



## Annual Review of Commissioner's Independent Scrutiny Panels 2024-2025

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## STOP SEARCH PANEL

Meeting Date	Recommendations	Force Response	Links to Report
<b>14<sup>th</sup> May 2024</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To ensure that officers involved in incidents 21240029691; 21240031246; 21240033403 apply the GOWISELY principles in all future Stop Searches.</li> <li>2. To ensure that the officer initiating the Stop Search and giving GOWISELY details undertakes the Stop Search.</li> <li>3. To ensure that BWV is activated prior to the Stop Search so that all of the process is captured.</li> </ol>	<p>All officers involved in the scrutiny have been advised as to the panel's comments and observations. This includes the delivery of GOWISELY and the activation of Body Worn Video. These issues will also be covered in training being developed by Staffordshire Police for all front-line officers. I would like to thank the panel for their continued dedication to this process and improving the performance of Staffordshire Police.</p>	<a href="#">FINAL-CISP-Scrutiny-Report-STOP-SEARCH-14-May-2024.pdf</a>
<b>13<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remind officers to speak clearly to ensure that detainees fully understand.</li> </ol>	<p>As Force Tactical Lead I would like to thank the members of the Commissioner's Independent Scrutiny Panel for their time and dedication. Having reviewed their observations the force will ensure that officers are reminded about speaking clearly during the Stop Search process through in-depth training that is to be delivered in the near future. In addition, the officer who failed to deploy their Body Worn Video during the Stop Search has acknowledged their mistake and will be monitored by their supervisor in the future regarding this matter.</p>	<a href="#">FINAL-CISP-Scrutiny-Report-STOP-SEARCH-13-February-2025.pdf</a>



## Custody & Detention

Meeting Date	Recommendations	Force Response	Comments
25 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<b>Mental Health Scrutiny</b> The Force raise the delay issues with relevant partner agencies. The welfare of the detainee is not best served in custody in these situations.	As always custody would like to thank the panel of volunteers for taking the time to review and make comment on these records. There is clear reassurance from the panel that the custody staff are effectively identifying incidents of mental health and these are well rationalised on the records. It is also good to note that the team are acting with real compassion. The panel have identified the national problem around the shortage of beds and the delays this causes. To provide reassurance to the panel custody are currently working alongside our early intervention and problem solvers to tackle this area in mental health and are working on a dashboard of performance data to more effectively monitor these delays so a wider strategic understanding of these pressures can be ascertained.	<a href="#">Final-CISP-CUSTODY-SCRUTINY-REPORT-Mental-Health-25-April-2024-1.pdf</a>
6 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	<b>Use of Force</b> That officers in custody are provided with body worn video cameras and these are used when Use of Force is anticipated.	I have nothing further to add. I think the views and questions asked were really insightful and balanced. I agreed with the views of the first review, bit too much going on but with good intent. I do think there is a benefit to allow Sgts to sit on some of the panels to see how it works and also the importance of them getting it right. I have offered the invite to the wider team to see if anyone wishes to join me on a panel in the future.	<a href="#">Final-CISP-Custody-Scrutiny-Report-UOF-06-March-2025.pdf</a>



## STRIP SEARCH

Meeting Date	Recommendations	Force Response	Comments
17 <sup>th</sup> April 2024	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All Strip Searches in custody for detainees under the age of 18 to be authorised at Inspector level as per policy.</li> <li>2. That all officers present for Strip Searches in custody are clearly listed.</li> <li>3. To ensure detailed entries on the custody log for all detainees under the age of 18.</li> <li>4. Officers to be reminded that during Strip Searches BWV cameras should be faced down with the camera averted so that audio only is recorded.</li> <li>5. The Force to use body worn cameras for custody staff when undertaking Strip Searches to record the audio.</li> </ol>	<p><b>Stop Search</b> - I would like to thank the members of the CISP for their time and dedication. The recommendations and observations of the panel has been fed back to the officers and their supervisors in order to improve our delivery of Stop Search.</p> <p><b>Custody</b> - I have reviewed the comments made in regard to solely the strip searches in custody. There are a number of concerning issues raised so I have, in response, reviewed the custody records myself to gain a better understanding of why these errors in recording have potentially been made and to understand the comments further. Below are my observations on the records reviewed:</p> <p><b>C24003334</b> - I believe in the case of this record the panel have not had access to the complete custody record. I believe they have read the detention log alone and been unable to access the strip search tab which is generated in incidents like this. This is where further detail is provided. Unfortunately, a custody member was not able to join the panel on the day and these issues may have been resolved. However, I am able to report the following from the tab to offer reassurance to the panel.</p> <p>The tab details that this was a partial search</p>	<p><a href="#">CISP-Strip-Search-Scrutiny-Review-Report-17-April-2024-1.pdf</a></p>

