

**BIRMINGHAM SOUTH STOP AND SEARCH & USE OF FORCE SCRUTINY PANEL MEETING
MONDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2021, ONLINE VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS**

PRESENT

Nick Reynolds (NR) (Chair), Stassi Chilas (SC) (Vice-chair), Lisa Hill (LH), Martin Cadd (MC)
Natalie Cox (NC) (PCC's Office)
Insp Michelle Cassidy (Insp MC), Insp Nick Hill (NH), Insp James Tandy (JT)

APOLOGIES

Dr Jamil Fathi

NR opened the meeting, welcomed panel members and asked each to introduce themselves.

STOP & SEARCH

NH gave a brief summary recent stop and search activity in Birmingham South (BS). The activity in the first half of 2021 was noticeably greater than in the second half. Over the year to date, 410 e-Search records for BS showed:

- 26.3% resulted in a positive outcome
- 95.9% met the required standard
- 83.2% were live records, and
- 92.0% were recorded on body-worn video (BWV), although BWV compliance had tailed off to below 80% toward the end of the year*.

NH offered 5 e-Search records and their associated BWV footage, from which the following 3 were selected for scrutiny:

Ser	Record ID	Live/ Retro	Ethnicity & Sex	Powers Used	BWV	Outcome	Record Scrutiny
1	SSBW-BR-14689	L	White Male	S1 PACE. Suspicion of burglary	Yes	Arrested later but not as immediate result of search.	OK, but panel questioned the validity of the search after the subject had gone into his house briefly.
2	SSBW-HT- 146619	L	Mixed (White/bl ack) Male	S1 PACE. Subject handcuffed; compliant.	Yes	NFA	OK. Several officers present for 2 searches but not overwhelming. Reasonable grounds. At railway station; subject concerned about missing last train. Officers reassuring; good rapport.
3							Not selected

Ser	Record ID	Live/ Retro	Ethnicity & Sex	Powers Used	BWV	Outcome	Record Scrutiny
4	SSBW-PY-146988	R	Black Male	S23 Misuse of Drugs Act. Subject handcuffed; compliant.	No*	NFA	OK. Appeared to be live training of 3 students by tutor. Male subject searched by female officer. Officer holding subject's cigarette during search. Search next to large glass shop window (potential hazard). Reasonable grounds; good rapport.
5							Not selected

* e-Search record showed 'No' for BWV but footage was available to view. NH advised that some officers were forgetting to tick the BWV box when completing records, which is likely to have skewed the compliance figures.

USE OF FORCE (UofF)

Insp MC gave a brief overview of recent UofF figures and BWV compliance for the WMP Force overall and Birmingham West (BW) NPU, summarised as follows:

	WMP	BW
Sep 21 UofF Forms	1,464	95
Sep 21 BWV Compliant	81%	87%
Oct 21 UofF Forms	1,542	134
Oct 21 BWV Compliant	82%	86

In Sep and Oct 21 in BW, taser tactics were used 5 times, of which one resulted in taser deployment.

Insp MC offered BWV footage from 6 incidents involving UofF, from which the following 3 were selected for scrutiny:

UofF Incident #6. 1097 of 11 Nov 21 at 1126 hrs.

Stop in BS by armed response officers based on intelligence of 3 people coming to Birmingham to buy a gun.

Armed officers stopped a car they had been looking for in a cul-de-sac. The occupants decamped and tried to run. Officers drew their weapons immediately and challenged the vehicle occupants very quickly taking control of the incident.

Scrutiny panel decision: The panel was satisfied that the UofF had been justified and commented that this was a text-book implementation of UofF.

UofF Incident #3. 2670 of 24 Oct 21 at 1649 hrs.

Officers attended an incident in Harborne in support of an ambulance crew dealing with an aggressive male. While the BWV footage did not show the male being aggressive, perhaps in part because by this time there were several officers present, the subject was restrained on the ground by at least 4 officers.

While it was not clear why the UofF was needed - lack of context from the footage - the officers' action appeared reasonable and proportionate without being heavy-handed.

Scrutiny panel decision: The panel was satisfied that the UofF had been justified.

UofF Incident #2. 3084 of 12 Oct 21 at 1623 hrs.

This incident was illustrated by way of 2 BWV clips.

In the first clip, a male and a female officer in an unmarked car attended an incident at a bus stop by the Harborne Leisure Centre where a man in a wheelchair was alleged to have been verbally abusive and was trying to grab at young girls. The subject appeared to have mental health issues and/or was intoxicated.

The female officer instructed the subject to stand up and get in the car. It was not clear at this point what the subject's level of disability was but panel members were informed that the individual was known to the police.

In the second clip, the subject was seen in the back of the car where he spat at the male officer.

Scrutiny panel decision: The panel was satisfied that the UofF had been justified but also questioned why a spit guard had not been used.

Insp MC advised the panel that a taxi contract is in place for disabled individuals to be moved as required following a police intervention. MC added that this was the type of incident that the Disability IAG would be interested in discussing.

DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 24 January 2022 at 1600