

SCRUTINY REVIEW REPORT

Safer Neighbourhood Panel:	Staffordshire Moorlands
Working Title:	Review of Stop & Search - March 2019
Reason for enquiry:	To meet the requirement of the Staffordshire Commissioner, that Stop & Search is reviewed annually by all Safer Neighbourhood Panels (SNP).
Overview of Performance Information to support need for enquiry:	The need to do the review is stated in the terms of reference for all Staffordshire SNP panels.
Links to Police & Crime Plan:	We understand that it is a national requirement that Stop & Searches be independently reviewed and Staffordshire has decided to meet this requirement through its SNP network.
Background:	<p>The Stop & Search subcommittee of the Staffordshire Moorlands SNP comprises of four members who have been on the Stop & Search training. They were provided by the Staffordshire Commissioners office a list of nearly 50 Stop & Searches recorded as having been done in Staffordshire Moorlands in January and February 2019. Ten cases were selected, representing a cross section of circumstances.</p> <p>All the cases had records on the Stop & Search Live Database and most had STORM records which could be referred to, but only three had Body Worn Video available as the other recordings were more than 38 days old and had been deleted as they'd not been marked for retention.</p>
Review Details:	<p>An appointment was made for the subcommittee to attend the Leek Police Station on 6th March to conduct the scrutiny, aided by Sgt Rob Peacock, Pat Trafford (SMDC) and Michelle Ryan (SCO). Two hours were set aside for this.</p> <p>The review was conducted using the process and checklist issued in January 2019. The first three cases were reviewed and both parts of the checklist were successfully completed – record attached. No issues were raised about the conduct of the Stop & Searches. For the third case (666/2019) we did not observe the officer explaining the entitlement to a copy of the record, however this may have come later in the recording (we watched only 7 minutes of the 40 minute recording, for time management reasons).</p>

The next four cases were reviewed only against the first part of the checklist – record attached. Only one issue was raised, regarding case 205/2019. It was clear from the STORM report that two people had been searched, but only one record could be located. After the meeting, Sgt Peacock reported that the officer had submitted a Stop & Search for the other individual and the car, and that had been authorised by his Sgt, however for some reason this had not appeared on the list from the Staffordshire Commissioner.

There was some discussion about why Body Worn Video recordings were still not being retained, despite the recent training reminder that all officers had received. The committee understood how onerous it is for officers to review and mark all their recordings, and the systems currently do not help them to identify which of the many recordings should be saved. Sgt Peacock and Michelle explained that a county level group is in place and working to improve performance.

The group decided that, having scrutinised seven cases, they were satisfied with what they had seen and did not need to review the other three.

Michelle explained that it had recently been decided that best practice would be to select only four or five cases per scrutiny.

Conclusions:

The subcommittee were happy that the cases reviewed met the requirements, and wished to congratulate the officers involved.

The new checklist worked well.

The effort that Sgt Peacock had put in to preparing for the session was much appreciated.

Recommendations:

Without the BWV recording, it is not possible for any panel to scrutinise whether or not GOWISELY is being followed. The work to improve retention of Body Worn Video should continue, and hopefully systems improvements will help officers. Regular updates on this would be welcomed by the panel.

SCO to investigate why the second Stop & Search relating to 205/2019 did not appear on the list, in case this indicates a wider problem.

The Stop & Search Live Database records viewed did not seem to include a description of the individual, although this is normally recorded by the officer and may well be useful in investigations/prosecutions. It may be that there is not 'description' field in the Database if it's not been updated as Stop & Search processes have developed; or it may be that the description was there but we didn't know how to view it. If the former is true, consideration should be given to including this field in the database.

LPT Commander Report Feedback:

I will pass back the comments made by the review team to my staff and I note that the scrutiny appears to be settling in well now with best use made of the time allowed in the effective scrutiny applied.

I am made aware that SNP member Sara Mann played a key part in the scrutiny this time contacting Sgt Peacock prior to the day to ensure all required was in place to great effect. Many thanks.

Implications:

None

SCO Response:

A thorough review by the Staffordshire Moorlands SNP. The SCO will look into the reason that the second record for 205/2019 did not show on the list obtained from the police system.

The SCO will also raise with the Stop and Search work group that 7 of the 10 BWV recordings were not available due to not being retained.

	Case number:	499/2019	528&9/2019	666/2019	534/2019	350/2019	266/2019	205/2019
	Complete this part to confirm whether the written record of the case included:							
	Name or description of person searched	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Their self-identified ethnic background	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	The registration number of vehicle (if any)	n/a	√	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
	The purpose/grounds for the search	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Date, time and place	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	The outcome	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Any injury or damage caused	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Identities of officer(s)	√	√	√	√	√	√	√
	Complete this part to confirm if GOWISELY was followed:							
G	Explain grounds for search	√	√	√	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv
O	Explain objective of search	√	√	√	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv
W	Show their warrant card (if plain clothes)	n/a uniform	n/a uniform	n/a uniform	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv
I	Identify themselves	√	√	√	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv
S	Say which station they work at	√	√	√	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv
E	Entitlement to a copy of the record	√	√	not seen	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv
L	Under which legal power	√	√	√	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv
Y	'you are detained for a search'	√	x	rais	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv
JOG	Remove only suspect's jacket, outer coat, gloves	√	√	√	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv	no bwv