

COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Stop Search

Thursday 04 June 2026

Scrutiny Panel:	STOP SEARCH
Members:	Mark Bastin Steve Brown Andrew Cowan Philip Hackwood Georgina Hughes Geraint Lang Matt Round Paula Stanton Sarah Taylor Also Attending: Chief Inspector Mark Barlow – Force Lead via MS Teams Michelle Ryan – SCO Holly Sproston – SCO
Purpose:	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: • 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 period selected for the Stop and Search incidents for this scrutiny was 28 March 2026 to 28 April 2026. During this period 505 Person Stop and Search incidents took place. Eight Incidents were selected randomly by the panel. A check on the BWV by the Commissioner's Office, indicated that Body Worn Video (BWV) was available for seven of the selected Stop search incidents. Of the seven incidents viewed, the execution of the Stop Search was clear 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 three incidents GOWISLEY was partially completed. In the first incident the detainee was not informed that they could have a copy of the search and how to obtain it and the legal power under which they were being searched. In the second incident the legal power under which the detainee was being searched was not indicated. In the final incident the officer failed to indicate which station he was from.

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 weather conditions (windy weather) sometimes impaired the audio of the body worn video footage. Panel members acknowledged that this was something that could not be resolved
- 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 seven of the eight incidents selected.

Recommendations:

- Officers to ensure full compliance with GOWISELY.

Force Lead Response:

Staffordshire Police would like to extend its sincere thanks and appreciation to all members of the Community Independent Scrutiny Panel (CISP) for the time, dedication and expertise they have contributed throughout the scrutiny process. The insight, constructive challenge and recommendations provided by panel members play a vital role in helping the force maintain transparency, accountability and public confidence in the use of stop and search powers. The commitment demonstrated by the panel in reviewing body worn video footage and providing independent feedback has been invaluable. Their observations and recommendations have helped identify areas of good practice as well as opportunities for improvement, enabling Staffordshire Police to continue developing its approach and enhancing performance in this important area. The force greatly values the ongoing support of the CISP and recognises the significant contribution its members make to driving positive change and ensuring the highest standards of policing are maintained.

Occurrence No.	Date	GOWISELY adhered YES/NO	JOG adhered YES/NO	Comments
21260051535	02/04/2026	Yes	Yes	Efficient search and well executed. Officer very polite, respectful and clear when explaining purpose of the search. It was not clear from the BWV if the 'man bag' was searched.
21260051657	02/04/2026	Yes	Yes	Efficient search. Officer very polite, casual approach and clear when explaining purpose of the search. Some panel members felt the approach was too casual. Other members felt that this approach led to a calm situation that did not escalate.
21260052615	04/04/2026	Partial	Yes	Good search but officer failed to mention that a copy of the search was available or the legal power. The detainee was very upset, and both officers were calm and reassuring.
21260056470	11/04/2026	Yes	Yes	Very thorough search and well executed. Officer indicated he was from Armed Response but not the location. Officers were very reassuring to the detainee was 15 years old. A very through explanation was given on the reason for the search
21260061015	18/04/2026	Yes	Yes	Efficient search and well executed. Officer very polite, respectful and clear when explaining purpose of the search.
21260061058	19/04/2026	Partial	Yes	Efficient search and well executed. Officer very polite, respectful and clear when explaining purpose of the search. Officer failed to mention the legal power under which the search was being carried out.
21260065506	20/04/2026	-	-	BWV footage not available for this search.
21260048552	28/03/2026	No	N/A	Efficient search. Officer was polite if a little rushed in his delivery of GOWISELY. The officer failed to mention which station they were from.

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	I dentify 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.