

Ethics and Review November report

Item 4 (ii)

Theme/issue	ETAP actions/findings	Timing/next steps
<p>The work of the Panel complements that of the ETAP Finance Panel and has strengthened ETAP's focus on ethics and transparency.</p> <p>We continue to use ERP meetings to improve members' depth of understanding of policies and procedures in the Force, FARS and SCO.</p>	<p>Since the last ETAP Force meeting in July the Ethics and Review Panel has met once, on 6 November 2023.</p> <p>Reports on all reviews completed to date are available on the SCO website.</p>	<p>We continue to operate in line with our annual workplan which includes identifying areas for possible scrutiny/review and re-visiting issues/follow-up on completed reviews to ensure that any outstanding issues/queries have been addressed.</p> <p>In line with our current workplan our October meeting focused on</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A briefing on current issues in the Professional Standards Department (PSD) and its three units: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Vetting ○ Anti-Counter Corruption Unit – (ACU) ○ Professional Standards Unit – Complaints and Misconduct (PSU) • Current reviews • Planned reviews
<p>Progress on Reviews since last ETAP meeting</p>	<p>At the last ETAP Force public meeting we reported on our Stage 2 Review of the Commissioner's Independent Scrutiny Panels (CISP) Project: Our Stage 1 review, completed in March 2023, focused on the SCO CISP project, examining the process used to transition from a structure based on Safer Neighbourhood Panels to the establishment of the Commissioner's Independent Scrutiny Panels.</p> <p>We made a small number of comments on use of project management tools.</p> <p>Overall, we found that the process was well-managed and completed in a timely fashion.</p>	<p>Our Stage 2 Review got underway in September, and we are examining the operation of the three CISP from 1 April 2022 to 31 July 2023. Each Panel covers one area of policing practice:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stop Search • Use of Force • Custody & Detention. <p>This is an important area because effective independent local scrutiny should support the building of public confidence in our local police service.</p> <p>We have had access to all relevant documentation and meetings with the SCO Director of Governance and Assurance Officer have given us a good level of detailed understanding. The draft review report is currently with SCO for fact-checking and will then go to SGB prior to publication on the SCO website.</p> <p>This far we have good assurance that the Panels are operating effectively, with an active and diverse membership and that the Force is actively engaged and welcomes the scrutiny and input from the Panels.</p>
<p>Planned reviews/future work programme</p>	<p>At our November ERP meeting we had a verbal update on the work of the PSD</p> <p>During November an ETAP member will be attending, as an observer, each of the four internal feedback sessions on the Mobilisation of the On-call as a crew of three riders, running as a trial from 1 June until the end of December 2023.</p>	<p>This included a discussion on the roll out of the new Code of Ethics which has been developed by the College of Policing. We look forward to understanding the timetable and process for implementation of the Code across the Force, including the role of the Force's own internal Ethics Panel.</p> <p>This will give ETAP members an understanding of both the trial itself and of the approach to consultation and engagement by the FARS Leadership Team.</p>

Jane King, Chair, Ethics and Review Panel 13/11/23