

COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Stop Search 13th February 2025

Scrutiny Panel:

STOP SEARCH

Members:

Anne Griffiths
Philip Hackwood
Georgina Hughes
Geraint Lang
Matt Round
Paula Stanton

Also Attending:

Chief Inspector Mark Barlow – Force Lead
Michelle Ryan – SCO
Holly Sproston – SCO

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 time period selected for the Stop and Search incidents was 01 December 2024 to 20 January 2025. During this period 840 Person Stop and Search incidents took place.

12 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 11 of the 12 selected incidents.

There was no Body Worn Video (BWV) for Occurrence 21240175981. The officer concerned is being contacted by the Force Lead for an explanation.

Of the 10 incidents viewed there were 7 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 3 incidents GOWISELY was mostly completed and one element appeared to be missing. This may have been due to the poor audio/ clarity of sound due to chaotic detention. In 1 of these incidents the officer failed to indicate the station they were from. In the other 2 incidents the officer delivering the GOWISELY spoke very quickly and the panel were unable to ascertain whether GOWISELY was fully covered.

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 were impressed with the professional manner displayed in the interaction between officers and detainees.
- In a number of incidents, the GOWISELY was delivered very quickly which made it unclear. If unclear to the panel then it may be unclear to the detainee

Recommendations:

- Remind officers to speak clearly to ensure that detainees fully understand.

Force Lead Response:

From Chief Inspector Mark Barlow:

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.

Occurrence No.	Date	GOWISELY adhered YES/NO	JOG adhered YES/NO	Comments
21240179458	12/12/2024	Yes	Yes	Search was compliant, thorough and respectful.
21240179819	12/12/2024	Yes	Yes	Compliant. Officer spoke very fast so difficult to understand. May be difficult for detainee too.
21240183064	18/02/2024	Partial	N/A	GO WISLEY was undertaken following a pursuit. It was not clear in the BWV whether it was fully undertaken.
21250000099	01/01/2025	Partial	Yes	There was a lot of background noise and a very chaotic scene. Unclear whether GOWISELY was undertaken fully. Officer very patient with uncooperative detainee
21250000182	01/01/2025	Yes	Yes	Very thorough execution. Officer very calm and respectful.
21250003170	07/01/2025	Yes	Yes	Search was compliant.
21250004324	09/01/2025	Yes	Yes	Search was compliant and thorough. Officer was professional, calm and respectful.
21250005293	11/01/2025	Partial	Yes	Station omitted in GOWISELY otherwise a compliant and professional search by officer.
21250009365	20/01/2025	Yes	Yes	Search was compliant, thorough and respectful. Significant number of compliant detainees. Officer was professional and polite.
21250009627	20/01/2025	Yes	Yes	Search was compliant. Officer was calm and respectful.

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.