



Stop Search Scrutiny Panel Meeting

6 February 2020, Durranshill police station.

Minutes

1) Introductions and housekeeping

None of the members present had any prior experiences of stop and search and had not been subject of a search.

2) Discussion regarding the terms of reference and aims and objections of the panel.

3) Training input regarding stop and search powers.

This generated some discussions with panel members including the following;

Do PCSO's have the power to Stop and Search?

Where a juvenile is stopped do they have the right to have an appropriate adult present?

If a person is undergoing transgender reassignment – how would the police treat them and who would search them i.e. male or female officer?

Awareness of individuals who don't speak or understand English – what would officer do?

4) Stop and search scrutiny

Feedback from panel

15992

Panel agreed grounds for search were compliant.

Body worn footage viewed and female seen to be speaking in a different language. This promoted discussion around dealing with those who do not speak English or isn't their first language. Ensuring that the person understands what is happening and why.

15913, 15914, 15915

Agreed compliant but the term 'attempted to evade police' within the grounds for the search could be expanded upon to give details of what actually occurred i.e. how did they attempt to evade police.

Panel queried the term drugs paraphernalia which was a reason named within the grounds of the search. They would have liked to have seen exactly what it consisted of. Examples were given to the panel such as cannabis grinder/rizzla papers, spoons, needles, small snap bags, scales etc.

14909

Within the grounds for this record was the wording 'Information received was that the user of vehicle was supplying controlled drugs from the vehicle in the Barrow area'

Panel agreed that there was more information required within these grounds such as where did the information come from, how recent was the information, and how reliable was the information. The panel discussed sensitive information and acknowledged that some information could not be documented on the record as the person searched was entitled to copy of the form.

14904, 14903

The panel suggested that notes of the conversation between officer and person stopped would be useful and give more detail and add to the grounds.

14901, 14902

Good example of stop search record with detailed grounds. **Feedback to be provided to the officer.**

14897

Prompted discussion on unconscious bias about stopping drivers of a certain type of vehicle e.g. boy racers etc.

Agreed the wording 'recent intelligence' is a good starting point, but more detail needed about the drive around Whitehaven, and the conversation between police and person stopped.

It was highlighted that intelligence was also gained from stop searches and fed back into police records to build a picture up about an individual/vehicle/address.

BWV – Positive feedback from the panel regarding the way the officer took control of the situation after the subject was initially dismissive of the officers. **Feedback to the officer.**

15090

Panel stated that this record required improvement. There was limited detail within the grounds and it would have been useful if some of the conversation between the officer and the female had been documented.

15041

Another example in which the panel felt that had a conversation or reasons for particular behaviour had been documented this would have enhanced the grounds for searching. The incident was a report of a mass fight, panel raised questions about what happened to others involved, were they searched. There were no other records from the incident. Panel stated it was difficult to comment without knowing the full circumstances of the incident.

15034

Panel presumed that the male stopped had been under surveillance as it stated he was seen by plain clothes officers leaving an address know for drug dealing.

Again this prompted a discussion regarding sensitivity around documenting grounds on search record without compromising Police operations.

15033

No issues raised.

15032

Panel questioned record as the grounds for searching were all intelligence based. The panel understood that it may be difficult to write the grounds without giving the detail behind it away but even so there needed to be enough information in the grounds for the search to be compliant and up to scrutiny. Also for the person being searched to understand the reasons why.

15030

The panel thought this record was a good example of search record. It detailed Specific current intelligence which the panel believed gave more meaning than 'recent intel'.

Requires positive feedback to officer.

15029

Form contained the term 'intel' many times but nothing else, no comments about what was said, the person's demeanour, what they were actually doing etc.

15028

Confusing search record with associated bodycam footage. The grounds state that the person is in an area of high theft/burglary and the subject has previous convictions for drugs. However the object of the search was to look for offensive weapons as the male had been acting strangely in the town centre and had previous intelligence for carrying offensive weapons.

Panel believed that the mention of previous convictions within grounds gave cause for concern that the search may be based on this and perceived as prejudice. A poor example of stop and search.

14022

The grounds on the search record were confusing but did state that the male admitted he had heroin on him when he was stopped and spoken to. Good Body worn video which showed a better understanding of what happened. The officer gave the male stopped more detail than what he put on the stop search form. Good clear GOWISELY given, male heard to admit possession and cautioned by officer.

**** Officer and his supervisor has been given positive feedback regarding the BWV and GOWISELY following the panel meeting.**

15993

Panel stated that they would like to see officers switch on Body Worn Video before they begin the stop and search. This was agreed but explained sometimes incident was spontaneous so it is not always as easy to do this.

5) Feedback after the panel meeting

It was identified that there was not sufficient representation from the BAME community. This is something that the Constabulary is keen to improve upon and will endeavour to recruit further panel members.