Force %	National No.	National %	Force No.	Force %	National No.	National %
No further action					69	13 %	5,604	8 %			26	1 %	7	4 %	503	3 %
Regulation 41 applies							107	0 %			2	0 %			192	1 %
Service provided - unable to determine					34	7 %	6,698	9 %	3	8 %	38	2 %	14	9 %	1,499	9 %
Service provided - not acceptable					64	12 %	9,844	13 %	1	3 %	79	4 %	28	17 %	1,931	12 %
Service provided - acceptable					323	63 %	48,901	67 %	11	31 %	338	16 %	112	69 %	11,450	72 %
Not Resolved	203	10 %	3,637	5 %												
Resolved	1928	90 %	68,336	95 %												
No Case to Answer									11	31 %	1,081	52 %				
Case to Answer									5	14 %	454	22 %				
Withdrawal					24	5 %	2,080	3 %	5	14 %	52	3 %	1	1 %	426	3 %



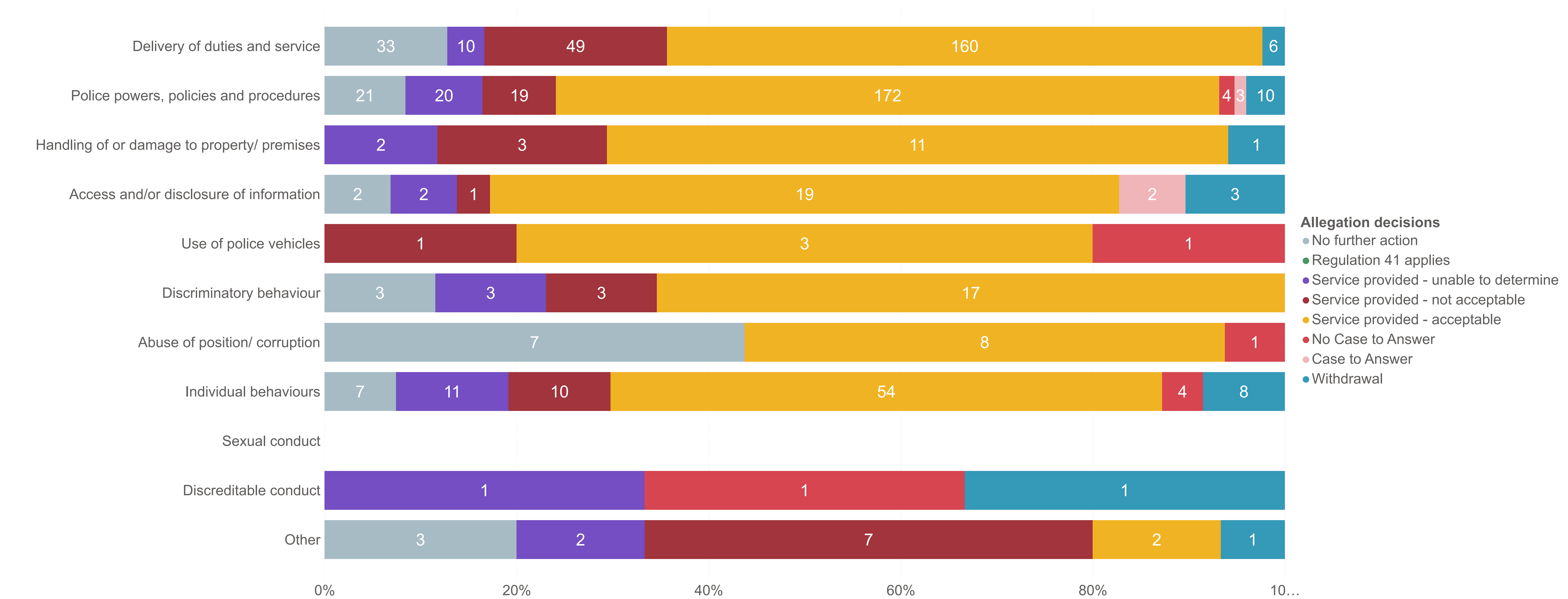
Section A3.2: Allegation decisions by what was complained about (Year to date by category)

This section presents information about allegations handled both informally and formally, grouped by the allegation decision and the category selected on each allegation. Each allegation has a single category selected.

Outside Schedule 3 allegation decisions

Allegation decisions	Delivery of duties and service	Police powers, policies and procedures	Handling of or damage to property/ premises	Access and/or disclosure of information	Use of police vehicles	Discriminatory behaviour	Abuse of position/ corruption	Individual behaviours	Sexual conduct	Discreditable conduct	Other	Total
Resolved	995	401	174	44	53	23	9	209	2	2	16	1,928
Not Resolved	71	68	11	5	4	2	2	35	0	0	5	203

Schedule 3 allegation decisions





Section B1.1: Allegation actions - on allegations handled outside of Schedule 3 (Year to date)

This section presents information about what happened as a result of the allegation (action). Actions are captured at allegation level and multiple actions can be selected, where appropriate, on single allegation. The figures shown in this section are based on allegations that resulted in the corresponding action. As more than one action can be selected for a single allegation, the sum of all percentages will not equal 100%.

The actions available once an allegation is finalised depend on how the complaint case has been handled. Please refer to our [Guidance on capturing data about police complaints](#) for details of actions available.

Please note: not all of the available actions arising from the complaint handling are shown. The actions presented in this section are those that focus on putting an issue right and preventing it from happening again by encouraging those involved to reflect on their actions and learn.

