

Police Powers Scrutiny Panel



Proud to serve and protect our communities

26 April 2022

Police Powers Scrutiny Panel meeting minutes. Meeting no. 8

Date: Tuesday 26 April 2022

Meeting location: Wiltshire Police Headquarters, Devizes

Attendees

- Sergeant Tom Ellerby – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) Officer
- Emily Adams – EDI Officer
- Inspector James Williams – Tactical Lead for Stop & Search, Hate Crime, Rural Crime and Disproportionality
- Superintendent Liz Coles – Strategic Lead for Stop & Search, Hate Crime and Disproportionality
- Tony Pickernell – Member
- Debbie Mason – Member
- Anton James – Member
- Chris Callow – Member
- Nazma Ramruttun – Member
- Liz Priscott – Member
- Ken Oxley – Member
- Kene Grobbelaar
- Andrea Fenton – Member
- Chris D’Arcy – Member

Welcome

Sgt Tom Ellerby, Emily Adams, Insp James Williams and Supt. Liz Coles introduced themselves to the panel. Sgt Ellerby cited the Terms of Reference and asked all panel members to review and sign a copy of the Confidentially Agreement.

Sgt Ellerby also explained to the panel that this panel would be slightly different to previous panels as we would be examining strip searches on juveniles. Further context will be given after Insp Williams explains the reflections from previous panels.

Reflections from Previous Scrutiny Panels.

Inspector James Williams presented Reflections from March Scrutiny Panel where Stop Search Grounds and Body Worn Video (BWV) was looked at.

The assessment criteria were explained at the previous panel meeting and members were asked to consider whether the *written grounds* provided were justified and *after* the BWV was shown, they were asked if *they deemed the grounds to be sufficient*.

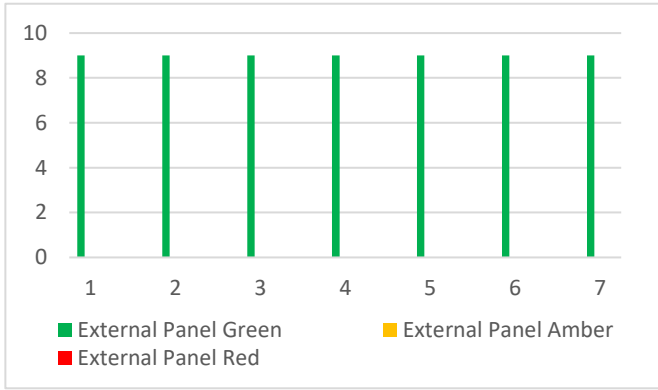
Their assessment was measured by a **Red**, **Amber**, **Green** (RAG) vote, as shown below.

Green - In the lay view of the Panel, the grounds provided were reasonable for a stop and search to be carried out.

Amber - In the lay view of the Panel, the grounds given aren't clear enough to make a decision either way OR were maybe not sufficient, but we understand why the decision was made.

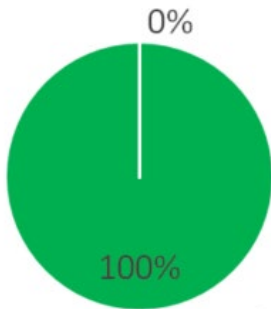
Red - In the lay view of the Panel, the grounds given were not sufficient to warrant the use of stop and search powers and further investigation is required

Written Grounds External Panel

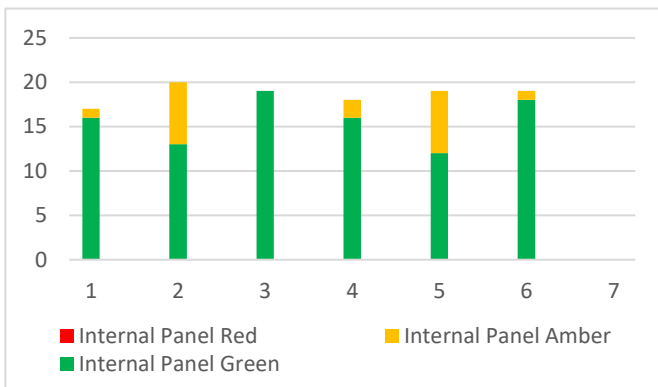


There were 9 panel members at the previous external Scrutiny meeting and all 9 voted **green** for each of the 7 occurrences based on the *written grounds*, as shown in the diagram above.

