



STRATEGIC POLICING AND CRIME BOARD 5 November 2013

Stop and Search

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To consider a draft stop and search action plan developed jointly with the force that builds on existing actions undertaken by the force and reflects the issues raised at the stop and search summit, to be the basis of public consultation.

BACKGROUND

2. The [Police and Crime Plan](#) includes a commitment to introduce new oversight mechanisms for stop and search. Stop and search is one of the most intrusive overt policing powers and is often controversial. The Police and Crime Plan therefore recognises that stop and search can be a source of tension between the police and public they serve.
3. The Police and Crime Commissioner hosted a [stop and search summit](#) on 20 September 2013, including speakers from a range of organisations and the chance for attendees to have their say about stop and search.
4. Building on the work already underway, the summit indicated agreement for a stop and search action plan that included objectives, deadlines and responsibilities. At its core were three linked issues: training (with community input), better recording of stop and search and improved public accountability. It was agreed that the action plan would itself be subject to public consultation.
5. The Home Office recently conducted a [consultation](#) on stop and search powers. The Police and Crime Commissioner's [response](#) incorporates feedback from delegates at the stop and search summit. The force also submitted a response to the consultation.

ACTION PLAN

Action	Responsibility	Timescale	Additional information and progress updates
<p>Public Consultation: This joint stop and search action plan will be subject to public consultation</p>	WMOPC	Deadline for responses Friday 20 December 2013	Report to Strategic Policing & Crime Board 7 January 2014
<p>Training:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mandatory stop & search training will be delivered to all front line police officers. The training package will be subject to consultation with representatives of Stop & Search Scrutiny Panels. All front line supervisors will receive additional training regarding their managerial and leadership responsibilities 	Chief Superintendent Burgess	<p>Completion January 2014</p> <p>Completion April 2014</p>	The front line training package has already been subjected to internal and public scrutiny and is nearing readiness to be delivered
<p>Current Technology: A review of the Airwave radio terminal experiment for the recording stop & search will take place</p>	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Completion November 2013	Recording via Airwave terminals is currently in place in Coventry and Solihull Local Policing Units and within the Operations department. The pilot has shown that although the system has advantages it also has a number of limitations

<p>Future Technology: An optimum automated recording system which removes the bureaucracy and inaccuracy associated with the current paper based recording system will be developed</p>	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Anticipated completion April 2014	A project team has been established and scoping work, including the identification of operational requirements, is taking place
<p>Intelligence Led: The force needs to achieve a position whereby the use of stop and search is intelligence led and is integrated into patrol plans</p>	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Completion January 2014	A pilot site at Birmingham West and Central LPU is to begin in November 2013
<p>Management Information: The distribution of accurate data that allows the force to scrutinise the activity and assess the effectiveness of individual officers, teams and entire policing units must be achieved. This data will also allow the force to provide communities with an accurate account of how effective and proportionate its use of stop and search is in any given locality</p>	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	The first LPU specific data sets that included arrest rates and race proportionality rates were produced and distributed to senior police leaders in October 2013
<p>Public Information: Stop and search data is to be made available via an online geographic interface facilitated through the force and PCC's websites</p>	WMOPC & Chief Superintendent Burgess	Anticipated completion April 2014	This is interdependent with the role out of the new automated stop and search recording system
<p>Public Knowledge: There will be a 'Know Your Rights'</p>	WMOPC	Anticipated completion April 2014	This is interdependent with the role out of the new

<p>publicity campaign delivered through social media. The record of receipt to be issued following a stop and search under the new automated system will also include details of an individual's rights in respect of stop and search</p>			<p>automated stop and search recording system</p>
<p>Public Scrutiny: A review of the ten locally based stop and search scrutiny panels is to take place to achieve consistency and the sharing of best practice. The ten local panels will be invited to meet with the PCC bi-annually. Local scrutiny panels will be asked to consider inviting members of local authority crime and disorder overview and scrutiny committees to their meetings</p>	<p>Chief Superintendent Burgess & WMOPC</p>	<p>Report to Strategic Policing & Crime Board 7 January 2014</p>	<p>The review of the ten local scrutiny panels has commenced</p>
<p>Section 60 Review: A review of the force's use of Section 60 authorities to search under the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 is to take place</p>	<p>Chief Superintendent Burgess</p>	<p>Report to Strategic Policing & Crime Board 7 January 2014</p>	<p>Force policy dictates that pre-planned Section 60 authorisations now require approval from an Assistant Chief Constable or above</p>
<p>Schedule 7 Review: Implications of proposed changes to Schedule 7 Stop and Search are to be reviewed in the context of current use of this power by West Midlands Police</p>	<p>Detective Superintendent Southern</p>	<p>Include in report to Strategic Policing & Crime Board 7 January 2014</p>	<p>The government recently announced changes to Schedule 7</p>

<p>Academic Research: A review of existing research around stop and search will take place with a view to consolidating knowledge</p>	WMOPC	Paper April 2014	Large volumes of research on this subject matter have taken place over many years and should be revisited
<p>Outside Agencies: A review will take place to understand the impact of the use of stop and search in WMP's force area by other forces and policing agencies</p>	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	Agencies also conducting stop and search in WMP's force area include British Transport Police, Central Motorway Patrol Group and the National Crime Agency
<p>Peer Review: West Midlands Police will invite other police forces to assess various aspects of our approach to improving of use of stop and search</p>	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	The training package has already been reviewed by Dorset Constabulary and Leicestershire Police
<p>Body worn cameras: West Midlands Police is piloting the use of body worn cameras, their relevance to stop & search will be explored during this pilot</p>	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	Body worn cameras are to be piloted on Birmingham South LPU and by the Safer Travel Team across the force area
<p>Home Office Consultation: The Home Office have recently conducted a national consultation on stop and search. The force will respond to the recommendations that are made. It is not yet known when the recommendations will be published</p>	Chief Superintendent Burgess	Ongoing	Both the force and the PCC made submissions to the national consultation. The PCC's response included issues raised during the stop and search summit held in September.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6. There will be no costs associated with training beyond opportunity costs.
7. The development of a new recording system will be done in house and based upon existing IT systems.
8. There are potential costs arising from the development of a public web-based stop and search information portal. These would be met from existing WMOPC budgets.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. Legal services are represented on the stop and search project team, currently there are no legal implications have been identified.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. The Board is asked to consider the action plan.

Jonathan Jardine
Policy Manager, West Midlands Office for Policing & Crime

Chief Superintendent Rick Burgess
West Midlands Police