. Actions following outside of Schedule 3 complaint cases ^	Force		SPLY		MSF Average		National	
	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised
Organisational learning	7	0 %	3	0 %	3	0 %	272	0 %
Learning from reflection	49	2 %	38	2 %	47	2 %	1,991	3 %
Policy review	0	0 %	3	0 %	1	0 %	59	0 %
Goodwill gesture	6	0 %	6	0 %	2	0 %	114	0 %
Apology	73	3 %	84	4 %	158	5 %	6,555	9 %
Debrief	29	1 %	74	4 %	20	0 %	545	1 %
Explanation	1,468	69 %	1,316	66 %	1,865	67 %	45,379	63 %
No further action	382	18 %	355	18 %	326	12 %	8,079	11 %
Other action	116	5 %	126	6 %	597	13 %	8,339	12 %



Section B1.2: Allegation actions - on allegations handled under Schedule 3 (Year to date)

This section presents information about what happened as a result of the allegation (action). Actions are captured at allegation level and multiple actions can be selected, where appropriate, on single allegation. The figures shown in this section are based on allegations. As more than one action can be selected for a single allegation, the sum of all percentages will not equal 100%.

The actions available once an allegation is finalised depend on how the complaint case has been handled. Please refer to our [Guidance on capturing data about police complaints](#) for details of actions available. Please note: not all of the available actions arising from the complaint handling are shown. The actions presented in this section are those that focus on putting an issue right and preventing it from happening again by encouraging those involved to reflect on their actions and learn.

All complaint cases handled under Schedule 3

. Actions following Schedule 3 complaint cases	Force		SPLY		MSF Average		National	
	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised
Organisational learning	12	2 %	4	1 %	11	1 %	813	1 %
Apology	7	1 %	9	1 %	67	2 %	3,493	4 %
Debrief	1	0 %	0	0 %	382	4 %	2,874	3 %
Explanation	350	49 %	554	75 %	1,747	69 %	56,328	62 %
Unsatisfactory Performance Procedure (UPP)	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	29	0 %
No further action	243	34 %	110	15 %	277	16 %	19,619	21 %
Other action	2	0 %	0	0 %	17	1 %	921	1 %
Learning from reflection	78	11 %	44	6 %	101	6 %	5,009	5 %
Referral to RPRP	8	1 %	12	2 %	23	1 %	1,426	2 %

Misconduct, UPP and RPRP on complaints investigated under Schedule 3 (subject to Special Procedures)

Complaint cases handled under Schedule 3 that are investigated **and** subject to Special Procedures can result in misconduct proceedings

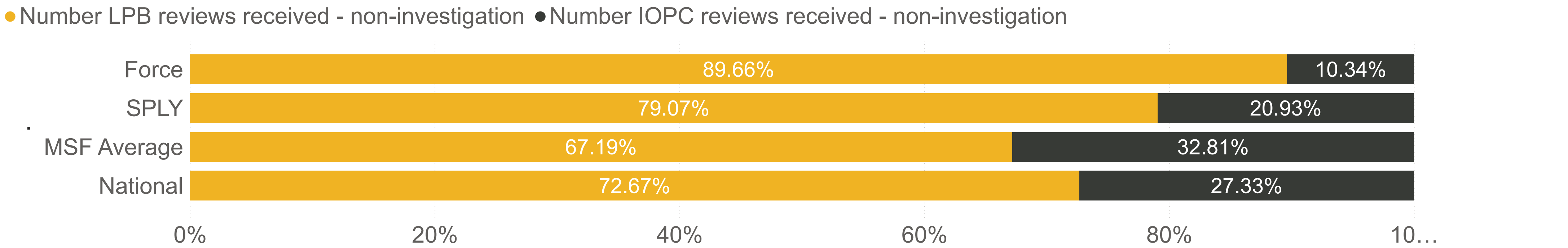
. Actions following Schedule 3 (special procedures) cases	Force		SPLY		MSF Average		National	
	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised	Allegations Finalised	% Allegations Finalised
Misconduct proceedings	7	19 %	2	7 %	4	7 %	218	11 %
Unsatisfactory Performance Procedure (UPP)	0	0 %	0	0 %	0	0 %	11	1 %
Other actions following a case to answer decision	0	0 %	0	0 %	2	6 %	139	7 %
Referral to RPRP	3	8 %	5	17 %	7	12 %	354	17 %



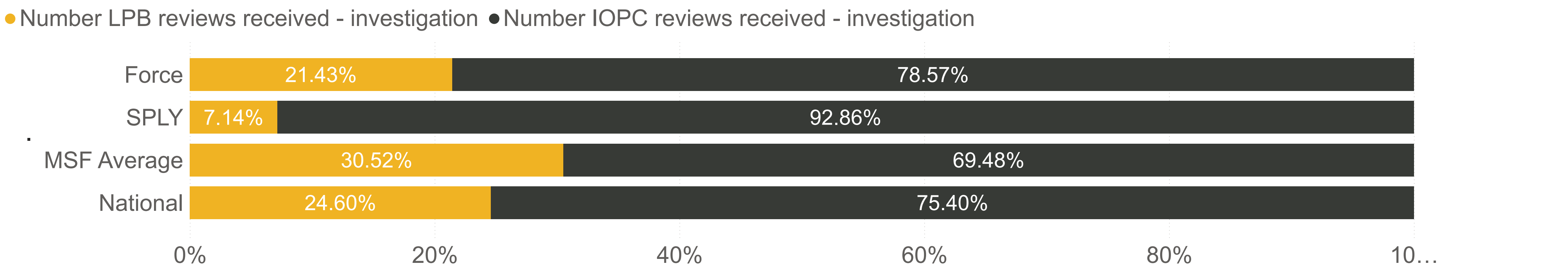
Section C1: Reviews received and timeliness (Year to date)

