

# Police Powers Scrutiny Panel



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26 June 2022

## Police Powers Scrutiny Panel meeting minutes. Meeting no. 9.

Tuesday 28 June 2022. Meeting held at Wiltshire Police Headquarters, Devizes.

### Attendees

- Sergeant Tom Ellerby - Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (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, Rural Crime and Disproportionality
- Emily Adams – EDI Officer
- Martin Parker – Office of Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)
- Andrea Fenton – Member
- Chris D’Arcy – Member
- Mahfuja Islam – New Member
- Ali Asgon Shohel – New Member
- Debbie Mason – Member
- Liz Priscott – Member
- Chris Callow – Member
- Cllr Bazil Solomon – New Member
- Nazma Ramruttun – Member
- Anton James – Member
- Sharon Jacob – Member

### Welcome

Sgt Ellerby thanked all the members for their attendance and welcomed the new members who were joining us for the first time. He then asked all members to sign a copy of the Confidentiality Agreement and reminded the members of the importance and privacy of the information that they were about to be presented with.

Members of Wiltshire Police and the OPCC introduced themselves. All panel members then briefly introduced themselves.

Superintendent Liz Coles spoke to the panel to express her thanks for all of the work that they do and the time they volunteer to Wiltshire Police for attending the panels.

Sgt Ellerby explained that the panel would be reviewing the use of baton during the meeting and they would also be provided with an update from the last Police Scrutiny Panel meeting.

### Update from the Previous Meeting

Insp. James Williams led a review of the outcomes from the previous Police Powers Scrutiny Panel. On 26 April 2022 the panel were asked to scrutinise Strip Searches of Juveniles. The external panel reviewed 10 incidents which happened over the last 2 years. The internal panel reviewed the same incidents the next day.

At both meetings the *written grounds* were shown to the panel and assessment for each occurrence was carried out and the panel were asked to vote whether they deemed *the grounds to be sufficient*.

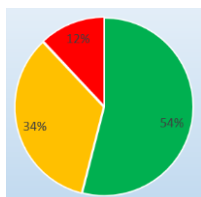
Their assessment was measured by a **Red**, **Amber**, **Green** (RAG) vote, as shown below.

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

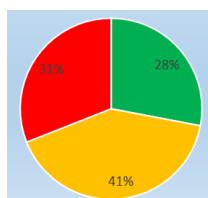
**Amber** - In the lay view of the Panel, the grounds given aren't clear enough to make a decision either way OR were maybe not sufficient, but we understand why the decision was made.

**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.

Overall, the external panel voted **54% green**, **34% amber** and **12% red**.



The internal panel voted **28% green**, **41% amber** and **31% red**.



The review included the following points:

- Appropriate adults were present in all but one case
- Supervisors were consulted in every case prior to the search being conducted
- The majority of searches were conducted at police stations with the exception of one case where the child was searched at their home address
- Body Worn Video (BWV) was utilised in only 3 cases to record their decision to search
- A 'Child to Notice' form was completed on every occasion

The [full report](#) can be read on the Wiltshire Police website by clicking the above link.

## Key Learning Identified

- Grounds for searches need to be written up in more detail
- BWV needs to be used more frequently to record decisions
- In the majority of cases, we complied with the College of Policing APP and the Police and Criminal Evidence Act (PACE) and the decision was recorded when appropriate adult was not present for the search.

## Independent Review of Use of Baton Records

A selection of Baton Records were selected from the previous 2 years. There were a total of 36 records between 01 Mar 2020 and 28 Feb 2022. The Chair of the panel, Lisa Collins, who was

unable to attend to this meeting, chose 10 records to review at random.

Panel members were told the written grounds provided and then shown BWV footage of the events. They were then asked to make an assessment based on a Red, Amber, Green (R.A.G) assessment criteria as per the below.

### R.A.G Assessment Criteria

**Green** – In the lay view of the Panel, the circumstances were reasonable for the use of baton to be carried out.

**Amber** – In the lay view of the Panel, the circumstances of the use of baton leave questions to be answered or some concerns are raised.

