

BN Stop and Search Scrutiny Meeting

Minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 12th June 2014

Those in attendance:

Linda HINES (LH) – Chair
Henry WATTIS (HW)
Muhammed Sultan (MS)
Steve Whitehorn (SW)
Sue Bailey (SB)
Superintendent Ron Winch (RW)
Inspector Jason Bonser (JB)
Vicki Smith (VS)
Ernie Hendricks – PCC office (EH)

Chief Superintendent Andronov
Gail Hartle

1) Welcome, Introduction & Apologies

Meeting open at 18:00 hrs by Chair and introductions completed.

Apologies received:

Steve Clayton
Trudy Yates
Tod Hale
Sgt Nicky Keen
Inspector Andrew Russell

2) Conflicts of interest

LH asked group to confirm if there was any conflict of interest – no conflict identified.

4) Stop & Search presentation

March, April & May – 212 in total.

Highest wards are:

- Erdington – 43
- Stockland Green – 57
- Tyburn – 33

These figures are higher due to the areas being burglary patrols.

Kingstanding and Four Oaks are lower than last presentation as they are no longer part of the burglary patrol areas.

The different powers use for Stop & Search where discussed. From the stops, about 24 were arrested, which is about 10% and this is the national average.

Proportionality was discussed and group would like to see the ward break down so can get a better picture and can compare the stops to the community make-up.

Action: Inspector Russell/Sixsmith to break down population into wards

Discussed graphs which show reason for stop, age, arrest/NFA/advised etc. which was interesting as it showed there are more 'older' people getting stopped than younger people.

Group would like to know more information on the following:

- NFA/other = why? What does this mean?
- Arrested = was this due to the reason they were stopped?

Action: Inspector Russell/Sixsmith to look at above questions

Action: Inspector Russell to look into those arrested and see if they are convicted

Inspector Russell goes through every stop & search form to ensure it has been completed correctly. Training has been completed to all officers and now there is a very small percentage of forms which have been incorrectly completed. There is now a greater ownership on sergeants to ensure their officers are doing the forms properly.

EH asked whether the increase in governance/scrutiny has affected the number of forms being done, are officers not doing them as much? JB answered, saying this could be a factor but the quality is better and officers are doing them better. There is a better interaction and reasoning for the stops.

Inspector Sixsmith showed the group the training presentation for Stop & Search which was presented to officers during their training. Previous failures had included; failure to record arrests, form being completed afterwards, lack of supervision and problems with admin (i.e. untidy, no codes etc.)

Ten forms, which have been randomly selected by Inspector Sixsmith were then discussed with the group. The reasons/codes were explained and the group noted the small amount of room officers have to note their reasons for stop.

EH asked if these were West Midlands Police forms – JB & BS believe there were designed by WMP. There old forms were much longer, but all police Forces moved to these smaller forms as easier to enter into computer.

There were a few issues identified by group which were discussed;

- The search time was not completed = this could be down to the fact the stop & search time were the same but technically both boxes should be filled in
- Form stated the person was arrested but didn't explain why they were stopped
- The form refers to a log, which is good due to the limited amount of space but as the person who is stopped can request the form, does this mean they can also have access to the log?

Inspector Sixsmith noted that many officers continue their reasoning on the back of the form to ensure all the circumstances are explained.

The group believe it would be useful if officers are aware the IAG are looking at these forms and provide feedback to officers on the views of the panel.

Action: Inspector Russell to feedback to officers the panel's views

Terms of Reference was discussed and agreed upon. IAG members to sign the Terms of Reference and bring to next meeting, so a record can be kept.

Members: ensure Terms of Reference is signed and brought to the next meeting

Previous actions:

Action: Inspector Russell to draft Terms of Reference – circulate before next meeting so can sign in June = action completed

Action: Vicki & Inspector Russell to draft up 'new' agenda to merge both agendas = agendas will remain separate due to the Stop & Search scrutiny panel & IAG needing to be separate. Also, the stop & search agenda needs to be placed on the PCC website.

Action: Inspector Russell to email group the link to the PCC website = action completed

Action: Inspector Russell to ensure Census data is included in Stop & Search presentation = action completed. Need to break it down into wards, so get a clearer picture.

Action: Inspector Russell to print out guidance notes with meaning of number/letters etc. = action completed

Action: Inspector Russell to do presentation around what should be on form and why = action completed

Changes to meeting: VS wanted to remind the group that from August the meeting will be split – Stop & Search will run from 6pm to approx. 6.30 / 6.45pm depending on discussion, then the IAG meeting will commence. This will mean the meeting may not finish until approx. 7.30pm. The group noted in previous meetings, they wish the two meetings to be on the same night but this can be reviewed in the future if required.

Next meeting is 14th August at 6pm, Sutton Coldfield police station

Future meetings:

16th October

18th December

All at 6pm at Sutton Coldfield Police Station