This section presents data on the number of reviews received about this force by the IOPC and by the local policing body. The charts enable you to see the proportion of each review type being received by the two bodies. For information on when the IOPC should be the review body, please see our [Statutory Guidance](#)

Non-investigation reviews received	LPB	IOPC
Force	52	6
SPLY	68	18
MSF Average	111	54
National	3,938	1,481

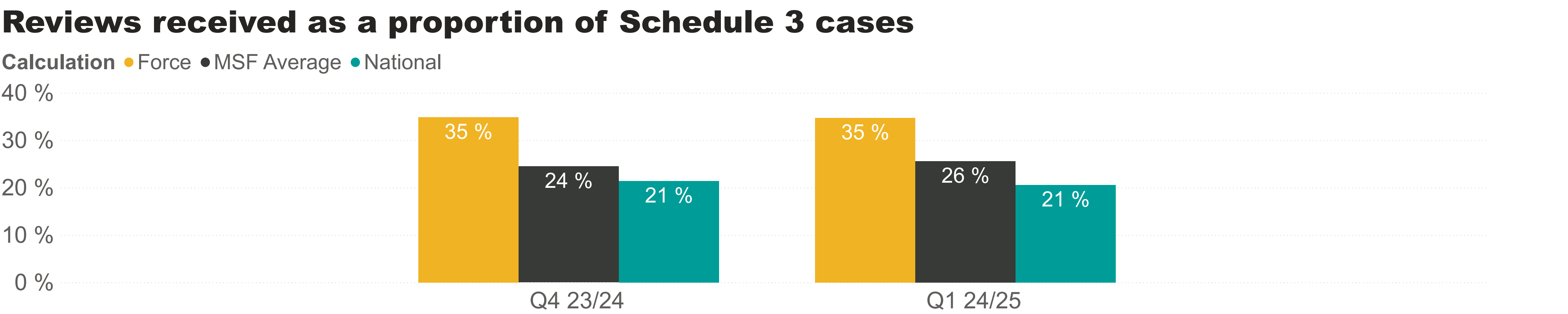


Investigation reviews received	LPB	IOPC
Force	3	11
SPLY	1	13
MSF Average	11	25
National	309	947



Complaints are not finalised until after any reviews are completed. However, this measure helps to provide an indication of how often reviews are made in comparison to the number of complaints completed.

	Reviews received	Schedule 3 complaints finalised
Force	72	231
SPLY	100	275
MSF Average	201	833
National	6,675	31,687



	Force	SPLY	MSF Average	National
Average number of working days to complete Local Policing Body reviews	22	16	19	48
Average number of working days to complete IOPC reviews	163	132	138	148



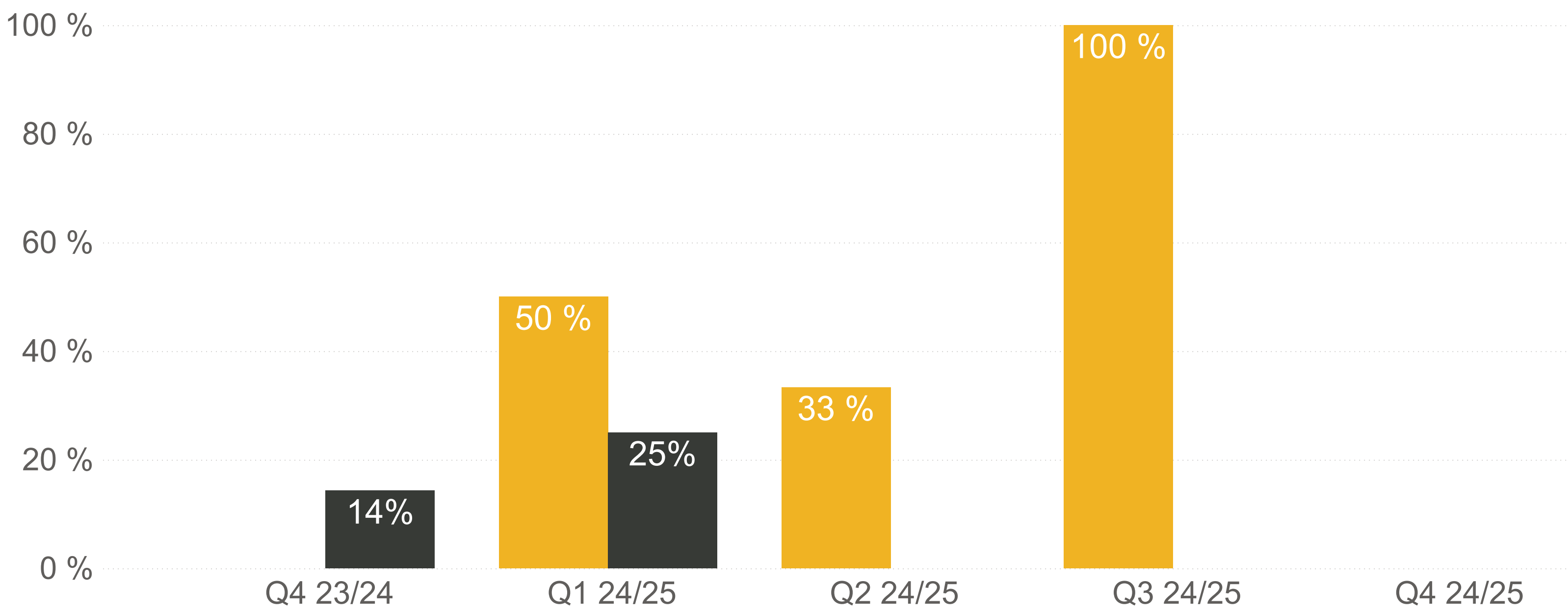
Section C2: Outcomes on reviews

This section presents information about the decisions made on reviews including the proportion of reviews that found the outcome of the complaint was not reasonable and proportionate leading to the review being upheld.

