



## COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

### Stop Search

### 19 March 2024

#### Scrutiny Panel:

#### STOP SEARCH

#### Members:

Andrew Cowan  
Philip Hackwood  
John Hughes  
Geraint Lang  
Matt Round  
Paula Stanton

#### Also Attending:

Chief Inspector Mark Barlow – Force Lead  
Michelle Ryan – SCO  
Holly Sproston – SCO  
Neil Monk - HMICFRS

#### Purpose:

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:

- Whether Body Worn Video Policy was adhered to,
- Whether the principles of GO WISELY were followed,
- Whether the principles of JOG were followed.

**Note:** GO WISELY & JOG Principles available in Appendix 1.

#### Panel Findings:

The time period selected for the Stop and Search incidents was 01 February 2024 to 29 February 2024. During this period 458 Person Stop and Search incidents took place.

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 all incidents.

Of the 8 incidents viewed there were 6 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.



The information on the Stop Search report indicated the grounds for the Stop Search. In 6 cases this was clear and detailed.

There were 2 incidents where the Stop Search process was not fully implemented. The two incidents involved plain clothes officers. It was noted that the officers involved clearly gave their name, collar number and which station they were from but did not provide their warrant cards.

**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. In addition, it was noted the compassion and support offered to a particular detainee who was clearly unwell and homeless.

**Recommendations:**

- To ensure that officers ensure that the GOWISELY principles are followed in all Stop Searches.
- To ensure that officers in plain clothes provide their warrant cards as confirmation of their police identity.

**Force Lead Response:**

As Force Stop and Search Tactical Lead I would like to thank the CISP members for their ongoing dedication to monitoring the performance of Staffordshire Police. With the assistance of the CISP Staffordshire Police looks to continually review and improve our performance in the area of Stop and Search. The observations made by the panel have been feedback to all officers involved in this review and will be used to inform and develop future training products.

**Explanation of GOWISELY and JOG**

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

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

Occurrence No.	Date	GOWISELY adhered YES/NO	JOG adhered YES/NO	Comments
21240016105	03/02/2024 21:40	Yes	Yes	The Stop Search was undertaken well. Very clear explanation and undertaken in a professional manner by the officer concerned. No issues.
21240016455	01/02/2024 05:30	Yes	Yes	Stop Search was very protracted as intelligence was coming in as the individual was stopped. Two officers handled a potentially difficult situation well. Conducted well and fully compliant search.
21240016826	05/02/2024 13:20	Yes	Yes	Fully compliant stop search. Panel members were impressed with the above and beyond care shown to the detainee.
21240019752	10/02/2024 17:09	Partially	Yes	Two detainees were obstructive and difficult. Officers maintained a calm and professional approach. Panel members were unable to confirm that this was a fully compliant search. The situation was busy and it was unclear from the BWV if all GOWISELY was completed. The officers were also plain clothes and it was not clear that warrant cards were shown to confirm police identity.
21240020515	12/02/2024 15:40	Yes	Yes	The Stop Search was undertaken well. Very clear explanation and undertaken in a professional manner by the officer concerned. No issues.
21240026709	25/02/2024 08:54	Yes	Yes	Fully compliant search. Incident was tackled sympathetically and advice given to detainees.
21240026807	20/02/2024 03:05	Yes	Yes	Fully compliant search. Effectively and professionally undertaken.
21240028159	27/02/2024 15:32	Partially	Yes	The search was compliant but the officers were in plain clothes and it could not be determined from the BWV whether a warrant card was shown to confirm police identity.



**STAFFORDSHIRE COMMISSIONER**

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