

Custody Scrutiny panel

Date: Wednesday 15th January 2025

Time: 18:00 - 20:20

Location: Perry Barr Custody Suite

Panel Members: Dawn Dance (DD - Chair), Stassi Chilas, Jane Edgington, Shahida Raza, Rebecca Torr, Jacqui Peterkin, Mohammed Nadeem, Gary Williams, Joanna Camille-St. Marie, Adil Bashir.

Guests: N/A

WMP: Head of Custody Andy Edwards (AE), Custody Inspector Chris Doody (CD), Superintendent Emma Spencer (ES),

OPCC: Natalie Cox (NC)

Visitor: David Meenaghan (WMP)

Apologies: Pauline White, Alison Walker, Amber-Louise Elliker

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	<p>Welcome and introductions by Panel Members and WMP.</p> <p>Actions from previous Panel (07.11.24)</p> <p>Action 1 - NC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ES and NC have met and identified some recommendations that were in the Baird Report which WMP could implement. <p>Action 2 -CD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Knife Wand/Arches data is automatically populated on the assumption that they are used for all Persons coming into Custody. However, visual checks can be made when viewing Strip Search authorization CCTV footage during booking in process. <p>Action 3 - CD</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No reason has been identified for the increase of SS of children. In October, one record was incorrectly included due to it being a removal of a cord, rather than clothes. 	



	<p>Action 4 – CD No current data available to check whether when SS hasn't been conducted if something has then been found. Plans for this to become available.</p> <p>Action 5 – CD Records of non-related custody forms that have been completed by Custody staff, to be manually removed.</p>	
2.	<p>UPDATE: AE</p> <p>Data Overview</p> <p>Arrests</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Overall, arrests have remained reasonably static. Arrests of children indicate a more stable line. <p>Custody Suites</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Bournville is on track to re-open in April 2025. Visual/audio equipment needs to be installed.• Resources need to match Suites, e.g., there has been a growth in the recruitment of Detention Escort Officers (DEOs) and Sergeants.• Perry Barr remains the busiest and has a higher number of established staffing. There is also a higher level of risk of assault to staff.• Oldbury Custody is the 2nd busiest block• The closure of Stechford has meant that Persons in Custody (PiCs) are being re-diverted to other blocks. <p>Staff absence</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Attendance management being implemented. Support is being offered where attendance is an issue. <p>Eight months ago, sickness-related absence was at 15%, this has now reduced to 8%.</p>	



	<p>Skills/Diversity</p> <p>Resourcing has improved and there are 39 staff per shift, per site.</p>	
<p>3.</p>	<p>Strip Search (SS)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a declining trend in SS in custody with a 'removal of article' being the most likely type of SS recorded.• There has been a low percentage of items found following a SS. <p>Disproportionality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Black and Asian PiCs are less likely to have a SS while in Custody, in comparison to the known population <p>Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• In December there were 3 SS to remove an article. <p>Adults/Children</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Of the total number of SS, 1.77% of these were for children.	
<p>4.</p>	<p>UoF (Use of Force)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• UoF being recorded from low level, e.g., non-compliant handcuffing to data for higher levels of UoF. <p>BWV (Body Worn Video)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Officers are being reminded to use BWV as this isn't consistently available. <p>UoF forms</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 860 have triggered reviews and 659 of these have been reviewed. <p>The reviewed forms have been rated as follows:</p> <p>Tier 1 – Excellence Tier 2 – Standard Tier 3 – Minor Learning Tier 4 – Misconduct</p>	



5. Dip sample record Strip Search

All dip sampled records were selected at random by Chair at pre-meet with NC and CD. Also present at the pre-meet was Matt Raybould (WMP Data).

10 records were selected for scrutiny and Panel viewed two records which were recorded on the Custody Desk camera, to view process of decision making and authorization.

Of the ten records shown panel felt:

Do the panel feel the reason for the strip search was necessary and reasonable?

Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	42	85.71%
No	7	14.29%

Do you feel the rationale gives clear justification of why a strip search was authorised?

Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	40	81.63%
No	8	16.33%
Unsure	1	2.04%

Overall scrutiny panel feedback:

Answers	Count	Percentage
Positive	33	67.35%
Neutral	11	22.45%
Negative	4	8.16%

Panel feedback

Record 1 BWV watched of booking in.

Positive

Clearly stated in written record as to why search was asked for and authorised. BWV showed processes followed and supported rational. Very professional.