Investigation reviews (YTD) ▲	Completed investigation (IOPC)	Upheld investigation (IOPC)	Completed investigation (LPB)	Upheld investigation (LPB)
Force	12	5	3	
SPLY	11	4	1	
MSF Average	24	7	10	9
National	903	272	284	81

% IOPC reviews upheld - Force

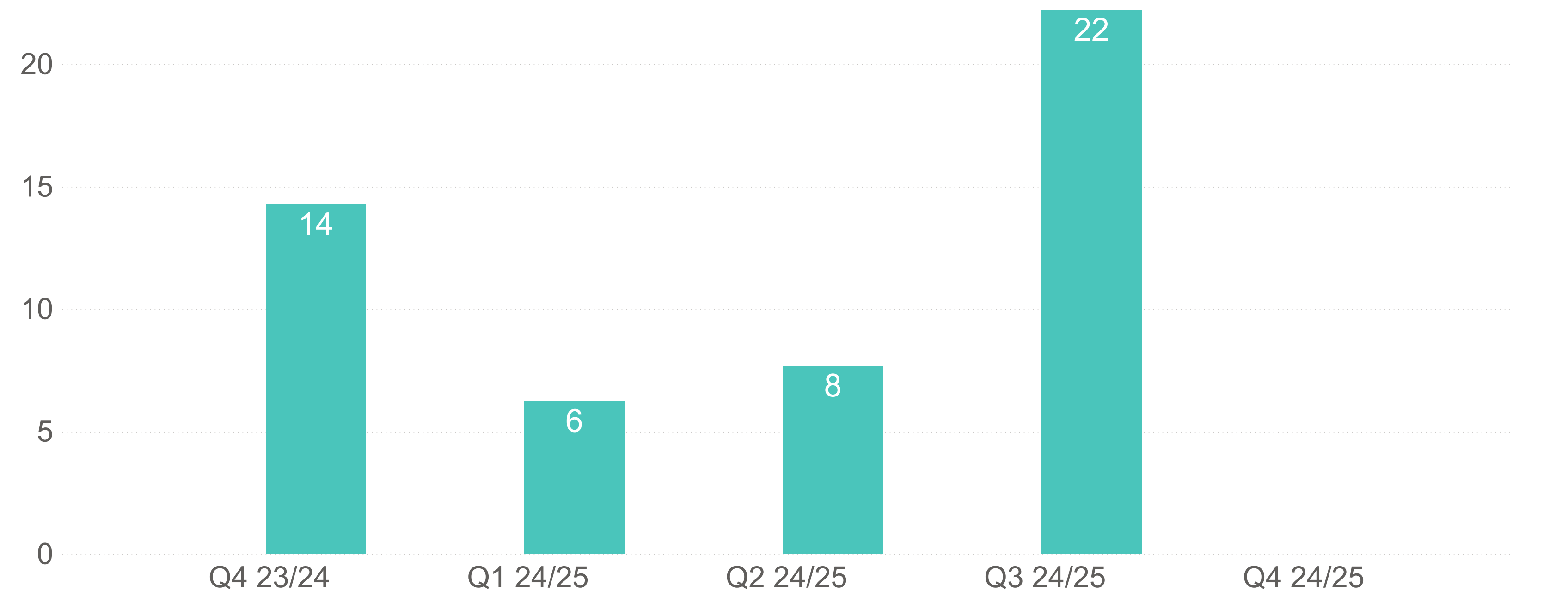
● Investigation ● Non-investigation



Non-investigation reviews (YTD) ▲	Completed non-investigation (IOPC)	Upheld non-investigation (IOPC)	Completed non-investigation (LPB)	Upheld non-investigation (LPB)
Force	12	1	50	4
SPLY	25	8	67	7
MSF Average	42	14	100	30
National	1,112	330	3,747	802

