



CUMBRIA CONSTABULARY
POLICE POWERS SCRUTINY PANEL
TERMS OF REFERENCE

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1 AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

1.1 To act as a 'critical friend' to Cumbria Constabulary by providing feedback on reviewed Police Powers records. The Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel (the Panel) will review records and video footage, for example, Taser use, deployment and use of Police Officer Body Worn Video Cameras, Stop and Search and the use of force from a local citizen's viewpoint.

1.2 To improve and maintain public trust and satisfaction in Cumbria Constabulary.

1.3 To support the openness and transparency of Cumbria Constabulary (the Constabulary) in delivering a high quality policing service.

1.4 To provide Panel feedback to the Constabulary and to scrutinise the Constabulary's use of Police Power records.

1.5 To give independent, lay-persons' views of the use of Police powers by Cumbria's Police Officers.

1.6 To ensure that Cumbria Constabulary's use of Police powers is effective, in line with Approved Professional Practice and is operating without bias or discrimination.

1.7 To identify best practice in the use of Police powers and in operational policing where appropriate.

1.8 To bring records of concern to the notice of the Constabulary, so that the concerns can be reviewed and lessons learnt where appropriate.

1.9 To improve the quality of policing provided to members of the public regarding the use of Police powers.

2 REVIEW METHODOLOGY

2.1 The panel will review Records and Body Worn Video Camera footage through a quarterly dip-sampling of documentation and video recordings. The Panel will provide a qualitative round table discussion on each case, focusing on a particular category of Police power deployed, a geographic area or specified record selection criteria. The review will look at the appropriateness of the use of the Police power, commenting on positive points as well as issues of concern and operational learning. This approach will be reviewed for effectiveness by the Panel as it progresses in its work.

3 CONFIDENTIALITY

3.1 All records or reports reviewed by the panel will be anonymised so not to reveal sensitive data or personal information within the records.

3.2 Should any personal information be revealed this information must be treated as confidential and must not be shared with any persons outside of the panel meeting.

4 SELECTION OF PANEL MEMBERS

4.1 Members of the Panel (Panel membership being a total of about 20 across the county) have been appointed by way of expressions of interest.

4.2 Members of the panel are not subject to any vetting processes as all information and cases discussed are anonymised and no personal details will be discussed.

4.3 There are three panels across the county one in the North, South and the West. These panels will discuss county wide cases.

5 FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS

5.1 The Panels will meet three times a year one in each of the Territorial Policing Areas. The frequency of meetings may increase in response to any urgent concerns, or as agreed between the office of the PCC and the Panel.

6 REPORTING

6.1 Minutes of the meeting will be taken and any issues identified or good practice recorded will be fed back to the Constabulary. The minutes of the meetings will be published on the Constabulary website.

6.2 The findings of the panel will report back into the Local Policing and Specialist Capability meeting quarterly updates.

7 TRAINING

7.1 The Constabulary will be responsible for providing any required training or briefings for Panel members.

8 RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF PANEL MEMBERS

8.1 Panel members should not make subjective judgements about other Panel members or any person mentioned in Police Records. It is imperative that every Panel member respects other members, and that any conflicts are resolved with dignity and professionalism.

8.2 When representing the Panel, all Panel members must refrain from any political activity that may cause the Panel to compromise its independence.

8.3 No Panel members will have any contact with the media in relation to Panel, Police or PCC related matters or comment in their capacity as a Panel member without discussing this in advance with the Constabulary.

8.4 Members must refer any conflicts of interest which could interfere with their membership, to the PCC's office as soon as possible.

8.5 These Terms of Reference will be published on the Constabulary's website.

9 REVIEW OF TERMS OF REFERENCE

9.1 These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually or amended as necessary.