

Stop & Search, Use of Force and Continuous Improvement Panel – External



Tuesday, 11th January 2023 - 6.00pm

Minutes

ATTENDEES

Rob Gomery (RG) – Chair for this meeting

IN ATTENDANCE

Ian Dickinson (ID)

Detective Inspector Steven Montgomery (SM)

Alan Price (AP)

Jay Nicholas (JN)

Amanda Wooldridge (AW)

APOLOGIES

Chris Cottam (Chair)

Colin Carter

Chief Inspector Mark Douglas

Superintendent Chris Hardy

Nichola Grimshaw

Hinnaa Iqbal

Dean Roscoe

Clinton Smith

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

The Chair reminded members of the panel to consider whether they may have to disclose to the meeting knowing any individuals or officers in relation to any matters under consideration on the Agenda. If it became apparent, they knew any persons or properties during the discussions, they should make the Chair aware and step out of the meeting for that item.

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the last meeting has been approved and were accepted as a correct record.

MATTERS ARISING

Panel Members were reminded to advise the Committee administrator if they were interested in taking part in the Ride-Along Scheme.

REVIEW OF STOP SEARCH AND ASSOCIATED BWV

The Panel considered **3 Stop and Search Cases** chosen by an algorithm. In each case, the panel were shown an incident log, stop and search form(s) and BWV where available.

The panel reviewed **Stop and Search Incident 1** with the following outcomes:

- **What went well**
 - The Officers told the suspects who they were
 - The grounds and object were clear.
 - Stop & Search forms in place
 - The officers were calm and spoke to the individuals with respect.
- **What did not go well**
 - The officer did not communicate to the individual the legal powers being used.
 - The search of the individual was not thorough in that a waistband search was done without the individual's coat being opened fully and therefore was not an effective search.
- **Additional information**
 - There was mention on the log that a weapon had been seen, although there was nothing found.
 - The panel members felt overall this was a well-executed stop and search process.

The panel reviewed **S&S Incident 2** with the following outcomes:

- **What went well**
 - Stop & Search forms in place.
 - Appropriate legislation used.
 - The person being search was a juvenile and the officer regularly mentioned he would be happy for a parent to be present.
- **What did not go well**
 - The powers were not clear
- **Additional information**
 - No drugs found although the juvenile did have other paraphernalia.
 - The second officer could have assisted but the Panel felt to do so may have escalated the matter and the second officer was keeping other members of the public engaged.
 - The Panel felt overall this S&S was appropriate.

The panel reviewed **S&S Incident 3** with the following outcomes:

- **What went well**
 - The incident was handled calmly and sensitively by the officer.
 - The process was appropriate.
- **What did not go well**
 - The officer did not communicate to the individual the legal powers being used until after the search.
 - Two of the three stop and search forms said an object had been found but the BWV discounts this.
 - GOWISELY had not been carried out and should have been used.

- **Additional information**

SECTION 60 AUTHORITIES SINCE THE LAST MEETING

The Panel were reminded that Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 allows a senior police officer to authorise constables to stop and search persons in a specific area, either where a serious public order problem is likely to arise or has taken place, or for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments.

The Panel were informed that no Section 60 Notice had been issued in the last 3 months.

UPDATE ON RIDE-A-LONG

Members had been asked to indicate if they were interested in this Scheme. They had also been offered to attend training at the end of January although it was accepted that it was midweek during the day and most Panel Members found this difficult to attend. It was noted that an additional training session would be required for new members on the Panel.

Mr Dickinson advised that work was ongoing to invite students from the local universities to work with the Panel to ensure it has a diverse membership.

REVIEW OF USE OF FORCE

The Panel considered 3 Use of Force Cases chosen by an algorithm. In each case, the panel were shown an incident log, Use of Force form(s) and BWV where available.

The panel reviewed **UoF Incident 1** with the following outcomes:

- **What went well**
 - The officers handled a difficult situation well
 - They maintained control throughout.
 - Powers communicated to individual
 - Although two officers attended this incident, one officer maintained communication throughout the incident and it was felt this helped keep the situation under control.
 - The use of the double handcuff was good practice in the circumstances and was appropriate.
- **What did not go well**
- **Additional information**

The panel reviewed **UoF Incident 2** with the following outcomes:

- **What went well**
 - Use of Force was appropriate. Lawful and justified actions by the police officers.
- **What did not go well**
- **Additional information**

- The person had, earlier the same day, been approached by the Police and asked to leave the property.
- The Panel felt this was a straightforward matter and action had been taken to ensure safety of the homeowner and so no further distress would be caused.

The panel reviewed **UoF Incident 3** with the following outcomes:

- **What went well**
 - The officers were calm and sensitive and clearly tried to persuade the person to leave the area before handcuffs were required.
 - Use of Force was appropriate. Lawful and justified actions by the police officers.

- **What did not go well**

- **Additional information**
 - The Panel raised a query why there was no BWV footage until the person was being detained in the police van. Inspector Montgomery advised these officers were on patrol as part of Operation Safeguard, speaking generally to members of the public outside public houses etc and had turned the BWV once the decision had been taken to arrest the person.
 - The whole incident was low risk.
 - The Officers offered to de-arrest the individual if the offer of a lift home from a friend was accepted.

COMPLAINTS DATA AND CONCLUSION

The Panel received a presentation in relation to complaints.

The panel were advised how members of the public could make a complaint to Lancashire Constabulary and the mechanisms by which a complaint would be resolved and reviewed.

It was noted that during the last 3 months 401 complaints had been received. Of those, 5 were related to Stop & Searches (1%) and 45 (11%) related to Use of Force. Eleven were dealt with by service recovery and 10 were recorded as formal complaints by the Professional Standards Department.

ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Inspector Montgomery confirmed that training would be provided for all new members of the Panel. It was agreed that all Panel Members should be encouraged to attend.

Mrs Angela Harrison
Chief Executive