% LPB Reviews upheld - Force

● Investigation ● Non-investigation





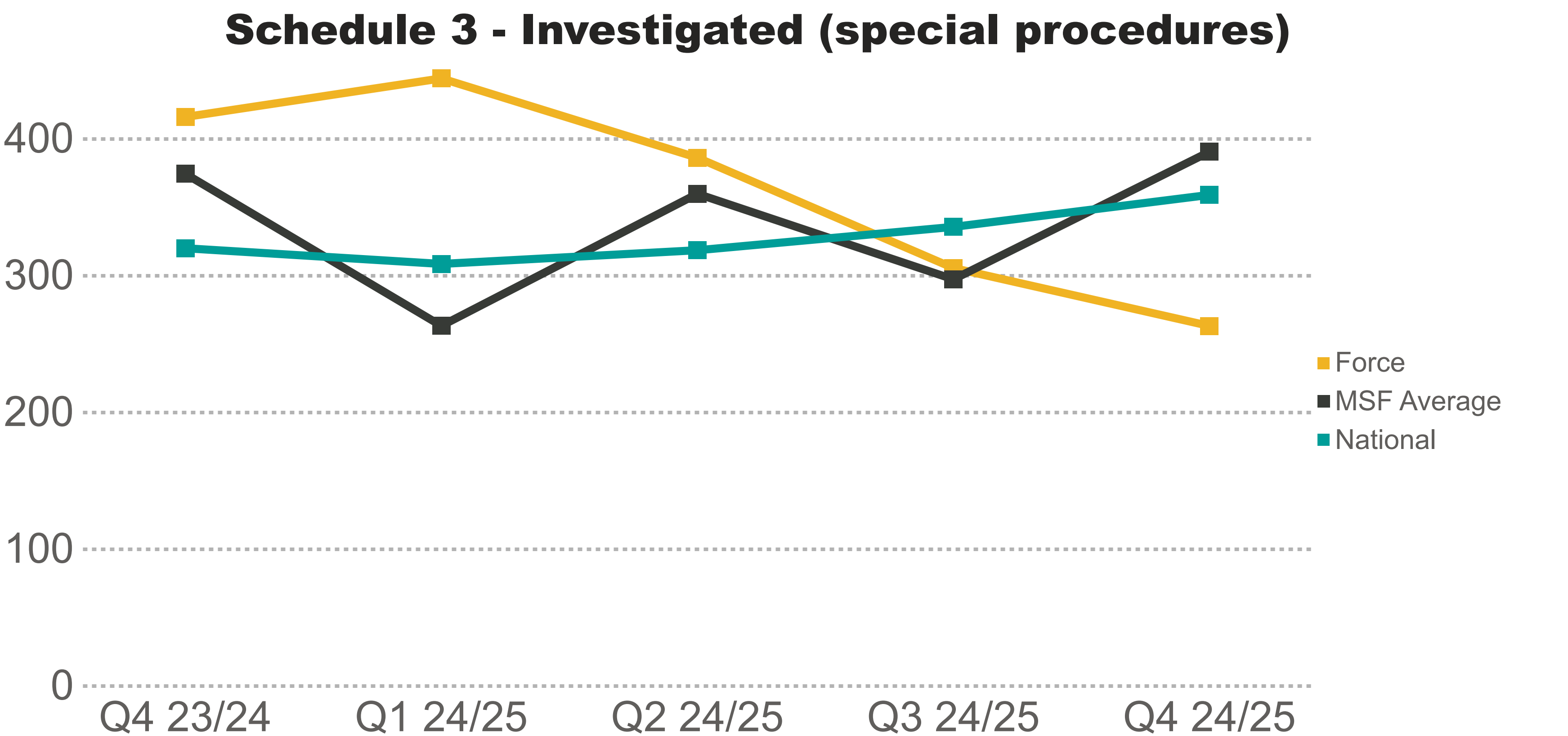