Record 2 -BWV watched of booking in

Neutral

Panel felt grounds were not clear, only evidence previous markers but wasn't clear of others. No evidence that arch or metal detectors were used to find the needles found in SS. Panel felt BWV doesn't show understanding of vulnerability's displayed on BWV

Record 3

Positive

Panel all found this as a positive search, grounds covered and all authorisation undertaking however no mention on record of AA.

Record 4

Not covered as was to remove article of clothing

Record 5

Positive

Panel all found this as a positive search, grounds covered and detailed

Record 6 duplicate

Record 7

Positive

Clearly stated in written record as to why search was asked for and authorised



		<p>Use of wand informed strip search</p> <p>Record 8 Not covered as was to remove article of clothing</p> <p>Record 9 Negative Panel felt there was nothing in the account which justified the SS Narrative does not articulate why the PIC needed to be strip-searched. Not with standing positive result.</p> <p>Record 10 Positive Panel felt from record this was a positive search, grounds covered and detailed justified search.</p>																					
<p>6.</p>	<p>Dip sample of Use of Force records:</p> <p>All dip sampled records were selected at random by Chair at pre-meet with NC and CD. Also present at the pre-meet was Matt Raybould (WMP Data). Eight UoF records were selected.</p> <p>Two BWV viewed by Panel. Record 1 and 2</p> <p>From observing the BWV, do you feel the Use of Force was necessary and proportionate?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>16</td> <td>94.12%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>1</td> <td>5.88%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>After watching the BWV, Do you feel the rationale given on the paper record clearly justify' s why that Use of Force was used?</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>12</td> <td>70.59%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>4</td> <td>23.53%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Not sure</td> <td>1</td> <td>5.88%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	16	94.12%	No	1	5.88%	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	12	70.59%	No	4	23.53%	Not sure	1	5.88%	<p>Record 1 – BWV watched Negative – panel have requested for WMP to check all UOF were submitted of all involved</p> <p>Panel felt There were too many bodies involved in the retrieval of phone. The booking officer was unprofessional and disrespectful to a minor, regardless if it was in retaliation. The officer could of remained a bit more professional and not responded to the young man's verbal. Overall Aggressive reaction, officers responded by swearing, no attempt to de-escalate.</p> <p>Record 2 BWV watched – no audio on video Neutral</p>
Answers	Count	Percentage																					
Yes	16	94.12%																					
No	1	5.88%																					
Answers	Count	Percentage																					
Yes	12	70.59%																					
No	4	23.53%																					
Not sure	1	5.88%																					



What is your overall feedback after watching the BWV?

Answers	Count	Percentage
Positive	6	35.29%
Neutral	6	35.29%
Negative	5	29.41%

Of 6 written only records reviewed:

Do the panel feel the Use of force was necessary and proportionate?

Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	22	88%
No	3	12%

Do you feel the rationale gives clear justification of why that Use of Force was used?

Answers	Count	Percentage
Yes	17	68%
No	4	16%
Unsure	4	16%

Overall scrutiny panel feedback:

Answers	Count	Percentage
Positive	15	60%
Neutral	8	32%
Negative	2	8%

Panel felt there was multiple chances to turn on BWV but no records. There were 4 to 5 officers present but not all were required The PICS demeanor did not seem active resistant from the CCTV as described on record. Body language suggested positive interaction in the end.

Record 3

Neutral

Panel felt Unclear why force used, description unclear and not detailed effectively, only listed verbal aggression from PIC no reason for UOF

Record 4

Neutral mixed results

Some panel members felt good report that contained necessary info, including all other officers involved, however some panel members felt needed more detail.

Record 5

Neutral

Panel felt the use of force was justified in rationale however panel not clear as to what uof was used in incident wasn't clear too much focus on legislation.

Record 6

Positive

Panel felt record was Clear and concise. The use of force was in the interest of the detainee and in order to preserve life, to eliminate any injury or fatality.

Record 6

Neutral



		<p>Panel stressed not enough clear information given on rationale, not clear as to why put on watch.</p> <p>Record 8 Positive Panel felt record seemed justified and fully explained, but did stress it was very templated and would be one to see BWV of build up to ensure justified.</p>
7.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	<p>Action 1 Panel have requested total percentage of articles found during SS within the past two months.</p> <p>Action 2 Question of whether all UoF forms were submitted for UoF Record 1</p>
8.	Date and location of next panel	<p>Next panel to be held; Wednesday 5th March 2025 at Perry Barr Custody Suite.</p> <p>Please arrive on time - tea and coffee will be served at 5:45pm to allow us to start promptly.</p> <p>Perry Barr Custody Suite Holford Drive Birmingham B42 2TU</p>