

## Dudley Stop and Search Scrutiny panel

**Location:** Brierley Hill Police Station.

**Date and Time:** 13/02/2025

### In Attendance:

Inspector Sarah Smythe (SS)  
Sheze Malik OPCC (SM)  
Natalie Cox (NC) FEUPP Policy Lead  
Danny Evans (DE)  
Julie Wilkinson (Chair)  
Leon Fletcher (LF)

### Apologises:

Lewis Wastell (LW)  
  
Marianne Bayliss  
(MB)

S	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	<p>Welcome and introduction done by JW and asked panel if there were any matters they would like to raise in regards to the previous meeting/ minutes or anything else. A warm welcome to NC and she introduced herself and out lined her job role to the panel.</p> <p>Insp SS shared with the panel updated figures from 17/11/24 to 17/01/25 and information regarding her teams pro active work in relation to the use of force.</p> <p>This meeting was set to be face to face – all members attended the station .</p>	<p>No matters to raise and happy with last session minutes. NC outlined data is not enough and we must be stronger at getting feedback back to the force.</p> <p>SS confirmed our high impact areas are Dudley town centre and in and around Merry Hill shopping centre . Peak day Friday at 1.00 a.m. SS explained the force has a dedicated response team. Crime is influenced by the night time economy.</p>
2.	<p>UPDATE on stop and search data from 17/11 – 17/01 by Insp Sarah Smythe SS shared 10 to 17 years data which reflected 100% excellent. Figures around disproportionately have been checked. NC confirmed all raw data is correct.</p>	<p>Discussed and updated on performance data including outcome rates, disproportionality data and total number of searches.</p> <p>Insp SS explained and gave brief around the data slides to the panel also highlighted around Impact areas. Gender data being fairly consistent. 20 females only searched.</p>



		<p>A discussion was held around compliance handcuffing.</p> <p>JW asked Q around use of cuffs and when do officers go into first aid mode. Insp SS explained around the focus of safe guarding. Dynamic risk assessments are completed every day. The panel were in agreement with this action.</p> <p>NC shared with the panel at gold and silver meetings there will be more detail going forward around data.</p> <p>The panel held a discussion regarding the 6.4 % black search ratio.</p> <p>NC explained all panels pull data the same way and internal governance have checked this.</p> <p>Both Dudley and Solihull have been impacted now the data is correct.</p> <p>This being a priority to be able to address.</p>
3.	<p>Random selection of stop and search records</p> <p>Feedback from the panel was relayed to Insp SS .</p>          <p>SS discussed the forces five step appeal with the panel.</p>	<p>Stop and Search initially selected BWV footages by JW.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) This was in relation to a pace 1 stop articles for use :theft /burglary.IC3 make using counterfeit currency. The offender made off ,this was a intelligence led stop.The offender was cuffed. The QR code was discussed.The panel agreed the search was justified and completed in a confident assertive manner.</li> <li>2) Insp SS explained this was a taser arrest . The location of the incident was Russells Hall hospital the offender had threatening behaviour towards staff and a knife. handcuffs were applied.The offender was searched for weapons and arrested.A section 32 a slower search of the suspect was conducted. LF ,DE and JW held a discussion regarding the search all agreed this was justified.</li> <li>3) A offender was stopped in a high impact crime area there was a smell of cannabis. Offender was searched and was carrying cannabis. scales and a tub.</li> </ol>



	<p>SS shared details regarding UOF and a Taser incident .</p>	<p>The offenders car was searched and he was emotional and the officer held a conversation offering guidance and support as the offender was going through a difficult time.</p> <p>The officer was non judgmental and supportive.</p> <p>It was agreed the a community resolution would be advised for the offender.</p> <p>The panel held a discussion and agreed this was a fair and consistent search.</p> <p>4) This was a misuse of drugs act incident. Where a vehicle was seen in a high impact area .The vehicle was stopped and searched. The driver was matching a description. The suspect was cuffed and a small amount of cocaine was seized.</p> <p>Insp SS explained to the panel in regard to U.O.F ratios and shared with the panel the data.</p> <p>The panel held a discussion around the % increase regarding ethnic UOF ratios.</p> <p>JW also confirmed the importance of prioritising taser incidents.</p>
4.	UPDATE on Use of Force data from 17/11/24 – 17/01/25 by Insp Sarah Smythe	Snapshot of UOF Force data and DY. Taser Tactics explained and stated that red dot is main tactic used – compliance without Force being used



5	Random selection of Use of Force records	<p>UOF incident: This was a call for service from a mother regarding her son. He was aggressive and threatening. The officers arrived at a residential property and struggled with the offender who became evasive. The officers called for additional support. The offender was struggling and leg restraints were involved. The panel agreed the UOF was fair and justified and the communication of the officers was good. INSP SS talked through the outcome.</p>
6.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	Also the importance of positive and quicker feedback to the officers.
7.	AOB /Notes	SS agreed with JW the importance of encouraging new members to the panel.
8.	Date and location of next panel	<p>JW advised dates TBC. Brierley Hill Police Station /St James . Agreed Thursday 4:00pm starts are suitable.</p>