The diagram below shows that over all of the occurrences, 100% of the votes from the external panel were **green**.

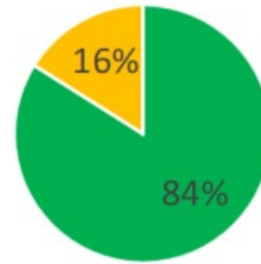


Written Grounds Internal Panel



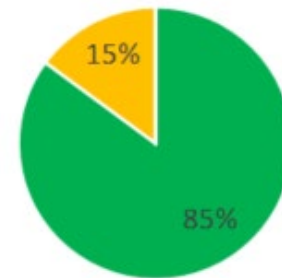
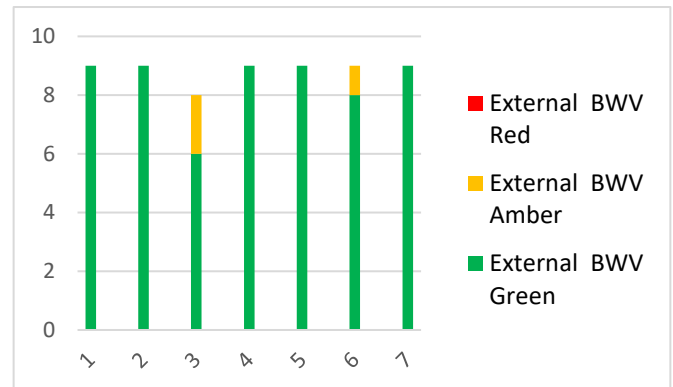
There were various numbers of votes on each of the occurrences for the internal panel and they viewed 6 out of the 7 occurrences that the external panel members viewed.

There were some amber votes on all but one of the occurrences, based on *written grounds* only.



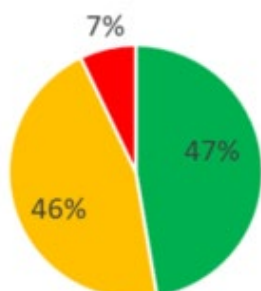
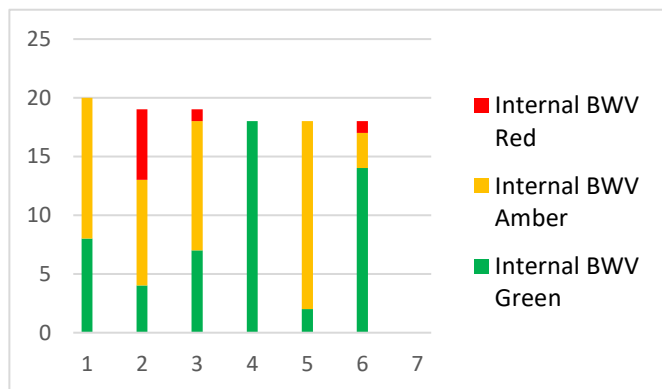
The pie chart above shows that there were 16% **amber** votes and 84% **green** votes over all votes over all 6 occurrences viewed. This shows that internally, we are harsher with our RAG voting than members of the public who attend our external scrutiny meetings.

External Body Worn Video (BWV) Review



There were 9 panel members at the external Scrutiny meeting and there were mainly **green** votes, with a few **amber**, as can be seen on both the above diagrams; there were no **red** votes.

Internal BWV Review



The diagrams above, which show the votes from the internal scrutiny panel, demonstrate again that the internal RAG voting was harsher than that from the external panel. There were some **red** votes from the internal panel, whereas there weren't with the external panel and there was also a significantly higher percentage of **amber** votes compared to the internal panel.