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		<p>whereby the male had his trousers removed not underwear and was given a replacement because they had a cord in them. The custody sergeant has detailed this has been done as the child has made threats to self-harm at the booking desk and he intended to place him as a level 1 prisoner. As Custody lead, I feel this is an appropriate action to take and not too intrusive. There was one member of staff present for this which was recorded on the search tab, as this was not a full strip search and the staff member wouldn't have been present in the room. Either way there is an appropriate adult marked up as being present throughout. I feel this action was appropriate as to have multiple people in the room when the child undressed in these circumstances would not be necessary. An initial pat down search had already been carried out at the desk. The incident is recorded as a strip search due to the new legislation which was introduced which indicates that all removal of clothing regardless of amount has to be recorded as a strip search. However, when it is not a full removal of clothing in custody and this is just for the purpose of changing clothes for safekeeping the member of staff would not normally accompany them in the room or switch BWV on for this. This is considered a more proportionate response because of the difference in the level of intrusion. Sergeant authority is considered efficient for this type of partial clothing removal as the numbers of this type of activity are also high. It is only when a full strip search is</p>	
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		<p>conducted that inspector authority is required for children.</p> <p><b>C24004070</b> - On review this custody record is very similar to the above and similar circumstances. It is a partial clothing removal of trousers to obtain the cord. This was due to a record of self-harm. The placement of the detainee in the cell was required and given the low level of intrusion, they are not observed in this activity. There is one staff member present nearby and no inspector authority required. I am satisfied that the sergeant has again recorded this detail on the search tab and it is in line with custody policy regarding searching. Again, due to these circumstances, there is no need for BWV according to policy.</p> <p>I feel it is important to clarify with the panel the following policy for strip search within custody and the difference in management of recording of this in comparison to a partial removal of clothing for detainee safety which is less intrusive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- BWV is only to be used to record audio when it is a full strip search not when it is a partial search to obtain clothing items for the detainee's safety.</li> <li>- An AA may not be requested for a juvenile if the search is urgent and the sergeant just requires partial clothing for safety to place them in a cell as they will be unaccompanied to change.</li> </ul>	
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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For partial removal of clothing for cords and safe keeping, there is only one member of staff as they are not observed whilst changing and it is not as intrusive.</li> <li>- An inspector authority for juveniles is only required when a full accompanied strip search of a child takes place and there is two people present.</li> <li>- There is ongoing work in custody performance to separate the recording of this nature of activity in custody more effectively.</li> </ul> <p>I would suggest on review the following actions are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A custody member is present at all scrutiny panels around strip search when custody records are being reviewed as the policies differ from stop and search and the officer would be able to give support with access to information on the additional tab. Since the panel this has been addressed as custody members assigned for upcoming panels.</li> <li>- Custody strip search SPOC to remind staff of the force policy around BWV audio for full strip search as I do feel this is an area custody need to continue to work on.</li> </ul> <p>I hope the above comprehensive review and explanation of custody activity offers some reassurance in regard to practice in the custody environment and that following the next panel a clear comprehension of the record detail is obtained</p>	
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<p><b>20<sup>th</sup> February 2025</b></p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That all officers present for Strip Searches in custody are clearly listed.</li> <li>2. To ensure detailed entries on the custody log for all detainees under the age of 18.</li> <li>3. Officers to be reminded that during Strip Searches BWV cameras should be faced down with the camera averted so that audio only is recorded.</li> <li>4. The Force to use body worn cameras for custody staff when undertaking Strip Searches for all detainees to record the audio.</li> <li>5. Officers to be reminded that authorisation of a strip search is at Inspector level.</li> </ol>	<p>Agreed, all the Panel's comments are appropriate and valid. I will email all OJI and custody staff with these findings and recommendation.</p>	<p><a href="#">FINAL-CISP-Scrutiny-Report-STRIP-SEARCH-20-February-2025.pdf</a></p>
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## USE OF FORCE

Meeting Date	Recommendations	Force Response	Comments
20 <sup>th</sup> March 2025	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Officers need to be cognisant of their language when de-escalating a situation.</li> <li>2. The panel were impressed with the calm approach of all the officers in difficult situations.</li> </ol>	<p>The selection of incidents for review was a good broad representation of instances where force may be used by officers.</p> <p>The incidents showed where officers have demonstrated high levels of patience, and decisiveness where the situation required. I would agree with the comments which were made about the calm approach of officers in difficult circumstances. This will be fed back to the individual officers involved.</p> <p>Officers are encouraged to use language which is appropriate to the needs of the situation, and at times, this may appear unhelpful. In this instance the feedback will be forwarded to the officer involved for reflection to encourage them to consider the impact if their choice of words.</p>	