



Stop and Search, Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Location: BIRMINGHAM WEST

Date and Time: 15/05/2025

In Attendance: PAUL, DESTA, CLAIRE, NAT.C, MATT, DEBORAH, SAJID, PAULETTE, GEORGIE, SEAN

Apologises: N/A

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	Welcome and introduction	NONE
2.	Update on stop and search data from CLAIRE JONES	<p>First meeting with new layout/stats. Really helpful and useful information. A few challenges around the term 'mixed race' and what it encompasses.</p> <p>Disproportionality rates have come down dramatically and positive outcomes are up which is positive.</p> <p>Really useful seeing juvenile information separately and that's something we might need to discuss further at a later panel.</p>
3.	Section 60	NONE
4.	Dip sample of stop and search	<p>SSBW-FP-333251619 (this was brought to the panel by the co-chair who witnessed this incident in the city centre, young people suspected to have a gun was actually a water pistol). Search has been conducted well - calm voice, clear with instructions and explained as the process went along. Had regard for their dignity/privacy (by saying he didn't want to shout about why he was stopping them). Built rapport well. Search overall was conducted well. It did take the officer whose camera we were viewing some time to state who he was etc in terms of GOWISELY. Positive that the items were returned to the young man's person once the search had concluded. The search of the outer joggers without stating that is what was happening could have been communicated - wearing two pairs of bottoms act like outer and underwear so could be perceived as quite intimate. Positive that the officer communicated he was searching the inside leg beforehand. Officer did not antagonise the situation during the process after the initial "telling off" (as I see it).</p> <p>SSBW-7L-339507171 I felt it took a long time before it was properly explained why he was being talked to and then detained (I was super unclear what was going on for a while), once explained I could understand the</p>



		<p>rationale behind the search and the handcuffs. I think the officer did a good job of keeping the situation calm and not escalating which I think it easily could have, but I think everything just took longer than it needed to maybe?</p> <p>I have many thoughts going on that I am struggling to word. The boys detained are being very polite. Mainly what I am getting from them are that they are members of a community not being heard and feeling picked on.</p> <p>I don't like how he spoke to the woman who was there essentially as a witness ("Two pennies worth")</p> <p>He is trying to keep the situation calm, and he is explaining what is going on but the way he is saying things can be interpreted as condescending.</p> <p>I thought the officer is being calm and polite, but he had handcuffed the two boys, and stated the reason for his search after this, and the "GOWISELY" explanation was very late.</p> <p>I don't like how he spoke to the woman there, as she hasn't been disruptive to stop them searching. Just asking questions and advocating for the lads.</p> <p>Officer received positive feedback from the young person which was nice to see/hear.</p>
5.	Dip sample of Use of Force records	<p><u>VIDEO NUMBERED 1</u></p> <p>Confusing because there was no conversation and straight into aggression. The communication was very poor and no explanation was given as to why the police wanted to speak to the subject.</p> <p>Officers also did not identify themselves. Was there any explanation as to why he was having force used on him? I get that they need to take control of the situation, but the man was making very concerning noises and nobody checked he was okay.</p> <p>It went from the officers turning into the car park/through the gate to UOF with very little clear communication - if any.</p> <p>I'm glad Matt gave us some context because there's literally no communication going on between anyone.</p>



It went from the officers turning at the gate, approaching the man, to "get your hands out now!"

No explanation given as to where he was being taken or why they were putting him in a van. How could anyone understand those instructions being shouted like that?! The officer went straight up to him and didn't engage in any conversation before trying to take his hands out of his pockets. Someone spoke but its not clear who. Officers went full on straight to confrontation, hands on, with no clear communication to the man.

The escalation was ridiculous! It sounds like there were several alternative strategies to have taken control based on Matt's explanation and it is very disappointing that none of them were thought about or used. No thought for theirs's or others wider safety. Being in such an open space required a considered controlling approach.

Video Numbered 3.

I think the officers are doing a good job at maintaining a calm tone when he is being aggressive with them (but there were a couple of moments when both officers were talking at the same time which was a bit confusing - but only at moments).

They are handling quite a frustrating situation quite well. I did think the same when he asked a question and they both started to answer. The officers are remaining very calm considering how the person is.

The calm tone at the initial stages of this interaction. One officer speaking at a time and trying to engage the man. Great by both officers. This became less effective when the man became more irate and both officers started speaking over each other.

Also a little concerning (and maybe Matt can shed some light on this) when they had one handcuff on and then they stopped and engaged in talking over each other whilst the man was becoming more and more irate once he learned what he was being arrested for. Question for Matt: is this accepted practice? It felt like both officers were putting themselves at risk and should have handcuffed him fully rather than partially.

Claire Jones gave some insight around being a female officer dealing with these kinds of situations where you could potentially be overpowered.



		The officers here should be commended as the situation could of escalated quite badly and they knew to request back up rather than allowing it to escalate.
6.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	NONE
6.	Any notes, questions, requests for the next Bi annual Stop and Search, Use of Force Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 100% BWV compliance from UOF stats was great to see and should be highlighted.• The disproportionality rate of Black people having force used on them is high particularly within the juvenile figures and should be monitored.
7.	Date and location of next panel	10.7.25 TEAMS ONLINE 18.9.25 TEAMS ONLINE 13.11.25 IN PERSON