

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel

Minutes of Stop & Search Scrutiny Session

Date: 24 January 2023
Time: 18:30 – 20:30
Venue: Cambridgeshire Constabulary HQ, Huntingdon

Attendees:

- 8 panel members attended
- Superintendent Robbin Sissons, Cambridgeshire Constabulary (RS)
- Sergeant Ciaran Constable, Cambridgeshire Constabulary (CC)
- Caitlin Bones, Cambridgeshire Constabulary (CB)
- Inspector Jamie Rice, Cambridgeshire Constabulary (via Teams) (JR)
- Jack Hudson, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (JH)
- Fran Toovey, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (FT)

Apologies received:

- Apologies from 2 independent panel members
- Detective Constable Julie McDougall-Waters, Cambridgeshire Constabulary

1. Introduction and apologies

- 1.1 The Chair, Al Gadney (AG) welcomed members of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Community Scrutiny Panel (the "Panel") to the scrutiny meeting of Cambridgeshire Constabulary's (the "Constabulary") use of Stop & Search (S&S).
- 1.2 Introductions were made including a welcome to new panel member, Steve Baxter who joined the meeting for the first time.
- 1.3 AG also sadly announced that EW would be standing down from the panel after this meeting and wanted to express heartfelt gratitude for his help in getting the scrutiny panel started and for servicing as Vice Chair for the past two years. All panel members present, and Constabulary and Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) representatives showed their appreciation for EW.

2. Minutes of Previous Panel Meeting (25 October 2022)

- 2.1 The minutes of the previous S&S Scrutiny Panel meeting were discussed. The minutes had been circulated by the OPCC, to all attendees, prior to this meeting. No additional comments had been received by AG or the OPCC so the minutes for the Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 25 October 2022 were duly approved.

3. Action Updates from Previous Meeting

- 3.1 The action log at the end of this document covers all agreed actions from the S&S Scrutiny Panel meeting held on 24 January 2023 in addition to any relevant outstanding actions.
- 3.2 Action 22/10/25/3.2 from 25 October 2022 regarding the suggestion of involving under-16's in scrutiny through Youth Panels is still being explored by OPCC.
- 3.3 Action 22/08/23/1.3 from 22 August 2022 relates to the Chair's discussion with the Constabulary around scope of their requirements in relation to the Use of

Force in Custody. There is a national requirement for scrutiny of other aspects of policing, such as police attending Domestic Abuse incidents or Section 136 Mental Health using medical practitioner's input on Body Worn Video (BWV) (similar to work already underway with autism). RS confirmed that this scrutiny will in due course extend to custody and taser use too. MM said it would be useful to know numbers and AG suggested possibility of alternative panel meetings for "other" scrutiny in conjunction with S&S and Use of Force (UoF). JH and RS will take this further to discuss options for increased scrutiny.

ACTION: 23/01/24/3.3

4. Role Play Feedback

- 4.1 AG spoke to the presentation regarding feedback received from a Panel attendee at the latest role play. With an observed presence of diversity in the role play, the issue raised last year that highlighted lack of diversity among role play actors appears to be remedied and will be monitored going forward.
- 4.2 CB confirmed next training sessions, at Monks Wood, were 23 February 2023 and 27 March 2023 – note that although they are all day training sessions, there is no obligation to attend the whole day.

5. Panel guidance on revised RAG rating

- 5.1 AG spoke to the presentation regarding the new RAG guidance documents – moving forward assessments would use colour grading only, without the need for numeric scores and the new assessment sheets reflected this revision.

6. AGM – expressions of interest for Chair and Vice Chair

- 6.1 AG confirmed that he is standing down and will be leaving the panel to take on new responsibilities with a Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) Scrutiny Group with BCH PSD. The S&S and UoF panel now needs a new Chair and

Vice Chair. JH indicated that a deadline would be needed for any expressions of interest ahead of the AGM.

7. Data Recap

- 7.1 AG briefly reviewed a summary of the data prepared by Constabulary, previously shared with the panel ahead of the meeting, indicating that there is still a disproportionate number of ethnic minorities for S&S in both Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.
- 7.2 Information on officers who exercised their powers the most (most frequent searchers) and what the breakdown is of each incident was presented in the slide deck. The Constabulary provided an overview of anonymised data relating to officers who had exercised their powers in December 2022.
- 7.3 The panel enquired whether there was any direct correlation with the precept survey. JH confirmed that this was not a matter the public had raised as an issue; although drug-related crime did feature in all areas to some extent, each area tended to have its own concerns. JH also said that the results from the precept survey were not truly representative of the communities across Cambridgeshire.
- 7.4 RS explained that the Home Office have asked that officers seek intelligence to add further grounds for the use of S&S and UoF but is satisfied that all incidents were rated at Amber (sufficient); those rated as Amber W/C (with comments) required a little more detail.

