



Stop and Search, Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Location: Online

Date and Time: 17 Dec 2025

In Attendance:

Panel members:

Chair: Peace (P)
Vice Chair: Balbir Seimar (BS)
Michael Unitt (MU)
Tony Rowley (TR)

OPCC Representatives:

Shehzadi Malik (SM)

WMP Representatives:

Mohammed Khalid (MK)

Apologies:

Karen Hansford. Linda Clark.

	Item Discussed	Actions
1.	Welcome and introduction	<p>Attendees were welcomed to the meeting.</p> <p>P outlined agenda.</p> <p>Panel members, PCC and WMP representatives introduced themselves.</p> <p>Matters arising from previous minutes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• <i>Record discrepancy. WMP rep is chasing this up and hopes to update at next meeting.</i> <p>The record that is outstanding has not been found – P put it to the panel that we should drop this matter due to the difficulty finding the record and length of time it has been on the agenda. BS raised a concern about this and although in agreement that the matter should be dropped, she requested that this matter be minuted as there should not be a repeat.</p>
2.	Update on stop and search data from Mohammed Khalid	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• MK asked if there are any questions prior to presenting the data.• P shared that he hasn't been able to scrutinise the data in advance due to other commitments.



In relation to the data presentation:

- MK presented the data.
- SM asked the panel to consider that the census is really a guideline.
- MU queried the reduction in E Searches and MK confirmed that less searches had taken place for various reasons.
- Panel noted less searches, but more knives recovered than in previous data.
- MK pointed to the historical stop and search data that centres around the town centre hot spot.
- BS queried if the increased Stop and Search in the town centre is related to the food kitchens. MK felt that this wasn't the case and stop and search was more to do with drugs use or weapons being carried.
- MK explained the purpose and process relating to the Guardian Task Force.
- SM queried the search related to the Criminal Justices Act as this seems to normally relate to searches on school premises.
- MK confirmed following a query by P that knife arches searches are included in the data.
- Panel noted that the rise in black search ratio can't be explained specifically at this point. In relation to this:
 - MK explained that staff are given unconscious bias training – MK felt that searches completed are legitimate searches.
 - SM added that disproportionality is a force issue and not confined to Walsall alone.
 - BS queried if the unconscious bias training is annually. MK agreed to look into that and provide feedback.
 - SM informed us that the force has a trigger review and the force are looking at ways to improve. SM and



		<p>MK discussed how data is being shared, reviewed and discussed how this action will be taken to the next commission.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• SM pointed out that the current data for 10-17 year olds that the panel is in receipt of is not for Walsall alone but for the whole of the West Midlands. Data analysts are working to correct this.• TR asked for some clarification regarding the data and searches on white members of the community. MK provided clarification.
3.	Section 60	No Section 60s issued in this reporting period.
4.	Dip sample of stop and search	<p>E Record 1 No issues</p> <p>BWV 1 BS queried if an ambulance should have been called. MK shared that the Police taking him to the hospital is a timelier approach.</p> <p>TR queried the acting suspiciously element of the record as the panel didn't get to see that. MK – Will query why this occurred.</p> <p>BS suggested that as soon as acting suspiciously is noted – BWV should be turned on.</p> <p>E Record 2 No issues raised by panel aside from lack of nominal records. MK clarified by informing panel that as subject wasn't arrested no details were provided and this is not a prevailing issue.</p> <p>TR queried the acting suspiciously element of the E Record as the video shows male was sat on a wall not doing anything when approached.</p> <p>BS also queried why the male approached.</p> <p>P also queried this and observed that intelligence was being re-gathered while the detention was underway.</p> <p>SM offered clarification to the panel regarding its role in relation to the stop and search – reminding the panel to focus on quality and conduct during the search itself.</p>



		<p>BWV 2</p> <p>Panel also queried if situation could have been handled in a way that may have led to police-community relationship being enhanced.</p> <p>Although generally satisfied with police conduct, some panel members would have preferred to see a more positive outcome reached as a by-product of the interaction.</p>
5.	Dip sample of Use of Force records	<p>BMV 1</p> <p>TR queried the video quality as there appeared to be a glitch. MK to review.</p> <p>Majority of panel members queried whether the use of force was over-zealous given that the use of force observed affected a woman who claimed to be pregnant. However, panel also appreciated that the intelligence suggested that there may be arms in the vehicle.</p> <p>BMV 2</p> <p>Panel watched the video and felt that the use of force was proportionate and appropriate, and that appropriate warning had been provided.</p>
6.	Action noted from discussions for update at next panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• P to send link to Walsall Stop and Search web page on PCC website to TR and MU.• P to share minutes of meeting to panel when available.• MK to confirm if search conducted under Criminal Justice Act related to search on school premises.• MK to feedback panel observations to relevant officers.
6.	Any notes, questions, requests for the next Bi annual Stop and Search, Use of Force Commission	None
7.	Date and location of next panel	18th February 2026