

COMMISSIONER'S INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Use of Force Scrutiny

Tuesday 3rd March 2026

Scrutiny Panel:	USE OF FORCE
Members:	<p>John Buckle Brian Churm Garry Hamblin Emma Shutt Caroline Strike James Thornton</p> <p>Also in attendance: Chief Inspector Cliff Goodwin Michelle Ryan – SCO</p>
Purpose:	<p>That the Use of Force policy and procedure have been followed and the Body Worn Video 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 Use of Force level used was necessary • Whether the Use of Force level used was proportional to the incident • Is the action/behaviour justified? • Has it been explained adequately? • Has it been recorded properly?
Panel Findings:	<p>The period selected for the Use of Force incidents was from 01 November 2025 to 01 December 2025. 1150 UOF incidents were recorded in this period. The panel initially randomly selected eight incidents at their pre-meeting on 06 January 2026, with the focus on those incidents involving Taser.</p> <p>Of those eight incidents, seven were reviewed at the meeting on 03 March 2026</p> <p>Of those eight selected, one incident had no Body worn video footage. The officer responsible was contacted and confirmed that he had failed to upload and save the BWV for the incident.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">The Incidents viewed are outlined in Appendix 1</p>



STORM logs of the incidents were provided. Panel members were reminded that the STORM log is a live record of events as they happen and indicate calls and information being provided by officers as the incident unfolds. It is not the investigation record. The STORM logs are provided to give some context to the incident leading up to the use of force being deployed and enables panel members to be cognisant of the situation in determining whether the use of force was appropriate in a potentially quickly developing situation.

Observations and Recommendations:

- Occurrence 21250176857 - One panel member noted on the feedback sheet that the attitude of officers did not align with expectations. This concern was not raised during the meeting itself. The panel was subsequently emailed to request further feedback regarding the incident. The remaining panel members indicated no concerns regarding the behaviours and attitudes of the officers. The Chief Inspector and Assurance Lead again reviewed the incident's video footage. The review considered both the events and the environment in which they occurred. It was deemed that there were no concerns regarding officers' conduct or attitude.
- Panel indicated that UOF was necessary, and officers used appropriate force in all incidents.

Force Lead Response:

The panel's scrutiny of Use of Force incidents for the period 01 November 2025 to 01 December 2025 provides continued assurance that force is being used lawfully, proportionately, and in accordance with policy and national guidance.

The panel found that, in all incidents reviewed, the use of force was necessary, proportionate, justified, and appropriately recorded. Body Worn Video continues to play a vital role in providing transparency and enabling effective independent scrutiny.

One incident was identified where Body Worn Video footage had not been uploaded or retained in accordance with policy. This matter was followed up with the officer concerned, who confirmed a failure to save the footage. While this appears to be an isolated occurrence, it reinforces the importance of compliance with BWV policy and has been addressed through supervisory intervention and learning.

In relation to Occurrence 21250176857, a concern regarding officer attitude was raised by a single panel member outside of the meeting. Further clarification was sought from the panel, and no additional concerns were raised by other members. The footage was subsequently re-reviewed by myself, Assurance Lead, and additionally scrutinised by the Professional Standards Department. All reviews



considered the totality of the circumstances, including the rapidly evolving environment, and identified no concerns regarding officer conduct or attitude. I am reassured by the panel's conclusion that appropriate levels of force were applied in all incidents reviewed. Independent scrutiny of this nature remains essential in maintaining accountability, identifying learning opportunities, and sustaining public confidence in the use of police powers.



Appendix 1 Matrix of Use of Force Incidents.

Occurrence No.	Date	Tactic Type Used	UOF Necessary?	UOF Proportional?	Description / Comments
21250183300	29/11/2025	TASER (Drawn) / Non-compliant handcuffing	Yes	Yes	Adult Asian Male. Initial fail to stop. Driver was exceeding the speed limit to a dangerous level. Significant risk to the public due to the nature of the driving. Stinger deployed successfully on second attempt. Taser drawn and suspect apprehended. Panel indicated that UOF was necessary, and officers used appropriate force.
21250182092	27/11/2025	TASER (Fired) / PAVA/ Non-compliant handcuffing	Yes	Yes	Adult Asian Male. Reports of male threatening taxi driver and in possession of two knives. Officer pursues suspect on foot on a busy road. Suspect is tasered twice and PAVA spray used before suspect is apprehended and knives relinquished. Panel indicated that UOF was necessary, and officers used appropriate force.
21250180014	23/11/2025	TASER (Drawn)	N/A	N/A	Body Worn Video not found.
21250179787	23/11/2025	TASER (Drawn) / Non-compliant handcuffing	Yes	Yes	Adult White Male. This was a long incident where a male had barricaded and locked himself on the roof and it was suspected that he had a knife. The panel viewed the discussion and ending of the incident as the male descended. Officers were patient and understanding and the suspect was compliant and cuffed. No TASER was drawn at this point of the incident. Panel indicated that UOF was necessary, and officers used appropriate force.
21250177859	19/11/2025	TASER (red dotted)/ compliant handcuffing	Yes	Yes	Adult White Male. Officers are alerted to significant intelligence that the suspect is usually armed with a knife and is violent. Officers apprehend the suspect whilst he is riding his bike along a street. Officers are calm in their



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					approach and suspect is compliant. Panel indicated that UOF was necessary, and officers used appropriate force.
21250176857	18/11/2025	TASER (Fired)/PAVA	Yes	Yes	Adult White Male. Suspect has barricaded himself in his house. Grandmother is locked in a bedroom. Police negotiators are talking with suspect who is at the top of the stairs. Suspect has thrown mattress and debris down the stairs at the officers. Suspect has previous for being violent and using knives. Suspect is tasered by an officer at the bottom of the stairs as other officers climb quickly to control the suspect. The Panel indicated UOF was necessary, and officers used appropriate force. One panel member indicated that the attitude of officers was not in line with expectations, but no further explanation was given and no issue raised within the meeting.
21250176219	17/11/2025	TASER (Drawn)/ Non-compliant handcuffing	Yes	Yes	Young Person White Male. Officers have been called as suspects linked to stealing bikes from leisure centre. Suspect runs off as police car approaches. Taser is drawn by second officer, and first officer cuffs suspect. Panel indicated that UOF was necessary, and officers used appropriate force.
21250168134	02/11/2025	TASER (Fired)	Yes	Yes	Adult Black Male. Male in mental health crisis has possession of razer blades and is indicating self-harm. As ambulance staff attempt to get near the suspect he self-harms. Taser deployed to prevent the suspect further harming himself. Officers were compassionate in their exchanges with the suspect. Panel indicated that UOF was necessary, and officers used appropriate force.

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