8. Body Worn Video Reviews

- 8.1 Regarding availability of BWV, CC identified that out of 10 incidents selected by AG for the purposes of this meeting, all 10 had BWV available.
- 8.2 Additional to the selection of BWV were 2 strip searches – one had both additional grounds and audio recording, the other had neither.

8.3 CC was pleased to confirm that out of 186 submissions from December, only 4 entries did not have BWV activated.

8.4 Stop & Search Review 1 - SS/3379797349/1 & SS/3379797349/3

Brief circumstances: A traffic unit stopped a vehicle they had observed driving erratically. The officer noted a strong smell of cannabis coming from within the vehicle and believed the driver may be under the influence of drugs. A subsequent drugs wipe proved negative but, due to the smell, the officer suspected there may be drugs within the vehicle. The vehicle had been seen driving in a known drug use/deal hotspot within Peterborough.

A discussion took place regarding the term “erratic driving” and that it should have been made clear in the grounds that this was the justification for the S&S, as the smell of cannabis was only identified after the vehicle had been stopped.

Importantly, since the subject of the stop was of an ethnic minority, without specific detail as to what ‘erratic driving’ meant, it could be possible to suggest the stop was racially motivated.

CC explained to the panel that a drugs wipe is used to do a roadside test for cocaine and cannabis in suspected drug drivers.

All in agreement that the officer acted professionally, was courteous and provided the individual with a clear explanation of what was happening.

For the Panel and Chair’s comments see Annex 1. The panel rated it as **Green**.

ACTION: 23/01/24/8.4

8.5 Stop & Search Review 2 - SS/3379797349/4

Brief circumstances: A male was stopped in the vicinity of a residential burglary, having been seen leaving the area in the opposite direction of the burglary. The male was wearing dark clothing and a balaclava, and on seeing the police turned away and started walking quicker. When approached by officers he questioned being stopped but then admitted being known to police for robbery

and burglary offences. No items that could have been used to force entry were found.

A discussion took place regarding the poor quality of the BWV (video and audio impaired by officer's jacket) and that it was started late. Further discussion focussed on use of handcuffs and how these are typically deployed in S&S situations. Concerns were raised over whether the UoF had been recorded as a result of handcuff use. If not, then feedback needed for officer.

ACTION: 23/01/24/8.5.1

All in agreement that the officer acted professionally, was courteous and established a good rapport with the cooperative individual.

For the Panel and Chair's comments see Annex 2. Due to poor quality of the BWV recording the panel rated it as **Amber**.

ACTION: 23/01/24/8.5.2

8.6 Stop & Search Review 3 - SS/3749100736/84

Brief circumstances: Following reports from CCTV team of active drug dealing, officers attended known hotspot. On spotting officers' arrival the group dispersed with one individual walking away from the rest of the group. Officer walked towards solo individual, who immediately ran. When officer caught up with the individual officer recognised them from an image of potential drug runners and was satisfied that they had reasonable suspicion of drug dealing and duly conducted a Sec 23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 search.

A discussion took place regarding the speed at which handcuffs were deployed and the time taken by the officers to start the search, walking the detained individual quite some distance without properly communicating with them why they were doing so. CC explained that the officers were walking to an area with CCTV coverage offering better protection for all involved. CB added that once an officer has said "you are detained" they are permitted to use handcuffs to reduce risk to the officer from someone deemed potentially violent. Concerns were raised over both officers involved, who appeared to rise to the verbal

provocation of the subject. The second officer's behaviour seemed to provoke the individual, making it more difficult for the officer conducting the search; the panel feel this officer should be spoken to about his interaction.

ACTION: 23/01/24/8.6.1

All in agreement that the grounds were very well detailed and despite the delay the officer did act professionally and ethically.

For the Panel and Chair's comments see Annex 3. The panel rated it as **Green**.

ACTION: 23/01/24/8.6.2

8.7 Stop & Search Review 4 - SS/1552059606/3

Brief circumstances: Live CCTV observations suggested possible exchange between two individuals of a package and money. Officers attended the location and approached one individual and detained for stop search under Sec 23 Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. During the search 2 mobile phones and a large amount of cash were discovered but officer's attempts to continue the search were hampered by individual having many layers of clothing and no drugs were found. The officer spoke with a Sergeant who suggested the officer arrest the individual in connection with the supply of controlled drugs or alternatively carry out a strip search.

The officer decided to transport the individual into custody in order to perform a strip search, which was completed with audio recording captured. The search resulted in no drugs, or any other illegal items being found on the subject.

Note: that this is an assessment of strip search audio only - initial engagement with individual not seen.

A discussion took place around the reason to conduct a strip search, prompted by individual wearing a lot of layers of clothing which may have been a deliberate ploy to evade a full search or may have been solely due to cold weather. The Sergeant had seen the exchange on CCTV and directed officers to attend but the addition of comments relating to a possible disagreement between Sergeant and officer only confused the detail in the grounds and

extended grounds. The panel felt this was unprofessional on the part of the officer completing the entry and requested the Constabulary make enquiries about the situation between the officer and Sergeant.

