

COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Stop Search

12th February 2026

Scrutiny Panel:	STOP SEARCH
Members:	<p>Andrew Cowan Anne Griffiths Philip Hackwood Georgina Hughes Geraint Lang Matt Round</p> <p>Also Attending: Chief Inspector Mark Barlow – Force Lead Michelle Ryan – SCO Holly Sproston – SCO</p>
Purpose:	<p>The Panel are to check that the 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 period selected for the Stop and Search incidents for this scrutiny was 01 December 2025 to 16 January 2026. During this period 790 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 all ten of the selected stop search incidents.</p> <p>Of the ten incidents viewed there were eight 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 two incidents GOWISLEY was partially completed. Officers in both incidents did not indicate the station they were</p>



from. In two incidents GOWISELY was followed but the search of persons did not appear to take place.

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:

- In incident 21250193921 GOWISELY was followed but it was not apparent that a search of the person was undertaken before they were handcuffed and placed in the police car.
- In incident 21260005541 GOWISELY was followed but it was not apparent that a search of the person was undertaken. It was noted that the detainee was male and officer was female. It was assumed that another male officer would undertake the search. However, this was not shown on the BWV viewed.
- The panel acknowledge the professional and respectful manner of officers in executing Stop Search.
- The panel were also pleased to note that body worn video footage was available for every incident selected

Recommendations:

- Officers to ensure full compliance with GOWISELY.

Force Lead Response:

Staffordshire Police would like to thank the CISP for their insight and scrutiny. Officers are regularly reminded through internal communications of the required procedures of Stop and Search which ensures high rates of compliance. We will continue to work with the CISP to develop and improve our performance in this most critical area of policing

Occurrence No.	Date	GOWISELY adhered YES/NO	JOG adhered YES/NO	Comments
21250184477	01/12/2025	Yes	n/a	Station where the officer was from was not mentioned. Thorough search undertaken.
21250185627	01/12/2025	Yes	n/a	GOWISELY followed. Good explanation given to young person. Good search made.
21250186701	05/12/2025	Yes	Yes	GOWISELY followed. The sound quality was poor, and the camera briefly obscured. However, the officer kept the detainee calm in a difficult situation and search swiftly undertaken.
21250187801	08/12/2025	Yes	Yes	GOWISELY followed. Search well executed with good clear communication and explanation
21250189519	10/12/2025	Yes	n/a	GOWISELY followed. A thorough search well conducted. Clear and concise delivery.
21250190566	12/12/2025	Partial	n/a	GOWISELY partially followed. A single crewed officer stopped 4 people regarding alleged shoplifting. It was not clear which person the search was directed to. Bags only searched
21250192701	16/12/2025	Yes	No	GOWISLEY followed. Search well conducted. Clear and concise delivery. Officer very calm and composed.
21250193921	18/12/2025	Yes	n/a	GOWISELY followed but no search appeared to be undertaken. Detainee cuffed and placed in police car.
21250194745	20/12/2025	Partial	No	Plain clothes officer single crewed. Doesn't appear to show his warrant card but BWV indicates that detainee is known to officer and vice versa. Officer didn't indicate which station he was from. Officer was understanding and supportive towards detainee.
21260005541	12/01/2026	Yes	n/a	GOWISELY followed but no search appeared to be undertaken. Detainee cuffed. It may be that as the detainee was male and the office was female and therefore a search was undertaken later by a male officer.



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.