

COMMISSIONER'S INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Use of Force Scrutiny Thursday 26th June 2025

Scrutiny Panel:	USE OF FORCE
Members:	<p>John Buckle Gary Hamblin Chris Rank</p> <p>Also in attendance: Chief Inspector Cliff Goodwin Michelle Ryan – SCO Holly Sproston – SCO</p>
Purpose:	<p>That the Use of Force policy and procedure has been followed and that 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 time period selected for the Use of Force incidents was from 01 April 2025 to 20 May 2025. 1076 UOF incidents were recorded in this period. The panel initially randomly selected 10 incidents at their pre-meeting on 03 June 2025.</p> <p>Of those 10 incidents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 selected incidents took place in Custody and are therefore not in the remit of this particular panel• 6 had traceable body worn video footage of the use of force incident.• 1 had body worn video footage of the incident but this was not identified/ located until just prior to the meeting.• The BWV for 1 incident could not be traced/ located. <p>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.

The panel agreed the use of force deployed was appropriate and proportional to the situation.

The panel noted the following:

- Occurrence 21250071694 – the panel were extremely impressed with the skill and techniques used by the officer to de-escalate an extremely stressful situation.

Observations and Recommendations:

- The panel felt that the Use of Force had been necessary, reasonable and proportionate in all of the incidents viewed.
- The panel indicated that they were impressed with the approach of all of the officers in these difficult situations.
- The panel were particularly impressed with the skills of PC 05802 in Occurrence 21250071694 and PC 27859 in Occurrence 21250071811 and would like their appreciation fed back to the Officers concerned.

Force Lead Response:

I welcome the findings of the Commissioner's Independent Scrutiny Panel and thank the members for their time and considered observations.

I am pleased to note the panel's conclusion that the use of force in all reviewed incidents was necessary, reasonable, and proportionate. The positive feedback regarding officer conduct—particularly the commendation of PC 05802 and PC 27859—is greatly appreciated and will be formally shared with the officers and their supervisors.

The panel's recognition of the professionalism, restraint, and de-escalation skills demonstrated by officers in challenging circumstances reinforces our commitment to ethical policing and continuous improvement. We will continue to promote reflective practice and learning through internal scrutiny, training, and the use of Body Worn Video.

I remain committed to working with the panel to ensure transparency, accountability, and public confidence in our use of force.

Chief Inspector Cliff Goodwin
Force Lead – Use of Force

Appendix 1 Matrix of Use of Force Incidents.

Occurrence No.	Date	Tactic Type Used	UOF Necessary?	UOF Proportional?	Description / Comments
21250073132	20/05/2025	Non-compliant handcuffing and Take down.	Yes	Yes	Female Under 18. Appeared to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. Officers are patient and considerate. Detainee refusing to co-operate. Minimum force used to achieve objective.
21250071694	15/05/2025	AEP drawn.	Yes	Yes	Adult Male. Upset and vulnerable male holding sharp instrument to neck. Officer used excellent techniques in reassuring and offering compromises to de-escalate the situation.
21250069394	12/05/2025	Non-compliant handcuffing; Ground restraint; PAVA used	Yes	Yes	Female Under 18. Vulnerable runaway female with multiple medical issues. Appeared to be intoxicated or under the influence of drugs. Very challenging behaviours by detainee. Officers very restrained in the face of a tirade of abuse.
21250071811	15/05/2025	Non-compliant handcuffing; Ground restraint; PAVA used	Yes	Yes	Adult Male under the influence of alcohol and drugs had been asked to leave a pub and had become threatening. Single crewed officer restrained individual for a significant period of time after handcuffs failed and the individual became abusive and violent.