

## Custody Scrutiny panel

**Date:** Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> November 2024

**Time:** 18:00 - 20:40

**Location:** Perry Barr Custody Suite

**Panel Members:** Dawn Dance (DD - Chair), Stassi Chilas, Jane Edgington, Shahida Raza, Rebecca Torr, Jacqui Peterkin

**Guests:** N/A

**WMP:** Head of Custody Andy Edwards (AE), Custody Inspector Chris Doody (CD)

**OPCC:** Natalie Cox (NC)

**Apologies:** Mohammed Nadeem, Pauline White, Gary Williams, Alison Walker, Joanna Camille-St. Marie, Adil Bashir, Amber-Louise Elliker, Superintendent Emma Spencer (ES)

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction by NC.</p> <p><b>Baird Inquiry Report</b></p> <p><b>DD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Panel discussion of the Baird Inquiry report and recommendations around Strip Search (SS) and the treatment of females in Custody. Consideration of which recommendations are within the remit of the Panel and whether they are applicable to WMP.</li> <li>Discussion around nominated female officers to oversee wellbeing of female PiCs in Custody.</li> <li>Good representation of females reported to be in Custody Suites. Out of 24 Sergeants who are being recruited for January 2025, eight of them are female.</li> <li>At a recent Associate Police and Crime Commissioner (APCC) meeting, there were no key directives for how Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) should respond to the Baird Inquiry.</li> </ul>	<p>NC to discuss further with Superintendent Emma Spencer (ES).</p>



	<p><b>CD</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Update of outstanding Action 3 from Panel on 03/07/24. CD had a conversation with the Detention Escort Officer (DEO) and will be delivering a presentation to remind officers about the relevant processes.</li><li>• Reinforcement that records should be more detailed. DEOs should be given time to write up records as soon as an incident has happened to reduce memory fade.</li><li>• Custody Sergeants to attend Panel meetings to understand the context of Panel discussions to support change.</li><li>• Wider training package to address issues around SS and authorisations.</li></ul>	
2.	<p><b>UPDATE: AE</b></p> <p><b>Arrests</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• There are 150 arrests per day. Although this has been a directive of the Chief Inspector, there is also a focus on the quality of arrests rather than just numbers.</li><li>• There were a higher number of arrests in August 2024, which may be related to officers being on standby during the summer rioting but not being used, so were redirected to carry out arrests.</li><li>• Perry Barr has the highest number of Persons in Custody (PiCs), followed by Oldbury. This may be being driven by additional risk factors/mental health which may inform which Custody Block the PiCs are being taken to.</li><li>• This will also be because of the number of cells in use at different blocks, e.g., Perry Barr, out of 60 cells, only 45 are in operation due to staff resources being diverted to other Custody Blocks.</li></ul> <p><b>Closure of Custody Blocks</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stechford Custody staff have been moved to Perry Barr as Stechford is currently closed due to refurbishments that were recommended during the recent HMI inspection. Other closures have been planned,</li></ul>	



therefore the impact is expected to continue, because when one Station becomes operational, another one will close.

- PiCs who would normally have been taken to Stechford are being transferred to the Coventry site, which has a smaller cell capacity and is outside the City Centre which is likely to impact where those who have been arrested are taken.
- Bournville Police Station has been earmarked to be open by April 2025. Procurement of services still has to be completed.

**Strip Search (SS)**

Increase of SS of children. Data shows that children are still being strip searched without an Appropriate Adult (AA). This will need to be monitored as there is an expectation that the figure should be zero and Panel will check that it stays this way for at least six months.

CD to do a deep dive to explore the data on children SS and to find out why there has been an increase.

**SS Authorisations**

AE and his counterpart Lucy are available during working hours but Control Room, made up of Force Managers and Force Incident Managers manage 'out of hours' authorisations for children SS. AE and Lucy have provided guidance on context so that they can make informed decisions. This has been received positively.

Panel wanted to know whether there was any data around where a SS has not been done but then items have been found.

**UoF (Use of Force)**

67.3% use of BWV during UoF on adults, lower rates of use of BWV for children, which is a concern.

To be clarified by CD or AE

**Disproportionality of UoF**

0.5 for Asians  
1.6 for Blacks

0.4 for Asian children  
2.2 for Black children

Question around why disproportionality is higher for Black children around UoF.

