

COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Stop Search 9th October 2025

Scrutiny Panel:

STOP SEARCH

Members:

Andrew Cowan
Anne Griffiths
Philip Hackwood
Geraint Lang
Matt Round
Paula Stanton

Also Attending:

Chief Inspector Mark Barlow – Force Lead
Michelle Ryan – SCO
Holly Sproston – SCO
Lorraine Roberts - HMICFRS

Purpose:

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:

- 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 01 August 2025 to 15 September 2025. During this period 795 Person Stop and Search incidents took place.

10 Incidents were selected randomly by the panel. A check on the BWV stored, by the Commissioner's Office, indicated that Body Worn Video (BWV) was available for 9 of the 10 selected incidents.

There was no Body Worn Video (BWV) for Occurrence 21250117244. The officer concerned was contacted by the Force Lead for an explanation. The officer had indicated he had recorded the incident but had failed to press save on Evidence.Com. The officer has been reminded of the correct procedure.

Of the 8 incidents viewed there were 6 incidents where the execution of the Stop Search was clear, complete, 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 2 incidents GOWISELY was mostly completed. In one incident there was poor audio/ clarity of sound due to very windy conditions. GOWISELY may have been executed but the panel were unable to hear it clearly. In this incident officers were in plain clothes, and it is not clear whether warrant cards were shown. In the other incident it is not clear if the officer states their name and/or station.

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 panel recognise that the weather conditions on one of the incidents, 21250118995, seriously affected the audio on the body worn video footage. This meant that the panel were unable to hear whether GOWISELY was executed.
- In incident 21250118995 it was noted that officers were in plain clothes. It is not clear whether a warrant card was shown to the detainee. However, it was noted that the detainee and officer appeared to know each other.
- On two incidents it was not clear that the name of the officer was clear or the station they were from.
- The panel acknowledge the professional and respectful manner of officers in executing Stop Search. It was noted that the officers in incident 21250124905 were extremely patient and compassionate in a difficult situation.

Recommendations:

- Whilst recognising that situations may be difficult, officers to be cognisant of anything that may impede or impair BWV recording.

Force Lead Response:

As Force Tactical Stop Search Lead, I would like to thank the CISP volunteers again for their time and commitment. The process, in which they so enthusiastically participate, is vital in improving officer performance in the area of Stop Search.

All observations concerning possible improvements have been fed back to the relevant officers and an update will be provided at the next CISP.

Ch. Insp M Barlow.

Occurrence No.	Date	GOWISELY adhered YES/NO	JOG adhered YES/NO	Comments
21250118995	04/08/2025	Partially	Yes	Officers were in plain clothes. It is not clear from the BWV if a warrant card was shown. The BWV footage audio was distorted due to windy weather, so the panel were unable to confirm that GOWISELY was followed.
21250128250	21/08/2025	Yes	Yes	GOWISELY was clear. Officer was courteous, clear and concise. Stop Search professionally executed.
21250130406	25/08/2025	Yes	Yes	Officer de-escalated the situation well. GOWISELY was clear. Officer was courteous, clear and concise. Stop Search professionally executed.
21250133975	31/08/2025	Partially	Yes	GOWISELY was clear. Officer was courteous, clear and concise. Stop Search professionally executed. Station officer was from was omitted from GOWISELY.
21250137351	06/09/2025	Yes	Yes	GOWISELY was clear. Officer was calm, courteous, clear and concise. Stop Search professionally executed.
21250142108	15/09/2025	Yes	Yes	Officer de-escalated the situation quickly. GOWISELY was clear. Officer was courteous, clear and concise. Stop Search professionally executed. ARV officers wearing balaclavas. Panel felt that these should have been removed once it was established that the detainees were two 14-year-old boys.
21250130339	24/08/2025	Yes	Yes	GOWISELY was clear. Officer was calm, courteous, clear and concise. Stop Search professionally executed.
21250124905	15/08/2025	Yes	Yes	A very difficult situation handled well and with compassion by the officers involved. GOWISELY executed professionally.

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	Identify 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.