

Birmingham South (BS) Stop and Search (S&S) and Use of Force (UoF) Scrutiny Panel

Location: Online via Microsoft Teams

Date and Time: Monday 27 January 2025 at 1600

In Attendance: Stassi Chilas (SC) (Interim-chair), Lisa Hill (LH), Yasmini Lowthion (YL), Natalie Cox (NC) (PCC's Office), Insp Claire Jones (CJ)

Apologies: Dr Fathi Jamil, Insp Matt Shaw (MS)

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	Welcome and introduction	SC opened the meeting and welcomed panel members.
2.	Update from OPCC	<p>NC informed the group that an information pack for panel members had been updated and would be issued very soon once it had been re-approved.</p> <p>A training evening was being planned and invitations would be circulated shortly. Panel members would be required to attend training opportunities along with refresher training every 2 years.</p> <p>NC also informed the group that she would be introducing a QR code-based system to help gather and collate feedback from members from each S&S and UoF incident scrutinised. This system was already in use and had been seen to be effective in other scrutiny panels.</p>
3.	Scrutiny of S&S Records	<p>CJ gave a summary of stop and search activity in BS for Nov & Dec 24.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 202 eSearch records - 37.1% resulted in a positive outcome, of which: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 56 arrests (27.7%) - 13 knives recovered; knife find rate 23.6% - 54.1% drugs find rate - 41.7% firearm find rate - 95.4% met the required standard - 80.2% were live records – this needed to be better. - 99.5% were recorded on body-worn video (BWV). - 6 were repeat subjects. <p><u>Powers used</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 36.6% S23 Misuse of Drugs Act - 55.9% S1 PACE - 0% S60 CJPO Act 1994 - 7.5% other powers inc Psychoactive Substances Act



	<p><u>Disproportionality</u> Asian: 2.1 (from 3 searches) Black: 3.2 (from 30 searches) Mixed: 3.4</p> <p>CJ offered 6 e-Search records and their associated BWV footage, from which the following 3 were selected by panel members for scrutiny:</p> <p>Record ID: SSBW-2B-301221343 on 8 Jan 25 Live/Retropective: ? Ethnicity/Sex: White male Powers Used: S1 PACE Outcome: Community resolution, banned from store. Details: Officers happened to be at the Morrisons supermarket when the subject was stopped for shoplifting. The subject was moved away from the view of other shoppers, handcuffed compliantly for the search, and £20 worth of stolen goods (food) were recovered.</p> <p>Officers were respectful and sympathetic and maintained a good rapport with the subject with the searching officer giving a good GOWISELY explanation.</p> <p>Panel Decision: OK, the stop and search was carried out well.</p> <p>Follow Up: None</p> <p>Record ID: SSBW-7X-302003287 on 10 Jan 25 Live/Retropective: ? Ethnicity/Sex: Asian male Powers Used: S23 Misuse of Drugs Act Outcome: Community resolution, Cranstoun referral. Details: Officers stopped a car with a drugs marker in a tasking area. The subject was handcuffed compliantly and searched which revealed a small bag of cannabis that the subject claimed was for personal use and 2 rolls of cash, which he explained was for his nephew's birthday.</p> <p>Officers were polite and professional. The searching officer described what he was doing throughout the search and gave a comprehensive GOWISELY explanation. The panel noted that the subject was given back his personal effects as soon as possible to avoid the possibility of anything being misplaced.</p> <p>Panel Decision: OK, a positive stop and search.</p> <p>Follow Up: None.</p>
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		<p>Record ID: SSBW-3Y-305887783 on 21 Jan 25</p> <p>Live/Retropective: Live</p> <p>Ethnicity/Sex: White male</p> <p>Powers Used: S1 PACE</p> <p>Outcome: Arrest.</p> <p>Details: Officers stopped the male who was believed to be trying to steal a motorbike. On being searched, the subject admitted to having a knuckleduster and was immediately arrested and handcuffed. There were at least 4 officers present and the subject was compliant throughout the search.</p> <p>Panel Decision: OK, but while the officer conducting the search was in overall control of the situation, the panel commented that he could have been more assertive as he allowed the subject to interject a number of times.</p> <p>Follow Up: None</p>																		
4.	Scrutiny of UoF Records	<p>ON MS's behalf, CJ gave a brief overview of recent UoF figures and BWV compliance for the WMP Force overall and Birmingham South (BS) for the period 1 Nov 24 – 31 Dec 24, summarised as follows:</p> <table> <tr> <td></td><td><u>BS</u></td><td><u>WMP</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>UofF Forms</td><td>719</td><td>[]</td></tr> <tr> <td>BWV Compliant</td><td>97.9%</td><td>92.9%</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Disproportionality.</u></p> <table> <tr> <td></td><td><u>BS</u></td><td><u>WMP</u></td></tr> <tr> <td>Asian</td><td>0.4</td><td>0.8</td></tr> <tr> <td>Black</td><td>1.5</td><td>2.1</td></tr> </table> <p><u>Taser Tactics for BS.</u> Total 23 (7 drawn, 5 aimed, 10 red dot, 1 fired)</p> <p>No significant learning points.</p> <p>CJ offered BWV footage from 6 incidents involving UoF, from which the following 2 were selected by individual panel members for scrutiny:</p> <p><u>UoF Incident #5. Log N/A on 8 Dec 24.</u></p> <p>Officers were called to an incident involving a black adult female suffering a mental health episode, walking in and out of traffic opposite Bournville Lane Police Station.</p> <p>At least 5 officers visible in the BWV footage spent some time trying to coax the subject off the central reservation of</p>		<u>BS</u>	<u>WMP</u>	UofF Forms	719	[]	BWV Compliant	97.9%	92.9%		<u>BS</u>	<u>WMP</u>	Asian	0.4	0.8	Black	1.5	2.1
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		<p>the dual carriageway. The officers were patient and empathetic but the number of officers (all male) may have been intimidating and the subject may have felt cornered. Eventually, she was handcuffed and detained under S136 of the Mental Health Act. An ambulance was called but was not immediately available so the subject was placed in the back of a police van, which itself may have added to the subject's anxiety, and taken to hospital.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny panel decision:</u> The panel noted that this was a difficult incident but was satisfied that the UoF had been necessary and proportionate.</p> <p><u>UoF Incident #6. Log 3138 on 16 Dec 24.</u></p> <p>Officers attended a report of domestic abuse that was thought might be a false and malicious call. Officers had been called to the same location earlier.</p> <p>The subject (black male) pleaded that simply by questioning his partner, officers would see that he had done nothing wrong. Officers continued to try to detain the subject in a firm and assertive manner, the subject resisted and the situation escalated.</p> <p>Even though the arresting officer was bigger than the subject, he struggled to apply handcuffs to the rear. The subject was well built and it is thought that one pair of handcuffs may not have been long enough and that a second pair should have been used.</p> <p>After several warnings – and some inappropriate, aggressive comments from one officer – Pava spray was used, which also affected the arresting officer.</p> <p><u>Scrutiny panel decision:</u> The panel was not satisfied that the UoF had been entirely necessary and proportionate in that the situation should have been handled better and resulted in an almost uncontrolled UoF.</p> <p>CJ would provide feedback to the 2 officers concerned.</p>
7.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	None
8.	Any notes, questions, requests for the next Bi annual Stop and Search commission	None raised
9.	Date and location of next panel meetings	Monday 19 May 2025 Monday 7 July 2025 online unless advised otherwise