

## COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

### Stop Search Scrutiny Review

### February 2023

<b>Scrutiny Panel:</b>	<b>STOP AND SEARCH</b>
<b>Scrutiny Group:</b>	<p>Julie O'Connor Mat Round Mohamed Parekh Andy Cowan Geraint Lang</p>
<b>Purpose:</b>	<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"> <li>• Whether Body Worn Video Policy was adhered to,</li> <li>• Whether the principles of GO WISELY were followed,</li> <li>• Whether the principles of JOG were followed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Note:</b> GO WISELY &amp; JOG Principles available in Appendix 1.</p>
<b>Panel Findings:</b>	<p>The time period selected for the Stop and Search incidents was 1<sup>st</sup> December 2022 to 31<sup>st</sup> December 2022. During this period 322 Stop and Search incidents took place.</p> <p>10 Incidents were selected randomly by the panel. Of the 10 incidents selected Body Worn Video could not be found for 2 incidents. Further investigations were made and it was identified that the officers concerned had not tagged the video as Stop and Search and the video footage had been deleted after 31 days. These officers have been advised by their supervisors of the need to ensure that Stop and Search footage is tagged correctly.</p> <p>Of the remaining 7 incidents 3 were vehicle searches. Two of these searches did not involve personal interaction and were dismissed. 5 searches were selected to be observed in the scrutiny meeting.</p> <p><b>Incident matrix &amp; findings available in Appendix 2.</b></p> <p>Officers from the OPST team gave an overview of the training given to officers when undertaking Stop Searches and when to use handcuffs etc. The decision to handcuff would be determined by the risk assessment by the officers, the location of the stop, the demeanour of the detainee, previous intelligence provided or to prevent disposal of evidence.</p> <p>No areas of concern were identified. The officers who carried out the searches did so with professionalism and respect to detainees.</p>



	The panel thanked Chief Inspector Barlow for his comprehensive explanation of each incident and to James Felix and David Wall from OPST team for their clarification and knowledge on use of handcuffs in a Stop Search scenario.
<b>Recommendations:</b>	To identify person searches only for future scrutiny review.
<b>Force Lead Response:</b>	<p>I would like to thank the CISP members for their dedication and insight. The contribution and analysis that they provide is vital in the process of increasing trust and confidence in local policing.</p> <p>Chief Inspector Mark Barlow</p>

## Appendix 1

### Explanation of GOWISELY and JOG

<b>G</b>	Explain <b>G</b> rounds for search
<b>O</b>	Explain the <b>O</b> bjective of the search
<b>W</b>	Show their <b>W</b> arrant Card
<b>I</b>	Identify themselves by name
<b>S</b>	Which <b>S</b> tation they work from
<b>E</b>	Explain their <b>E</b> ntitlement to a copy of the record
<b>L</b>	Under which <b>L</b> egal power is the search being performed
<b>Y</b>	<b>Y</b> ou are being detained for the purpose of a search
<b>JOG</b>	Remove only suspects <b>J</b> acket, <b>O</b> uter coat and <b>G</b> loves

Note: Uniformed Officers do not have to show their Warrant Card.

Occurrence No.	Date	GOWISELY adhered? YES/NO	JOG adhered? YES/NO	Comments
21220160852	02/12/2022	Yes	N/A	Suspected drug supplier acting suspiciously and intelligence indicating close to house supplying drugs. GOWISELY adhered to.
21220162288	05/12/2022	Yes	Yes	Acting suspiciously and strong smell of cannabis and monkey dust. Male identified as being wanted on warrant. GOWISELY adhered to.
21220162386	06/12/2022	Yes	Yes	Intel indicating occupants of car are in possession of a knife. Very clear execution of GOWISELY.
21220164833	10/12/2022	Yes	N/A	Following a 2 car RTC, one of the cars had a strong smell of cannabis. Very clear execution of GOWISELY.
21220165153	11/12/2022	Yes	N/A	Recent intelligence indicating vehicle being used for supply of drugs. GOWISELY adhered to.
21220166916	15/12/2022	Yes	N/A	Intelligence indicates a shotgun is hidden in the car. Vehicle is searched. Grounds clearly indicated and GOWISELY adhered to.

