

COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Stop Search

25 January 2024

Scrutiny Panel:	STOP SEARCH
Members:	Anne Griffiths Philip Hackwood Geraint Lang Matt Round Paula Stanton Also Attending: Chief Inspector Mark Barlow – Force Lead Michelle Ryan – SCO Holly Sproston - SCO
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 1st October 2023 to 31st December 2023. During this period 1364 Person Stop and Search incidents took place.</p> <p>12 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.</p> <p>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.</p>



The information on the Stop Search report indicated the grounds for the Stop Search. In 7 cases this was clear and detailed. In one incident it seemed that the detail for reason and grounds of the search lacked detail. Chief Inspector Barlow indicated that this had already been addressed with the officer concerned.

There were 2 incidents where the Stop Search process was not fully implemented:

- In the first incident the Stop Search was conducted in the street and involved armed officers. In this incident the Stop Search process was very disjointed and parts of the requirements were omitted.
- In the second incident the audio was unclear due to the PA system at the railway station. It appeared that the two officers undertaking the searches only partially completed the GO WISELY process.

In one incident it was identified that the legal grounds given for the search was incorrect. However, the full GOWISELY process was followed in a competent manner.

The panel recognised that there are certain situations where the delivery of the GOWISELY principles were difficult to execute but in order for the Stop to comply with legislation it was imperative that all aspects were covered. It was also noted that it is good practice to complete the GOWISELY at the beginning of a search. However, it is acknowledged that it can be completed at any point. The key issue is to ensure that it is completed.

Incident matrix & findings available in Appendix 2.

Observations and Recommendations:

Observations:

- The panel selected 12 incidents and it was noted that body worn video footage was available in every incident.
- The panel were impressed with the demeanour of a number of officers and the professional manner displayed in the interaction between officers and detainees.

Recommendations:

- To ensure that officers ensure that the GOWISELY principles are followed in all Stop Searches.
- To ensure that officers clearly and correctly explain the legal grounds for the Stop Search. Appropriate feedback to be given to the officer concerned in the excerpt of body worn video that was viewed.



Force Lead Response:

Feedback has been given to the supervisors and officers involved in ALL of the Stop Searches scrutinised. The Force will continue to provide education and training to officers regarding the requirement for GOWISELY information to be delivered during Stop Searches. The Commissioner's Independent Scrutiny Panel continues to provide valuable insight into the delivery of Stop Search and the Force would like to thank all members for their contribution.

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.

Occurrence No.	Date	GOWISELY adhered? YES/NO	JOG adhered? YES/NO	Comments
21230173295	14/12/2023 15:40	Yes	Yes	Information on Stop Search form was very basic and this has been addressed by Chief Inspector Barlow with the officer concerned. The BWV was very clear and the stop search undertaken was very clear and the officer completed GOWISELY in an efficient and effective manner. The officer was very professional and treated the detainee with dignity.
21230172099	12/12/2023 08:20	No	Yes	Incident was part of an armed response incident. Male detained in handcuffs. Officer was very courteous but GOWISELY was not fully implemented despite a search being undertaken.
21230159108	14/12/2023 20:40	No	Yes	Incident involved a number of youths detained in a railway waiting room following ASB in a local Tesco. Two officers present. It was unclear if GOWISELY was implemented due to the tannoy system in the waiting room distorting the audio on the BWV.
21230139797	12/11/2023 16:30	Yes	Yes	GOWISELY implemented however incorrect legal power was stated. It was noted this was a student officer.
21230179627	28/12/2023 22:40	Yes	Yes	Male detained following intelligence that he was carrying a knife. Officer executed the search well ensuring GOWISELY and JOG were complied with
21230168111	04/12/2023	Yes	Yes	Male reported acting suspiciously in car. Female Officer was very professional and in control. Undertook Stop Search well and was very thorough. GOWISELY well executed. Officer handled the situation well and diffused a potentially volatile situation.
21230144560	14/10/2023 14:10:	Yes	Yes	Incident was part of an armed response incident. Male detained in handcuffs. Incident included helicopter and co-ordinated response from armed officers and was very intense. Officer was very



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				professional and courteous. GOWISELY was not fully implemented until end of search.
21230141734	09/10/2023 12:23	Yes	Yes	Male stopped carrying bag with contents still with security tags attached. GOWISELY implemented. A full and comprehensive search professionally carried out.



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