Key Learning from Stop Search Scrutiny

- External panel focussed on communication styles and respect
- Internal panels focused on control of the subject
- Good practice highlighted officers were giving grounds on camera and using GOWISELY
- We have improved performance

Key Learning from PAVA Scrutiny

- Verbal warnings were not being given when it was possible
- BWV not switched on early enough or only one person recorded downloading footage despite multiple officers at scene
- Aftercare is really important to our panels. When aftercare is given well, scrutiny panels give a more positive score.

Strip Search

Sgt Ellerby talked to the panel about Child Q, a 15-year-old black girl who was strip searched by police in a school in east London in December 2020.

In response to this case, Wiltshire Police undertook a review of all stop searches of a juvenile in which a strip search occurred in Wiltshire over a 24-month period February 2020 to February 2022.

Due to the nature of the searches involving children and the removal of clothing, body worn video footage of the encounters were not shown to the scrutiny panels and the grounds were redacted where necessary to ensure no personal details were shared.

- Over the previous 24 months 11 strip searches on subjects under the age of 18 occurred. This equates to 0.2% of all stop searches in the force.
- The find rate for these strip searches is 54.5% in comparison to a 26.5% find rate for all searches in previous 24 months.
- No searches on education premises were evident.
- Of the 11 searches, 7 were age 17 (63.6%)
- Of the 11 searches 3 were of black ethnicity (27.3%).
- The youngest age to be subjected to a full strip searched was 14 years old (2 searches) both of these searches were on subjects of black ethnicity and linked to the same incident

Grounds for Stop and Search

Inspector Williams explained to the panel that there must be reasonable suspicion to search an individual under stop and search legislation and the grounds should be recorded.

When considering a strip search, officers must consult with a supervisor and follow the College of Policing guidance in the authorised professional practice (APP) and Police and Criminal Evidence Act, Code C annex A.

Independent Review of Police Stop Search Records

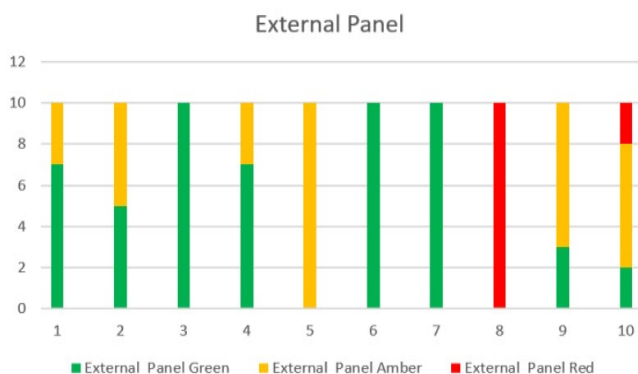
The assessment criteria were reviewed (as seen on pg1), and panel members were asked to consider whether the *written grounds* provided were justified.

We took votes before any comments were made to allow initial feelings to be recorded.

Résumé of Search Results Provided by Panel Members

Key:

Voting results are shown as the number of people who voted **Green**, **Amber** or **Red**.



Every panel member was, in general, happy with the written grounds provided on every occurrence; the exception was incident 8.

The written grounds for incident 8 were very short and did not have any detailed information contained within them.

The other incident where there were red votes was occurrence 10. Occurrence 10 and 11 had the same grounds provided for the search as it involved two youths at the same incident.

The Officers involved in the cases that were reviewed will be contacted directly with lessons learnt and positive feedback from the panel.

The occurrences that had amber votes will be reviewed by the tactical lead for Stop and Search, Superintendent Liz Coles.

Minutes from the meetings will be published externally.

Internal communication will continue to be sent out to the whole organisation and the internal internet website will be updated.

Date of Next Meeting

28 June 2022

Contact Details

If there are any questions or queries, please contact the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Department at EDI@wiltshire.police.uk