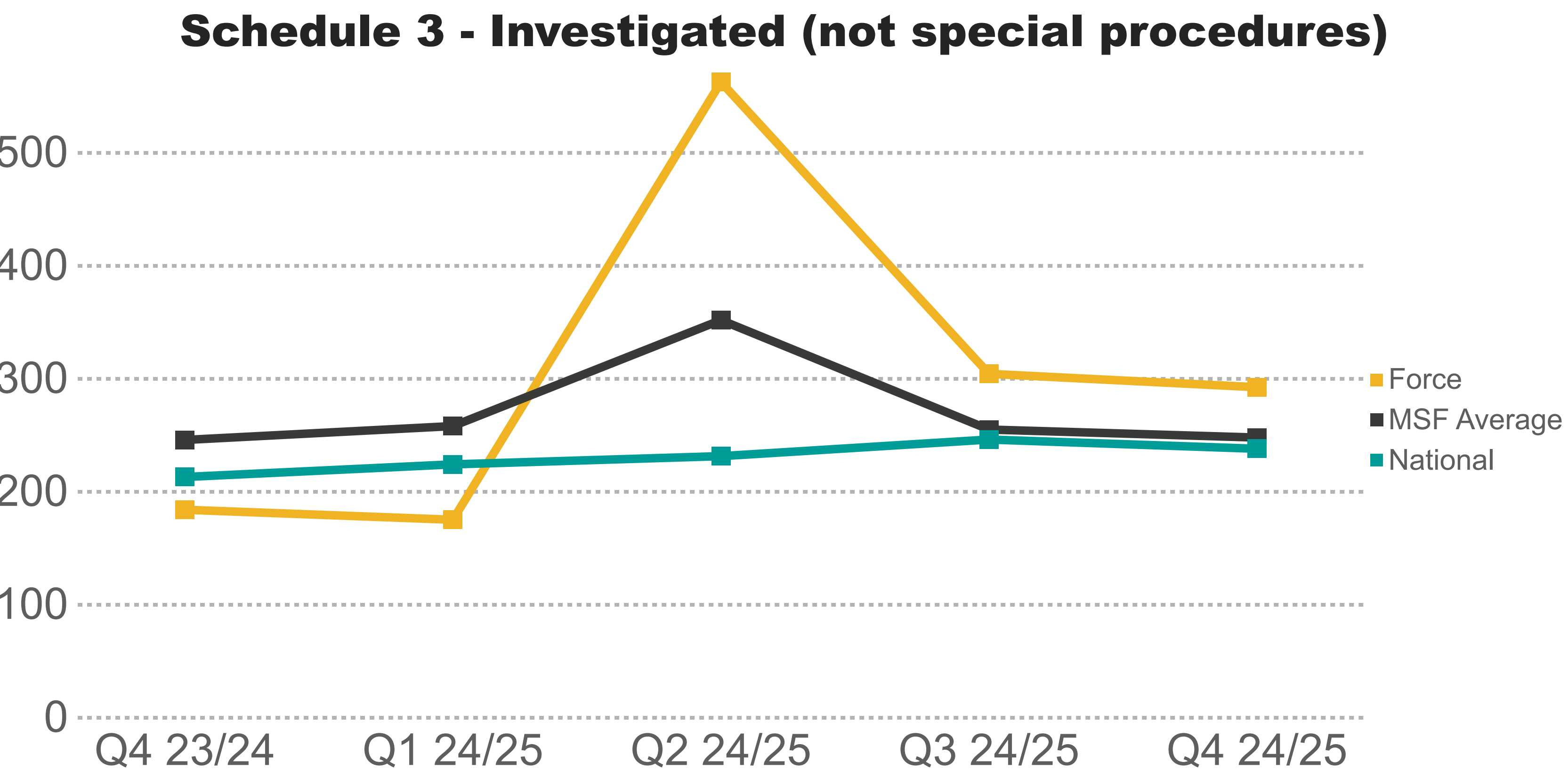
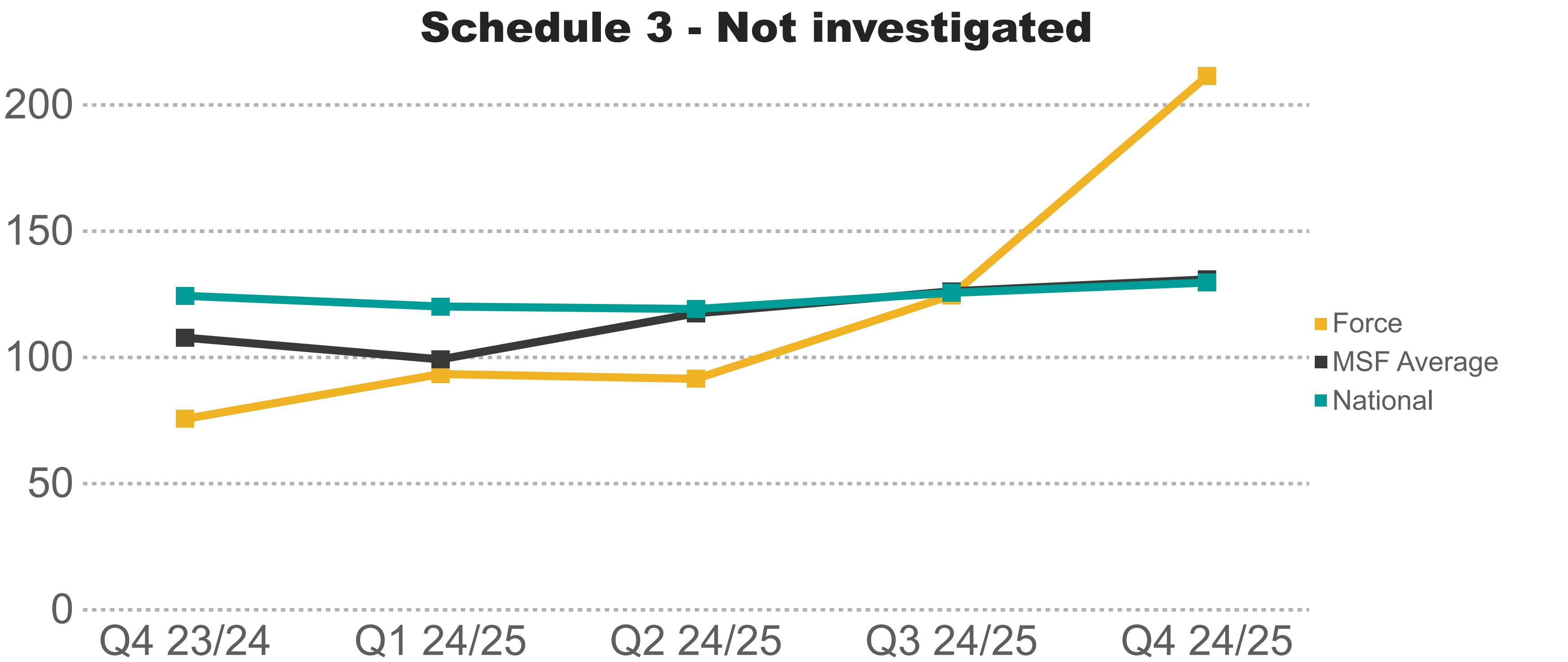
Section D1: Complaint cases finalised under Schedule 3 - timeliness

