

COMMISSIONERS INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY REPORT

Use of Force Scrutiny

09 November 2022

Scrutiny Panel:	USE OF FORCE
Members:	David Ensor Donna Walker Emma Buckley Richard Scholes Robert Spencer
Purpose:	<p>That the Use of Force policy and procedure has been followed and that Body Worn Video 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 Use of Force level used was necessary • Whether the Use of Force level used was proportional to the incident • Is the action/behaviour justified • Has it been explained adequately • Has it been recorded properly
Panel Findings:	<p>The time period selected for the Use of Force incidents was from 1 August 2022 to 30 September 2022. The incidents were randomly selected by the panel at their pre meeting held on 05 October 2022.</p> <p>The Incidents viewed are outlined in Appendix 1</p> <p>10 incidents were initially selected. Four incidents did not have Body Worn Video footage available. It has been confirmed that these incidents occurred more than 31 days previously and were not required to be retained for evidence. Consequently, the footage was deleted after the 31 days. Five incidents were viewed and scrutinised in the time available.</p> <p>STORM logs of the incidents were provided. Panel members were reminded that the STORM log is a live record of events as they happen and indicate calls and information being provided by officers as the incident unfolds. It is not the investigation record. The STORM logs are provided to give some context to the incident leading up to the use of force being deployed and enables panel members to be cognisant of the situation in determining whether the use of force was</p>

	<p>appropriate in a potentially quickly developing situation. In some cases, Statements were also provided.</p> <p>The panel agreed that in cases where BWV was viewed the use of force deployed was appropriate and proportional to the situation. It was noted that in the last incident, the actual use of force was not observed on the BWV as there was a break in recording. However, the STORM logs and footage viewed gave clear indication that use of force was required in a what was a volatile situation.</p> <p>The panel noted that the officers, whilst having to use force, acted professionally and correctly. It was noted that the following Sergeants demonstrated excellent supervision and control of the incidents they were involved with:</p> <p>Sgt Chris Wright</p> <p>Sgt Sian Moran</p> <p>Sgt Andrew Gledhill</p>
Recommendations:	<p>To move the pre-meeting closer to the main scrutiny meeting in order to ensure that the panel have the opportunity to view BWV before it is deleted.</p> <p>The panel agreed to focus on the use of TASER at the next scrutiny meeting 02 February 2023</p>
Force Lead Response:	<p>None</p>

Appendix 1 Matrix of Use of Force Incidents.

Occurrence No.	Date	Tactic Type Used	UOF Necessary?	UOF Proportional?	Description / Comments
21220122373	16 Sep 2022	Physical restraint and PAVA spray	Yes	Yes	Aggressive drunk male required restraining by a number of officers. PAVA spray used as male became violent
21220108841	21 Aug 2022	BWV Unavailable			
21220112622	28 Aug 2022	BWV Unavailable			
21220115882	04 Sep 2022	Non compliant handcuffing, Ground restraint, Verbal skills	Yes	Yes	Young person, very distressed. Officers very patient and good verbal skills to de-escalate.
21220104915	12 Aug 2022	Non compliant handcuffing, Ground restraint,	Yes	Yes	Drunk Male removed from venue following assault of female.
21220113086	30 Aug 2022	Physical restraint and PAVA spray	Yes	Yes	Male threatening occupant – domestic incident history and known to carry knife. Found in back garden.
21220104259	11 Aug 2022	BWV Unavailable			
21220123118	18 Sept 2022	BWV Unavailable			
21220121302	14 Sep 2022	Compliant cuffing, physical restraint	Yes	Yes	Fight outside a pub. Detainee initially compliant but became aggressive. Although there was BWV it did not show the actual use of force due to a break in filming.