

COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Stop Search Scrutiny Review

September 2022

Scrutiny Panel:	STOP AND SEARCH
Scrutiny Group:	<p>Paula Stanton Julie O'Connor La Toya De Freitas Mat Round Mohamed Parekh Andy Cowan Geraint Lang</p>
Purpose:	<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"> • Whether Body Worn Video Policy was adhered to, • Whether the principles of GO WISELY were followed, • Whether the principles of JOG were followed. <p>Note: GO WISELY & JOG Principles available in Appendix 1.</p>
Panel Findings:	<p>The time period selected for the Stop and Search incidents was 1st April 2022 to 31st May 2022. During this period 683 Stop and Search incidents took place.</p> <p>20 Incidents were selected randomly by the panel. Of the 20 incidents selected Body Worn Video could not be found for 3 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 were advised by their supervisors of the need to ensure that Stop and Search footage is tagged correctly.</p> <p>Of the remaining 17 incidents 6 were selected to observe in the scrutiny meeting. One incident was of a vehicle search only and deemed as not required to view.</p> <p>Incident matrix & findings available in Appendix 2.</p> <p>The officers who carried out the searches did so with professionalism and respect to detainees. The panel asked why some detainees were handcuffed and others not and were informed that a 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>One of the BWV recordings did not reflect the information provided on the Stop and Search spreadsheet although the Occurrence Number was the same. This would be fed back to the Data Team.</p> <p>In the final incident a search took place prior to GO WISELY being conducted. The panel were informed that this was an exception and would be due to the potential serious nature of the incident and to ensure the safety of all.</p> <p>The panel thanked Chief Inspector Barlow for his comprehensive explanation of each incident.</p>
Recommendations:	<p>The panel have asked for clarification on when handcuffs are used in a Stop and Search. The panel asked whether they could have additional information with regard to the training given to officers on when to use force in executing a Stop and Search.</p>
Force Lead Response:	<p>Staffordshire Police would like to thank the CISP members for their continued support in reviewing Stop and Search activity. It is essential for transparency and openness that independent members of the public are allowed to review Body Worn Video of officers involved in this often contentious area of policing. The Force acknowledges the CISP members comments with regards to the professionalism shown by officers and is grateful for their independent insight and scrutiny. In addition, a training input will be arranged for CISP members to increase their knowledge concerning handcuffing and use of force whilst conducting Stop and Search.</p>

Appendix 1

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.

Occurrence No.	Stop Search Ref	Date	GOWISELY adhered? YES/NO	Comments	JOG adhered? YES/NO	Comments
21220057990	PSS2201507	07/05/2022	YES	Difficult situation diffused and detainee searched thoroughly in a calm respectful manner	YES	Drugs found'
21220062480	PSS2201599	17/05/2022	YES	Intelligence led stop of a vehicle. Detainee handcuffed.	N/A	NFA
21220041080	PSS2201066	02/04/2022	YES	Vehicle stopped due to intelligence. Officers indicate that they are from Firearms Unit but not station. Detainee handcuffed.	N/A	Drugs found
21220044569	PSS2201171	09/04/2022	YES	Vehicle stop following fail to stop and intelligence on vehicle. Two detainees handcuffed.	N/A	Offensive weapons and drugs found.
21220053213	PSS2201387	27/05/2022	YES	Two detainees handcuffed and search conducted before GOWISELY due to intelligence that detainees are in possession of a hand gun.	N/A	Toy gun found in detainees' possession.

