



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

Stop and Search Scrutiny panel

Location: In person

Date and Time: 17th July 2023

Present: N Khalid (Chair), A French (AF), N Cox (NC), Al M Baldwin (MW), Al S Powles (SP), T Bickley (TB), N Hooper (NH), N Fletcher (NF), youth members - N, C, S, J, E plus three police officers.

Apologies: M Sharif, T Bickley

	Item	Actions
--	------	---------

<p>1. Welcome and introduction.</p> <p>Minutes of the last meeting, update on any actions taken from last meeting</p>	<p>Stop & Search record 3 SP to provide a view about the appropriateness given safeguarding concerns that looking down the top was a legitimate action by the officer</p> <p>I have also asked for the searching officer to review the footage with their supervisor which I'm informed has been completed.</p> <p>I'm asked for my view but the level of search needs to be justified by the officer conducting the search, who is conversant with all of the facts so I will speak generally as best practice as I see it.</p> <p>A normal search should not expose intimate parts of the body. The shaking of loose clothing is permissible. Any search that exposes intimate parts of the body should be conducted away from public view, and not in a police vehicle. In such searches BWV should be used, remaining on but covered or pointed away from the person being searched.</p> <p>Unless urgent criteria is met (ie risk of serious harm to themselves or another) any 'strip search' or search exposing intimate parts of a juvenile has to be approved and signed off by a Chief Inspector 'or above', and with an appropriate adult present as per force policy. Officers should be mindful when dealing with young people to make sure they are balancing the needs to search (including the level of search) against the risk/harm/emotional distress they may cause.</p> <p>Stop & Search record 1 SP to ask for the search to be reviewed</p> <p>Search reviewed by officers Sgt in company with the officers present. Officers made scene from the other side of the force to reports of a burglary in progress. Signs of a Cannabis crop with potential for it being in the process of being robbed. Delay in searching due to requirement for other officers to assess the scene and report back before decision made (may have been arrest then search but detaining legitimate in the circumstances).</p> <p>Use of Force record 5 SP to brief the panel on guidelines for kneeling on a nominal. SP to find out what had happened before particularly why was the nominal allowed to get into a police car with his bag if the officers needed to search this</p> <p>Subject was completely silent and tensed up on arrival to report of shoplifting. Subject far larger than officers attending and resisting search, so cuffed and placed in vehicle pending arrival of supporting officers. Subject remained silent throughout custody procedure and identified as being wanted for failing to attend court.</p> <p>Guidelines on kneeling on people from personal safety training is that it is only taught on extremities in order to gain control. You can stray away from the manual if necessary however but this will need to be justified by the officer in question. The officer from the footage has reviewed this incident, feedback given around how it is perceived by public where officers are crouched over final target areas and advice provided around how this can be avoided in future.</p>
---	--



2. UPDATE on
stop and search
data from T/
Insp. Steve
Powles

The panel noted that the % of records that have Body Worn Video has fallen both for the Impact Areas across BE (it has been falling since the start of 2023) and for the Use of Force (a 6% decrease from the last panel meeting). The panel will keep this under observation.

The panel noted that the Stop & Search disproportionality ratios for Asian and Black ethnically groups have switched around for the first time in 18 months. In this data cycle it is now black people who have the highest disproportionality ratio.

There was a small increase in the number of Stop Searches where handcuffs weren't used.

The disproportionality ratio's for Use of Force for Asian people is the lowest that it has been in two years and is below 1. The disproportionality ratio for Black people remains fairly constant.



3.	Dip sample of stop and search	
1)	<u>SSBE-AJ-111</u> <u>469599</u> . PC K subject G. 2nd M a y 2023	<u>Record 4 chosen by C</u> E Search record not completed properly as this was a Use of Force incident rather than a Stop & Search. The E Search record said that the incident was a Stop & Search on a bus but it ended up being a Use of Force and arrest in someone's flat. C asked about why Police Officers would take a door down to get into a property.
2)	<u>SSBE-CD-113</u> <u>008263</u> . PC R subject H. 6 th M a y 2023	<u>Record 3 chosen by J</u> The nominal was handcuffed at Sarehole Mill. It was felt that the Officer dealt with the nominal in a calm and reassuring manner. Cannabis was seized and a caution was issued. Initiate a Praise & Reward
3)	<u>SSBE-KG-11</u> <u>458055</u> 9. PC S subject T. 11 th M a y 2023	<u>Record 2 chosen by NK</u> No handcuffs were used during the Stop & Search. The panel felt that the officer dealt with the nominal in an honest and fair manner. The officer was very reassuring in the language and physical demeanour. Initiate a Praise & Reward
4)	<u>SSBE-9L-122</u> <u>584975</u> . PC B subject T. 4 th J u n e 2023	
5)	<u>SSBE-HK-12</u> <u>603225</u> 5. PC C subject H. 14 th 1 4 ^{t h} J u n e 2023	



4.	Dip sample of Use of Force records	<p>1. Log 4573 of 17th May 2023. PC B</p> <p>2. Log 1226 31st May 2023. PC C</p> <p>3. Log 2246 29th May 2023. PC A</p> <p>4. Log 5088 2nd June 2023. PC N</p> <p>5. Log 4208 2nd May 2023. PC O</p>
5.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	<p><u>Record 5 chosen by S</u></p> <p>A taser was drawn on a nominal who was a young man, the incident revolved around a college. The panel felt that the actions of the officer including his language were unnecessarily aggressive, particularly when the nominal was under control. The nominal was walked down a road to a gate with his head forced down, the language used towards him appeared to be overly hostile. The panel felt that a line had been crossed where assertion had become aggression. When made to kneel on his knees the trousers of the nominal were pulled down. The panel questioned why the nominal's trousers were pulled down. The panel unanimously felt that this was a negative Use of Force.</p> <p>Organise for a review of the footage and incident.</p> <p><u>Record 2 chosen by K</u></p> <p>The incident concerned the end of a car jacking in an ASDA car park. Unfortunately the button on the BWV wasn't pressed quickly enough to catch most of the incident. The panel noted the large number of police officers who had surrounded the car and were dealing with the incident.</p> <p><u>Record 1 chosen by NC</u></p> <p>The nominal appeared to be a victim of Domestic Violence who was sat in the back of a moving police car in a clearly distressed state. The police car pulled over as the officers dealt with the unfolding situation on the rear seat. The panel felt that the nominal was vulnerable. Despite the shouting of the officer at her to get her to comply with instructions the panel felt that it was a positive interaction. The police officers showed a degree of skill in managing the situation using the lowest level of control that they could.</p>
6.	Date and location of next panel	<p>1. Panel to monitor the % of incidents recorded on Body Worn Footage</p> <p>2. Initiate a Praise & Reward for the officer involved in Stop & Search record 3</p> <p>3. Initiate a Praise & Reward for the officer involved in Stop & Search record 2</p> <p>4. Ask for a review of Use of Force record 5</p> <p>Monday 25th September @ 6.15pm @ Stetchford Police Station</p>