This section shows the time it takes the force to finalise complaint cases from the customer's perspective. It gives a breakdown of the time taken to finalise complaint cases handled formally under Schedule 3. Timeliness is calculated from the date the complaint was made. On cases under Schedule 3, the below figures include the time a case may spend suspended due to criminal matters.

Complaint cases with 'invalid dates' have been removed from the data shown. Please refer to the [IOPC website](#) performance framework counting rules and calculations on the for an explanation of invalid dates. For more information on the proportion of complaints handled under each method (along with outside if Schedule 3) please see page 14

Average working days to finalise (Year to date)	Force	SPLY	MSF Average	National
Under Schedule 3 investigated (subject to special procedures)	340	411	351	329
Under Schedule 3 investigated (not subject to special procedures)	364	195	291	234
Under Schedule 3 - not investigated	127	90	115	124
Total	183	111	146	146

Number finalised (Year to date)	Force	SPLY	MSF Average	National
Under Schedule 3 - not investigated	175	239	676	25,876
Under Schedule 3 investigated (not subject to special procedures)	44	27	141	5,122
Under Schedule 3 investigated (subject to special procedures)	12	9	16	689
Total	231	275	833	31,687

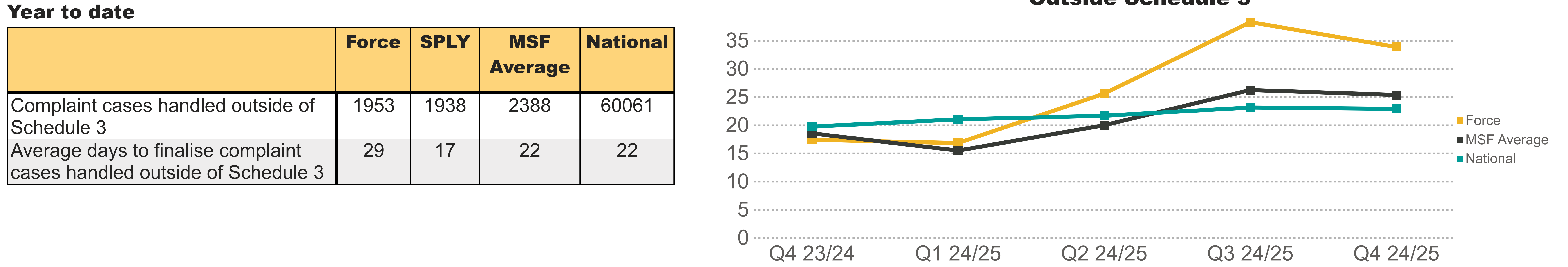




Section D2: Complaint cases finalised outside of Schedule 3 - timeliness

This section shows the time it takes the force to finalise complaint cases from the customer's perspective. It gives a breakdown of the time taken to finalise complaint cases handled handled formally under Schedule 3. Timeliness is calculated from the date the complaint was made. On cases under Schedule 3, the below figures include the time a case may spend suspended due to criminal matters.

Complaint cases with 'invalid dates' have been removed from the data shown. Please refer to the [IOPC website](#) performance framework counting rules and calculations on the for an explanation of invalid dates.

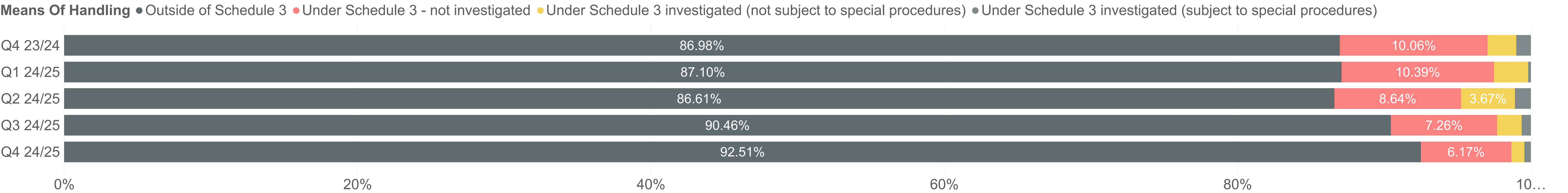


Section D3: How complaint cases handled

This section shows the proportion of complaint cases handled by the force, most similar for group and nationally under each method of handling. The table covers data recorded in the period as per 'Reporting Period' above, while the below chart concerns the force only using the last four quarters of available data.

.	Force		SPLY		MSF Average		National	
	Complaints Finalised	% Finalised	Complaints Finalised	% Finalised	Complaints Finalised	% Finalised	Complaints Finalised	% Finalised
Outside of Schedule 3	1,953	89%	1,938	88%	2,388	74%	60,061	65%
Under Schedule 3 - not investigated	175	8%	239	11%	676	21%	25,876	28%
Under Schedule 3 investigated (not subject to special procedures)	44	2%	27	1%	141	4%	5,124	6%
Under Schedule 3 investigated (subject to special procedures)	12	1%	9	0%	16	0%	689	1%
Total	2,184	100%	2,213	100%	3,220	100%	91,750	100%

Force: percent of complaint cases finalised by handling method



Section E: Referrals

The figures presented in this section include all referrals that the force makes to the IOPC (received), not just those arising from complaints.

When the IOPC receives a referral from the force, it reviews the information they have provided. The IOPC decides whether the matter requires an investigation, and the type of investigation.

Referrals may have been completed in a different period to when they were received.

