



Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police HQ
London Road
Devizes
Wiltshire
SN10 2DN
Tel 101 ext 62005
www.wiltshire.police.uk
disclosure@wiltshire.police.uk

Date: 12th May 2021

Your Ref: FOI

Our Ref: FOI 2021/228

Reply contact name is: Kay Moore

Dear,

I write in connection with your request for information dated 14th March 2021 and 7th May 2021 concerning Wiltshire Police's Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel.

I am required by the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to handle all requests in a manner that is blind as to the identity and motives of the requestor. Any information released as a response to a request is regarded as being published and therefore in the public domain without caveat.

Your request for information has now been considered and after having consulted the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion and Contact Management departments - I am now able to respond as follows.

You wrote (request dated 14/03/21):

- 1.) Does your police force, as of the current date, have an Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel?
 - a.) If yes: How often do they meet?
 - i.) What date (DD/MM/YYYY) was the panel first operational?
 - ii.) How many of the people currently on the panel are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background? (could you also tell me the total number of people on the panel as of the current date).
 - b.) If your force does have such a panel, are panel members made to review a sample of stop and search records and related body-worn video footage at meetings? This can be a simple Yes or No answer.
 - c.) If your force does have such a panel, what sort of mandatory training do panel members receive in order to perform their role?
 - d.) If your force does not currently have an operational Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, have official plans been drawn up that would see the implementation of one in the future? (If so, please specify when)



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE

- 2.) Does your force provide body-worn video cameras to your officers? If so, to which ones, and is its use mandatory for specific activities (for example, but not limited to: during stop and searches- please specify)?
- a.) If they are indeed provided to officers, between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021, how often did your police force review body-worn video footage as part of your internal monitoring and external scrutiny of stop and search and use of force?

Additional request (dated 07/05/21):

Would you be so kind to tell me whether or not the "training on the application and legal use of stop search" is mandatory for all panel members? *(in relation to question 1c.)*

How many of the identified (6) BAME panel members are black? *(in relation to question 1a.)*

Our response (in relation to the request dated 14/03/21):

- 1.) Does your police force, as of the current date, have an Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel?

Yes.

- a.) If yes: How often do they meet? ***Currently meetings are held quarterly.***

i.) What date (DD/MM/YYYY) was the panel first operational?

The panel has been operating since approximately 2015. Due to a recent changeover in our systems, it has made it more difficult to ascertain the exact date.

ii.) How many of the people currently on the panel are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background? (could you also tell me the total number of people on the panel as of the current date).

Of the 26 members on the panel, 6 are from BAME backgrounds.

b.) If your force does have such a panel, are panel members made to review a sample of stop and search records and related body-worn video footage at meetings? This can be a simple Yes or No answer.

Yes, members review stop searches grounds and will be reviewing body worn video (BWV) footage once meetings can be conducted in person again. Currently, this is managed online and BWV footage is not shown.

c.) If your force does have such a panel, what sort of mandatory training do panel members receive in order to perform their role?

We provide training on the application and legal use of stop search which is delivered by our Learning & Development Department. We also encourage panel members to observe officer safety training and practical training sessions delivered to officers. We also get area specialists to attend meetings and provide other training inputs e.g. County Lines.

d.) If your force does not currently have an operational Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, have official plans been drawn up that would see the implementation of one in the future? (If so, please specify when)

N/A.

- 2.) Does your force provide body-worn video cameras to your officers? If so, to which ones, and is its use mandatory for specific activities (for example, but not limited to: during stop and searches- please specify)?

Yes – provided to front line officers. Policies advise where the BWV should be used, advised that they should be used when engaged in stop and search.

- b.) If they are indeed provided to officers, between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021, how often did your police force review body-worn video footage as part of your internal monitoring and external scrutiny of stop and search and use of force?

Nil – external scrutiny panel. From an internal perspective, our internal scrutiny panel have reviewed Body Worn footage to support their understanding of how Stop and Search is used in force. Supervisors are actively encouraged to review Body Worn footage to understand how their staff use Stop and Search.

We have plans to share Body Worn footage with our external panel. Unfortunately, due to COVID regulations this has not been possible as meetings have been virtual.

Additional response (in relation to the request dated 07/05/21):

Would you be so kind to tell me whether or not the "training on the application and legal use of stop search" is mandatory for all panel members? (in relation to question 1c.)

The training is not mandatory – we cannot force volunteers into undertaking training.

How many of the identified (6) BAME panel members are black? (in relation to question 1a.)

Of our panel members 2 are black.

I am satisfied that all the relevant information has been passed to me and been considered in the light of your request within the time constraints applicable under the legislation.

Wiltshire Police would like to thank you for the interest that you have shown in the Force.

Yours sincerely,

Kay Moore
Force Disclosure Decision Maker

Wiltshire Police offers a re-examination of your case under its review procedure.



Force Disclosure Unit

Wiltshire Police HQ, London Road, Devizes, Wiltshire SN10 2DN
Telephone 101 ext 62005

Freedom of Information Request Appeals Procedure

1. Who Can Ask for a Review

Any person who has requested information from Wiltshire Police, which has been dealt with under the Freedom of Information Act, is entitled to complain and request an internal review, if they are dissatisfied with the response they received.

2. How to Request a Review

Requests for review of a Freedom of Information request must be made in writing to the:
Force Disclosure Unit
Wiltshire Police Headquarters,
London Road, Devizes,
Wiltshire,
SN10 2DN

Email at disclosure@wiltshire.pnn.police.uk.

The reference number, date of the request and details of why the review is being requested must be included. Requests for review should be brought to the attention of the Force Disclosure Unit within 20 working days of the Force's response to the original Fol request.

3. Review Procedure

Receipt of a request for review will be acknowledged in writing to include confirmation of the reasons for the review. The review will be conducted by another Decision Maker, who is independent from the original Decision Maker. The Force Disclosure Unit will set a target date for a response. The response will be made as soon as is practicable with the intention to complete the review within twenty working days. In more complex cases the review may take up to 40 working days.

The Independent Decision Maker will conduct a review of the handling of the request for information and of decisions taken, including decisions taken about where the public interest lies in respect of exempt information where applicable. The review enables a re-evaluation of the case, taking into account the matters raised by the complaint.

4. Conclusion of the Appeal

On completion of the review the Independent Decision Maker will reply to the complainant with the result of the review. If the complainant is still dissatisfied following the review they should

contact the Information Commissioner to make an appeal. The Information Commissioner can be contacted via the following details:

Information Commissioner's Office
Wycliffe House
Water Lane
Wilmslow
Cheshire
SK9 5AF
Tel: 01625 545 700
Fax: 01625 524 510
Email: mail@ico.gsi.gov.uk