



west midlands
police and crime
commissioner

Wolverhampton Stop and Search Scrutiny panel

Location: Wolverhampton Police Station

Date and Time: Tuesday 18th March 2025 @ 18:30pm

In Attendance:

WMP Force Rep

Insp Steve Edwards (SE)

Adam Davenport (AD) (Wolverhampton Response Supervisor)

OPCC Rep

Sheze Malik (SM)

Panel Members

Chester Morrison (CM)

Leannah Dacres (LD)

Ruth South (RS)

Esther Douglas (ES)

Neil Hubbins (NH)

Natalia Lipiec (NL)

Apologies:

| | Item Discussed | Actions |
|----|---|---|
| 1. | Welcome and introduction done by Chair CM | Introduction from everyone and apologies disclosed. |
| 2. | Feedback from last panel from SE | - |

| | | |
|----|----------------|--|
| 3. | Review of Data | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Positive outcome for WV very low at 17.8%, SE to find out why in the following meeting. • Section 60s carried out in this time due to disorder involving knives and firearms in Whitmore Reans. • SE mentioned opinion that he would love to have more knives found. The discussion around this view highlighted that it was controversial - does an increase in recovered knives mean less knives off the streets or a rise in knife crime? • NL asked if knife amnesties are still used - SE stated that they're not as common as they were previously; this is the same case for firearm amnesties. • RS asked if the search for knives is based on other factors as well as intelligence, such as stereotypes. SE and AD denied, stating that in previous times, wearing certain gang colours would have been but not anymore. • The panel asked if there was any particular reason as to why there was a shift in ethnicity ratio - none identified. • The panel asked if there's a breakdown of grounds for search for each ethnicity - SE will check for the next meeting. • The panel commends the data being 100% for 'meet the requirements' and 'body worn videos for 10-17 year olds. • Black 10-17 year olds 2.8 times more likely to be searched, decreased since last meeting (3.5 times). • The panel asked if there were any reasons why Asian people are less likely to be stopped and searched this time, but none were found. • A clearer insight into tasers was given by AD. BWV (if not already turned on) is automatically activated if the taser is turned on (red dot or discharged). The panel asked why the BWV cannot be activated sooner such as when it's drawn. No specific reason was identified but it was mentioned that having the BWV |
|----|----------------|--|

| | |
|--|--|
| | <p>activated when drawn could drain its battery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The panel pointed out that the public can only get access to the BWV footage of their S&S if the case is going to court; most people are not aware of this. |
|--|--|

| | | |
|----|--|---|
| 4. | <p>Stop and Search Body Worn Video review – randomly selected by Chair PH</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • S&S 1st video - Section 1 PACE, weapon and handcuffs used. Taser also used. The panel asked if age comes into consideration when using a taser. AD stated that it depends on the situation and safety of themselves, the suspect and the public. The panel also asked if the police can enter the property without knocking. AD stated that this also depends on the situation. • S&S 2nd video - Section 1 PACE, stolen items. Handcuffs were used and the vehicle was also searched. The panel asked why the camera was obstructed for part of the video. AD stated that the camera appeared to be covered with the coat that the officer was wearing; the camera can only attach to the vest. The panel highlighted that there were multiple officers present for the search and questioned if one of them were allocated to lead the search. AD stated that there was a PCSO amongst the officers and there was someone directing people to carry out the search. The panel also pointed out that the corresponding form was retrospective and had questioned as to why this might have been the case. |
| 5. | <p>Use of Force Body Worn Video review – randomly selected by Chair PH</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uof 1st Video - Use of a taser (discharged), report of a fight taking place on a street. Overall justified UoF due to the officer being alone and the suspect attempting to escape. However, the panel noticed that the write up had details that were not visible from viewing the BWV. For example, the officer states that the suspect spat on them and broke the door off its hinges, but this could not be seen from the footage that was shown. • Uof 2nd Video - Section 1 Pace, knife. Chase and handcuffing which developed into a S&S. Suspect appeared to be running away from police but was in fact running away from stranger as they were being chased. Suspect was visibly scared whilst explaining the situation. Police then moved their focus on to the stranger that was chasing the |

| | | |
|----|---------------------------------|--|
| | | suspect. Overall, reasonable UoF as suspect was already running which looked suspicious from the outside looking in. |
| 6. | AOB | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Still in need of a Vice Chair. • Could possibly look towards having passes/badges handed to scrutiny members at reception. This would avoid any confusion as to why members have arrived to the station. |
| 7. | Actions for next meeting | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Looking into why the WV positive outcome rate is so low at 17.8%. 2. Looking into the factors behind the disproportionality figures for Black and Asian. 3. A breakdown of grounds for search by ethnicity. 4. Possibly an example of a S&S from each ethnicity (with the same grounds) so the panel can compare/contrast. |
| 8. | Date and location of next panel | The next panel will be on Tuesday 22 nd May 2025 @18:30. Bilston Street Police Station |