**Red** – In the lay view of the Panel, the circumstances did not warrant the use of baton and further investigation is required.

As per previous requests by panel members, Use of Force was explained in more detail and Sgt Ellerby gave detailed explanation about baton use and how Police Officers are trained to use it.

Sgt Ellerby handed over to Emily to present each of the Body Worn Videos.

## Résumé of Search Results Provided by Panel Members

A total of 6 occurrences were reviewed. Voting results are shown in the table below as the percentage of people who voted **Green**, **Amber** or **Red**.

No.	Panel Voting Results	Résumé of Occurrence and Comments by Panel
1	<b>0%</b> <b>9%</b> <b>91%</b>	<p><b>Résumé</b> Male suspect returned home after a night out and became aggressive towards his partner. He punched her to the face, damaged her mobile phone and punched holes in a door.</p> <p><b>Comments</b> ~ Police Officers remained very calm which is commendable. ~ They worked well in a confined space. ~ First Officer on the scene was combative. Suspect could have been talked down better before force</p>

		<p>escalated.</p> <p>~ It looked like suspect was on the floor when baton used, but it was difficult to tell in the melee.</p>		
2	<p>0%</p> <p>55%</p> <p>45%</p>	<p><b>Résumé</b></p> <p>Known suspect has acted aggressively towards police officers and approached them with a knife causing the officers to fear for their safety.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>~ There was something about the Officers' attitude that felt 'off'. Male suspect didn't need to be treated like he was, and thrown onto the bed.</p> <p>~ Officers weren't sure where the knife was therefore they were in fear of their own safety.</p> <p>~ Baton was used after the knife was dropped so don't feel like the force was necessary.</p> <p>~ The treatment of the female suspect after she had been handcuffed wasn't needed.</p>	5	<p>0%</p> <p>9%</p> <p>91%</p> <p><b>Résumé</b></p> <p>Known suspects have dragged injured party (IP) into an address, they assaulted him and stole his phone. IP has a black eye, cuts to nose and mouth, swelling to jaw, forehead and temple. Also has cuts and swelling to back.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>~ The Police Officer shouldn't have sworn.</p> <p>~ The BWV isn't good enough to make a decision.</p>
3		<p><b>Résumé</b></p> <p>Known male suspect has been involved in a disorder. Officers attended and tried to disperse the group, the suspect was intoxicated and continued to be abusive. The suspect then assaulted an emergency worker by pushing them, causing a sprain to the wrist.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>The panel decided to abstain from voting as they couldn't see when or how the baton had been used.</p>	6	<p>9%</p> <p>36%</p> <p>55%</p> <p><b>Résumé</b></p> <p>Known male suspect has spat at the injured party and has punched him to the face. This has caused a bleeding lip.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>~ Officers attitude was excessive. Went in hot headed.</p> <p>~ Didn't give suspect enough time to comply.</p> <p>~ Police Officer striking him was awful. It looked personal.</p>
4	<p>9%</p> <p>9%</p> <p>82%</p>	<p><b>Résumé</b></p> <p>Known suspect has spat blood at injured party.</p> <p><b>Comments</b></p> <p>~ Everything was calm. No violence. The way it was dealt with wasn't right. A calm voice should have been used.</p> <p>~ Thought the officer could have taken more time to calm the situation.</p> <p>~ The Officer should be commended on the commentary he gave to the radio as it was really thorough.</p> <p>~ The aftercare given to the suspect was exemplary.</p> <p>~ There were 2 officers present and suspect was unsteady on his feet. Feel suspect could have been taken down without baton.</p>		

## Actions

- 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 local Inspectors. Minutes from the meetings will be published internally and externally.
- Internal communication will be sent out to the whole organisation and the internal Police Scrutiny Panel meeting.

## Date of Next Meeting

To be confirmed.

## Contact Details

If there are any questions or queries, please contact the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Department on [EDI@wiltshire.police.uk](mailto:EDI@wiltshire.police.uk)