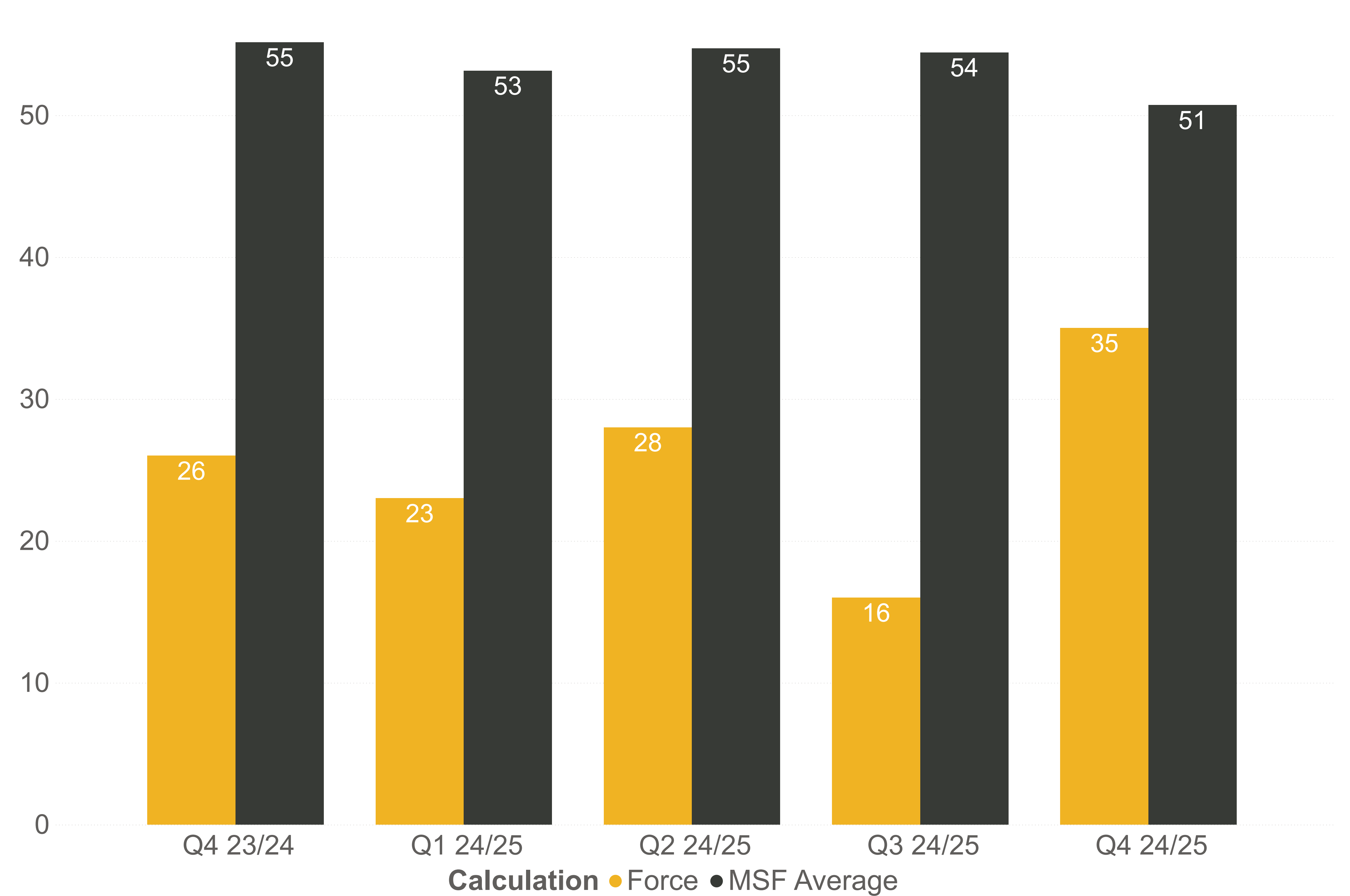
Where a referral is made by the force on a mandatory basis but does not meet the mandatory referral criteria, the matter may not fall within the IOPC’s remit to assess and will be determined invalid.

The sum of decisions may not match the number of referrals completed. This is because some matters referred may have come to the attention of the appropriate authority before 1 February 2020 and have investigation type decisions of either managed or supervised.

Year to date

	Force	SPLY	MSF Average	National
Number referrals received	102	117	213	6,713
Number referrals completed	103	114	213	6,786
Decision: Independent Investigation	10	18	16	351
Decision: Directed Investigation	5	3	2	30
Decision: Local Investigation	50	58	102	3,629
Decision: Return to Force	35	34	90	2,634
Decision: Invalid	3	1	2	141

Force and MSF Group referrals received





Most Similar Force (MSF) Group: Cleveland, Greater Manchester, Merseyside, Northumbria, South Yorkshire, West Midlands, West Yorkshire

Notes

Data sources

- Data in this bulletin is taken from XML data submissions made by forces to the IOPC every quarter except for IOPC performance data which is taken from the IOPC case management system.
- Police force employee numbers are taken from the latest [police workforce England and Wales statistics](#) published by the Home Office.
- The most similar force (MSF) groups used for the calculation of the MSF averages in this bulletin are those determined by HMICFRS. Please note that the British Transport Police and City of London Police do not have an MSF group. A list of the MSF groups is available on the [IOPC website](#).
- Figures for City of London include complaint cases logged in relation to ‘Action Fraud’. Action Fraud is the UK’s national reporting centre for fraud and cybercrime. The service is run by the City of London Police, which is the national policing lead for economic crime.

Performance Framework counting rules and calculation

- The counting rules and calculations used to produce the data shown in this bulletin can be found on the [IOPC website](#).
- Average times are presented in working days and do not include weekends or bank holidays.
- Some percentages may add up to more or less than 100% due to rounding.
- Complaint cases and allegations with invalid start/end dates have been removed from average time calculations. Therefore, the numbers of complaint cases and allegations used in the average time calculations may be lower than the total number of complaint cases and allegations logged or finalised.

Data constraints

- The data is sourced from live case management systems and provides a snapshot of information as it was at that time. Therefore, there may be variances between the information in this bulletin and information reported at a later date.

Further Information

- A glossary providing a full list of definitions used in this bulletin, can be found on the [IOPC website](#).
- Additional information about the recording of police complaints, including the definitions of the complaint categories, can be found in appendix A of the IOPC’s [Guidance on capturing data about police complaints](#).
- Information about how the police complaints system operates, who can complain and how reviews are dealt with can be found in the IOPC’s [Statutory Guidance on the police complaints system \(February 2020\)](#).