

# Police Powers Scrutiny Panel



Proud to serve and protect our communities

13 December 2021

## Police Powers Scrutiny Panel meeting minutes. Meeting no. 5

Monday 13 December 2021. In person meeting held at 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
- Lisa Collins – Chair
- Faisal Mayed – Member
- Steve Botham – Member
- Alex Carty – Member
- Anthony Pickernell – Member
- Nazma Bibi Ramruttun – Member
- Christine D'Arcy – Member
- Aileen Bevan – Member
- Kene Grobbelaar – Member
- Bethany Harford – Member
- Debbie Mason – Member
- Tom Bain – Member

### Welcome

Tom Ellerby introduced himself to the panel, cited the Terms of Reference and asked all panel members to review and sign a copy of the Confidentiality Agreement.

### Data Update: July – September 2021

Key headlines reviewed and briefly discussed, panel members signposted to the location of [Stop Search Data](#) on the Wiltshire Police website and this is summarised below:

- 434 Stop and Searches recorded.
- 51.4%, were recorded in Swindon.
- 63.4% of searches involved the search for a controlled drug.
- 22.8% of searches resulted in police action and 6.9% resulted in arrest.
- 77.2% of searches resulted in no further police action.
- 71.9% of cases resulted in no object being found and 27.9% recorded an object was found.
- Of the searches where an object was found, 28% related to the reason for the search.
- 62% of the people searched were under 25
- 87.6% of searches were male

For the same fiscal quarter, Stop Search data shows that you are more likely to be stopped than a person from a white ethnic group, if you are from the following ethnic groups:

- Black – 6.41 times more likely
- Mixed – 1.95 times more likely
- Chinese or other – 2.44 times more likely
- Asian – 1.27 times more likely

Data to the 12 months ending Sept-21 shows those belonging to an ethnic minority group are 2.6 times more likely to be stopped than those identifying as White ethnicity. This is a year-on-year reduction from 3.0.

## Updates from Previous Meeting

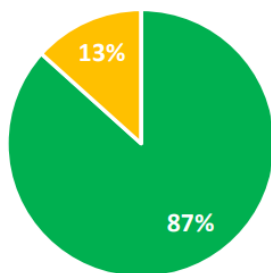
Since the last Police Powers Scrutiny Panel, an internal panel reviewed the same incidents, having been provided with exactly the same information as the external panel.

Learning and scoring from both panels were recorded and compared to one another.

In total, across the 7 incidents our external scrutiny panel voted 87% Green and 13% Amber our internal scrutiny panel voted 60% Green and 40% Amber (sourced from [Police Powers Scrutiny Panel Report](#)).

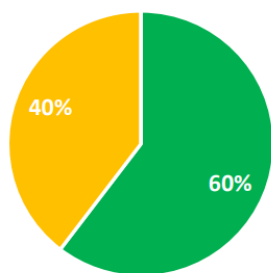
In total, across the 7 incidents that were shown, our external panel voted 87% green and 13% amber, and our internal scrutiny panel voted 60% green and 40% amber.

External Panel Result



■ Green ■ Amber ■ Red

Internal Panel Result



■ Green ■ Amber ■ Red

## Key Learning identified

- All officers need to download and save their Body Worn Video (BWV) footage
- BWV should be turned on as soon as possible
- This learning will be re-emphasised in training and through corporate messaging.

## Good Practice

- Aftercare is really important, and we will review of the incidents showing good aftercare to see if we can make changes to improve this across the organisation.
- Announcing TASER in the majority of incidents the TASER officer announced they were carrying TASER clearly.

## Independent Review of Police Stop Search Records Led by Lisa Collins (Chair)

10 incidents were chosen by the Chair to be reviewed. During the meeting, 7 of the incidents were reviewed including the BWV.

The assessment criteria were reviewed, and panel 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

## Résumé of Search Results Provided by Panel Members

### Key:

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

Two votes were carried out:

The first after the panel read the Grounds Only (GO) and the second after they had viewed the BWV. Both of these results are shown in the table on the following page.

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No.	Panel Voting Results	Comments
1	<u>GO</u> 0% 0% 100%  <u>BWV</u> 0% 17% 83%	<u>BWV</u> No collar no. announced on BWV. Person stopped for speeding, but not enough info regards to why drug search done.
2	<u>GO</u> 8% 75% 17%  <u>BWV</u> 42% 58% 0%	<u>GO</u> No descriptive of people being stopped, where does report come from? CCTV? Member of public? What does 'refuse to produce details' mean? Should this be at the end? <u>BWV</u> Why haven't they pulled these people to the side rather than in the middle of the street? Why wasn't social worker called? Officers need to be more serious and not joking. Wasn't thorough intro of themselves / Officers.
3	As above	As above
4	<u>GO</u> 83% 17% 0%  <u>BWV</u> 75% 25% 0%	<u>GO</u> How do you know they are drug users? <u>BWV</u> Why was one person handcuffed and the other not? There seems to be no obvious reason. Was it because of the colour of his skin? Intro should have been done first before anything. I stopped you because I saw 3 drug users come out of the car – shouldn't have been said like that as it sounds like Officer wanted suspect to be guilty.
5	<u>GO</u> 25% 50% 25%  <u>BWV</u> 58% 33% 8%	<u>BWV</u> Differing opinions after viewing BWV: Mental health crisis. Textbook info given during search. Officer had a nice manner. No care for welfare – no mention of mental health etc. First approach wasn't explained.
6	<u>GO</u> 0% 42% 58%  <u>BWV</u> 0% 67% 33%	<u>BWV</u> Mentioned a couple of times – "I'll be gentle if there's no problems." Grounds not explained on BV. Officer said, "I'm going to search you in case you have any drugs on you." Legal power should be mentioned. Not seen evasiveness on BWV, hence the amber vote.
7	<u>GO</u> 25% 8% 67%  <u>BWV</u> 42% 50% 8%	<u>BWV</u> Forced Stop & Search. Do plain clothed officers need a warrant? Officer didn't identify themselves. BWV starts too late. Officer in background of video gave all GOWISELY info.
8	<u>GO</u> 0% 0% 100%  <u>BWV</u> 0% 8% 92%	<u>GO</u> Good feedback for written grounds. <u>BWV</u> Comments on banter: Is there a point where banter stops? Noticed inappropriate jokes. Court want to see professionalism. Young member of the panel stated that they thought the level of connection with young person was good and it was how they would want to be treated by the police. Banter helps to a certain extent, but it doesn't work for everyone.

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 and updates will be provided at the next panel meeting. Minutes from the meetings will be published internally and externally.

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

## Any Other Business

The name of the panel was discussed as there have been some negative connotations in relation to the word Scrutiny, from the panel name, Police Powers Scrutiny Panel.

The meaning of scrutiny is to critically observe or examine.

The word 'review' was discussed in relation to the panel name. Sounds more scientific, we discuss what goes well, what could be improved. We're not reviewing rules.

In relation to the word 'scrutiny', it was seen as a more powerful word, but it does sound harsher. When looking at the word, it was decided that it explained what the panel were there for in a more adequate way and therefore it was decided that the panel name would remain as Police Powers Scrutiny Panel.

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## Date of Next Meeting

25 January 2022

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## Contact Details

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