



COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Stop Search 14th May 2024

Scrutiny Panel:	STOP SEARCH
Members:	<p>Andrew Cowan LaToya De Freitas Anne Griffiths Philip Hackwood John Hughes Matt Round Paula Stanton Georgina Hughes</p> <p>Also Attending: Chief Inspector Mark Barlow – Force Lead Michelle Ryan – SCO Holly Sproston – SCO Helen McKenzie – SCO - Observer</p>
Purpose:	<p>The Panel are to check that Stop and Search procedure has been followed and that Body Worn Videos reviewed are compliant with the law and are being used effectively. The panel will focus on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Whether Body Worn Video Policy was adhered to,• Whether the principles of GO WISELY were followed,• Whether the principles of JOG were followed. <p>Note: GO WISELY & JOG Principles available in Appendix 1.</p>
Panel Findings:	<p>The time period selected for the Stop and Search incidents was 01 March 2024 to 31 March 2024. During this period 437 Person Stop and Search incidents took place.</p> <p>10 Incidents were selected randomly by the panel. A check on the BWV stored, by the Commissioner's Office, indicated that Body Worn Video (BWV) was available for 9 of the 10 selected incidents.</p> <p>There was no Body Worn Video (BWV) for Occurrence 21240031875. Further investigations identified that the BWV camera worn by the officer was faulty and had failed to record.</p>



Of the 8 incidents viewed there were 4 incidents where the execution of the Stop Search was clear, complete and professionally undertaken. The panel felt that the officers in these incidents demonstrated respect and their explanations to the individuals was clear and distinct, covering all requirements of a well-executed Stop Search. In 3 incidents GOWISELY was mostly completed and one element appeared to be missing. In 2 of these incidents the officer failed to indicate the station they were from. In the other incident the officer delivering the GOWISELY steps did not undertake the search. In one incident there appeared to be no video evidence that the GOWISELY had been properly completed. The BWV in this case was very short and the camera appeared to have been activated part way through the Stop Search.

The information on the Stop Search report indicated the grounds for the Stop Search and this was clear and defined in all incidents scrutinised.

Incident matrix & findings available in Appendix 2.

Observations and Recommendations:

Observations:

- The panel were impressed with the professional manner displayed in the interaction between officers and detainees.

Recommendations:

- To ensure that officers involved in incidents 21240029691; 21240031246; 21240033403 apply the GOWISELY principles in all future Stop Searches.
- To ensure that the officer initiating the Stop Search and giving GOWISELY details undertakes the Stop Search.
- To ensure that BWV is activated prior to the Stop Search so that all of the process is captured.

Force Lead Response:

All officers involved in the scrutiny have been advised as to the panel's comments and observations. This includes the delivery of GOWISELY and the activation of Body Worn Video. These issues will also be covered in training being developed by Staffordshire Police for all front-line officers. I would like to thank the panel for their continued dedication to this process and improving the performance of Staffordshire Police.

Occurrence No.	Date	GOWISELY adhered YES/NO	JOG adhered YES/NO	Comments
21240029691	02/03/2024 14:54:00	Partial	Yes	The Stop Search was undertaken well. However, the officer failed to indicate which station he was from. The search process was clearly explained and undertaken in a professional manner. No issues.
21240031246	05/03/2024 16:21:00	Partial	Yes	Three individuals stopped in a busy area. A comprehensive stop search. Officer indicated she was from Staffordshire Police and not the station. Other than that the process was well conducted
21240033403	10/03/2024 03:40:00	No	Yes	None of the GOWISELY was captured in the short piece of BWV. The incident took place in the entrance of a hospital. The detainee was already handcuffed when the BWV started.
21240036371	15/03/2024 19:50:00	Partial	Yes	The Stop Search GOWISELY was concise and clear. However, the Officer delivering the GOWISELY did not undertake the search. The incident was handled sensitively by the female officer.
21240038469	20/03/2024 12:57:00	Yes	Yes	Well delivered and executed Stop Search. Officer was empathetic and professional.
21240041069	25/03/2024 17:35:00	Yes	Yes	The Stop Search was well executed. No issues.
21240041874	27/03/2024 11:21:00	Yes	Yes	The Stop Search was well executed. Officer handled the incident very calmly.
21240041931	27/03/2024 15:50:00	Yes	Yes	The Stop Search was well executed. No issues.

Explanation of GOWISELY and JOG

G	Explain G rounds for search
O	Explain the O bjective of the search
W	Show their W arrant Card
I	Identify themselves by name
S	Which S tation they work from
E	Explain their E ntitlement to a copy of the record
L	Under which L egal power is the search being performed
Y	Y ou are being detained for the purpose of a search
JOG	Remove only suspects J acket, O uter coat and G loves

Note: Uniformed Officers do not have to show their Warrant Card.