



Independent Stop & Search & Use of Force (Scrutiny) Panel

Terms of reference

MEMBERSHIP

The Scrutiny Panel shall be chaired by an independent person appointed by the Office of the Police & Crime (OPCC) Commissioner; the OPCC is independent of Lancashire Constabulary and shall remain neutral to ensure the facilitation of independent scrutiny. The Force representative will ensure the members receive unfettered access to information necessary for full and thorough independent scrutiny.

Membership shall include panel members, a note taker from the OPCC and the Lancashire Constabulary leads on stop & search and use of force. Other guests to be invited as and when required by the group. All membership and terms of reference to be reviewed every twelve months.

PURPOSE

- To ensure that stop and search and use of force powers used by Lancashire Officers are appropriate, lawful and legitimate; recognising that these powers are useful in preventing and detecting crime
- To improve the trust and confidence of the community in the way police conduct stop/searches and the use of force by being sensitive to the impact of these powers on individuals and in the eyes of the public
- To reduce potential disproportionality between searches and use of force within different communities in Lancashire

ROLE OF THE STOP & SEARCH AND USE OF FORCE SCRUTINY PANEL

- To effectively scrutinise the performance of Lancashire Constabulary in relation to stop and search and Use of Force on our communities
- Examine stop and search and Use of Force forms to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance to Policing powers. The scrutiny group shall select the criteria of the forms and data to be examined i.e. all youth/BME related stop/searches
- Analyse demographic data trends relating to stop/searches and use of force and ongoing annual data analysis
- Where practicable and necessary, review body worn footage of stop/searches and the use of force carried out
- Provide the opportunity to discuss issues arising as a result of complaints and scrutinise finalised complaints that relate to either stop and search, or use of force



- Contribute to Lancashire Constabulary stop & search and use of force policy and procedures
- Provide the opportunity to raise issues regarding Diversity and Equality that are broadly associated with stop and search and use of force but may need escalating via the OPCC Accountability Board and Force Diversity & Inclusion Board.
- To act as a critical friend to the Force and provide advice and guidance to improve its performance around stop and search and use of force

SAMPLE SELECTION

An agreed number of cases that reflect the agreed areas of scrutiny shall be provided at meeting. Where available supporting information such as body worn video will be made available to panel members.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

The panel will meet via Teams every three months. The Constabulary lead will facilitate the viewing of the selected forms and BWV via the team's network.

RIDE ALONG SCHEME

Each divisional single point of contact will be provided with details of panel members in their respective division. On the initiation of any Section 60 or Dispersal Power Authorisation a panel member will be contacted and provided with the opportunity to attend the local Police station and will be a critical friend in relation to the completion of the Community Impact Assessment and allowed to conduct a ride along with an officer tasked within the area of the authority.

CONFIDENTIALITY

All members have been subject to vetting and agree confidentiality terms. All papers for scrutiny to be provided by electronic means only with paper copies being available if the meeting is held in person. This paperwork will be collected at the end of the meeting to reduce loss of secure information. Members are advised to not, screenshot, print or share scrutiny papers.



TRANSPARENCY

Relevant information relating to independent scrutiny of stop and search and use of force processes shall be made available via OPCC and Lancashire Constabulary public websites and social media. Each meeting will be recorded on teams to allow scrutiny if required.