ACTION: 23/01/24/8.7.1

All in agreement that the grounds provided enough detail to justify the strip search and although the BWV of the initial engagement was not viewed on this occasion, the panel were in agreement that the audio from the strip search demonstrated professional behaviour by the officers.

For the Panel and Chair's comments see Annex 4. The panel rated it as **Green**.

ACTION: 23/01/24/8.7.2

8.8 Stop & Search Review 5 - SS/0175667925/3

Time did not allow for Stop & Search Review 5 to be scrutinised by the Panel.

9. Any Other Business

9.1 AG invited all attendees to promote the scrutiny panel through their social media.

9.2 CB said that officers ask her why panel members give up their time for scrutiny. EW said that he does it because he wants a good constabulary so people can get on with their lives, if the constabulary doesn't work well then people don't either. AG asked panel members to please send their thoughts through to OPCC to pass on to CB.

9.3 CC requested, as part of new officer training, that they might attend scrutiny meetings to observe and understand what the panel does.

10. Date of Next Meeting

10.1 The date of the next Community Scrutiny Panel on the Use of Force is scheduled to take place on 21 February 2023, venue yet to be confirmed.

Action and Decision Log: Stop & Search Community Scrutiny Panel

Action/Decision	Date	Information	Owner	Update
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.7.2	24/01/23	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/1552059606/3 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.7.1	24/01/23	The Constabulary to look into the disagreement that has been documented in the SS/1552059606/3 grounds between the officer and Sergeant as this looks rather unprofessional.		
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.6.2	24/01/23	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/3749100736/84 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.6.1	24/01/23	The Constabulary to speak to officers involved in SS/3749100736/84 regarding the interaction being controlled temporarily by the subject (through provocation) rather than the officers.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.5.2	24/01/23	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/3379797349/4 and	JR	

		update the panel on any subsequent action taken.		
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.5.1	24/01/23	The Constabulary to verify if corresponding UoF report completed for SS/3379797349/4 with feedback to officer if not completed.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/8.4	24/01/23	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/3379797349/1 & SS/3379797349/3 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	
ACTION: 23/01/24/3.3	24/01/23	Explore options for increased scrutiny, covering other aspects of policing such as Sect 136 Mental Health, Domestic Abuse incidents and taser use.	JH & RS	
ACTION:22/10/25/5.1	25/10/22	Explore benefits of having a CSP presentation to be used during training of new recruits. RS has approached the training team and they are more than happy for this to be incorporated into their training. They suggest that a video would be good as it provides more flexibility on when they	RS	Action ongoing - 24/01/23

		show it and will have less impact on the panel / gives consistency in delivery and is a contingency for times the panel can't make it.		
ACTION:22/10/25/3.2	25/10/22	Look at alternative for under-16's to get involved with scrutiny – possibly through Youth Panels.	JH	Action ongoing - 24/01/23 MH still exploring this option.
ACTION: 22/08/23/2.1	23/08/22	Minutes of S&S Scrutiny Panel to be published on the Police & Crime Commissioners Website. A conversation took place around whether members would be willing to have names and faces appear on the website. General consensus was yes. JH will send consent form around to all panel members, via AG.	OPCC	Action ongoing - 24/01/23 Constabulary happy to have presentation on website. Consent form has been signed by all members who have attended meetings since 23/08/22.
ACTION:22/10/25/7.6.2	25/10/22	Explore why BWV is not started when entering premises during Section 8 warrant to pre-empt any possible S&S incidents.	RS	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION:22/10/25/7.6.1	25/10/22	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/3702843619/1 and	JR	Action closed – 24/01/23

		update the panel on any subsequent action taken.		
ACTION:22/10/25/7.4	25/10/22	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/0128078458/10 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION:22/10/25/7.3	25/10/22	The Constabulary to review the findings of the Panel for SS/1966200011/45 and update the panel on any subsequent action taken.	JR	Action closed – 24/01/23
DECISION:22/10/25/6.5	25/10/22	AG suggested that calling notices include; Minutes of previous meeting (including Action & Decisions Log); Constabulary data; Summary of monthly statistics; Frequent Searcher report.	OPCC	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION:22/10/25/4.1	25/10/22	Explore ways of wider sharing 'Good Practice' using positively rated BWV.	RS	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION:22/08/23/10.1	23/08/22	Grounds Assessment Criteria to be printed and made available at all panel meetings.	AG OPCC	Action closed – 24/01/23

DECISION: 22/08/23/6.0	23/08/22	Data will be shared in advance of the meeting and only questions raised in advance will be addressed in the panel. Looking to share data quarterly?	AG	Action closed – 24/01/23
ACTION: 22/08/23/1.3	23/08/22	Chair to speak to the Constabulary to consider the scope of their requirements in relation to the Use of Force in Custody. Update from AI needed.	AG	Action closed – 24/01/23