To be monitored



	<p>Data suggests that less than 1 in 10 PiCs have UoF used against them.</p> <p><b>BWV</b></p> <p>Most staff now have cameras and there are harnesses for those who need them.</p> <p><b>UoF forms</b></p> <p>75.2% completion of UoF forms have triggered a review. This appears to be a reduction on the numbers that were previously being completed and relate to UoF that has been used against:</p>	<p>To revisit at next Panel meeting</p>																					
<p>3.</p>	<p><b>Dip sample record Strip Search</b></p> <p>All dip sampled records were selected at random by Chair at pre-meet with NC and CD. Identified two incomplete records by the same Police Officer.</p> <p>CD made enquiries and it was discovered that the Officer works in Custody sometimes and the records weren't in relation to a PiC in custody.</p> <p>Panel viewed two records which had camera footage of the custody desk to view process of decision making and authorisation.</p> <p>Due to time, Panel moved onto UoF BWV.</p> <p>Of the two records shown panel felt:</p> <p><b>Do the panel feel the reason for the strip search was necessary and reasonable?</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>7</td> <td>58.33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>5</td> <td>41.67%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Do you feel the rationale gives clear justification of why a strip search was authorised?</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>6</td> <td>50%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>5</td> <td>41.67%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Unsure</td> <td>1</td> <td>8.33%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	7	58.33%	No	5	41.67%	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	6	50%	No	5	41.67%	Unsure	1	8.33%	<p>CD to find out whether data can be excluded from Custody records.</p> <p><b>Panel Feedback</b></p> <p><b>Record 1 BWV watched of booking in. Negative</b></p> <p>Panel felt it escalated very quickly to strip search without carrying out pace search, wand search etc. rushed to get through questioning with PIC. Appears no consultation with inspector on decision. PIC calm and compliant so really no rush necessary. Needed to go through processes before going straight to strip search. Panel felt not convinced strip search was necessary in this case and didn't appear to be justification for the strip search</p>
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<p><b>4.</b></p>	<p><b>Dip sample of Use of Force records:</b></p> <p>All Dip sampled records were selected at random by Chair at pre-meeting with NC and CD.</p> <p>Only one BWV viewed due to time but was felt necessary as Panel haven't been able to view UoF footage for the last two Panels as Force had been unable to obtain it.</p> <p><b>Do the panel feel the Use of force was necessary and proportionate?</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>5</td> <td>83.33%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>No</td> <td>1</td> <td>16.67%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p><b>Do you feel the rationale gives clear justification of why that Use of Force was used?</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Answers</th> <th>Count</th> <th>Percentage</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Yes</td> <td>5</td> <td>83.33%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	5	83.33%	No	1	16.67%	Answers	Count	Percentage	Yes	5	83.33%	<p><b>Record 1 footage watched of incident</b></p> <p>Incident was watched of CCTV recording so no sound panel felt sound was needed to understand the dialogue. Panel felt this should have been captured on BWV as planned to enter to remove clothing for evidence. Panel felt too many officers in the room at first point, not explained why so many needed.</p> <p>The sergeant that took charge at first lowered himself which was good, others around was worrying</p>
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5.	<p><b>Action noted from discussions for update at next panel</b></p> <p><b>OPCC</b> <b>Action 1</b> NC to discuss with Superintendent Emma Spencer (ES) whether any of the recommendations from the Baird Inquiry are applicable to WMP.</p> <p><b>WMP</b> <b>Action 2</b> Updates have been missing around the use of Knife Wands/Arches – information to be provided at next Panel so that data can be tracked to see whether there is an impact on reduced UoF/SS when they are used</p> <p><b>Action 3</b> CD to do a deep dive to explore the data on child SS and to find out why there has been an increase.</p> <p><b>Action 4</b> AE or CD to check whether there is any data around where a SS has not been conducted, but then items have been found.</p> <p><b>Action 5</b> CD to find out whether data can be excluded from Custody records for Officers who are completing non-custody related forms but who are on the list as Custody staff.</p> <p><b>Monitoring at panels</b> Why disproportionality is higher for Black children around UoF. Lower rates of use of BWV for children</p>																			



6..	Date and location of next panel	<p><b>Next panel to be held;</b> Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January 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>
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