

Minutes



Title of meeting: Stop & Search / Use of Force Internal Accountability Meeting

Date: Monday 10 July 2023 – 13:00 hrs

Location: MS Teams

Attendees

CD	Clive Davies	Divisional Commander East Division - Stop & Search Lead – Co Chair
CC	Chris Colley	Supt Neighbours East Division – Use of Force Lead – Co - Chair
MC	Mark Cunningham	Chair of the External Stop & Search / Use of Force Scrutiny panel.
EN	Emma Newton	Staff Officer
DG	Dan Gutierrez	Chief Inspector East Division - Tactical lead for Stop Search
BR	Blaine Rafferty	Inspector West Division Representing CI Dave Mitchell
DMc	Dallas Mcdermott	CI Neighbourhoods – North Division Representing CI Steve Schulten
CT	Chris Tinney	CI Ops Command
JS	Julian Sherlock	Performance Analyst
GMc	Gail Mccoo	T/CI CJ & Custody
AT	Adam Tatton	DCI Deputy Head for PSD
SG	Simon Gibbs	PSD Office Manager

Introductions

Action Log



Current Action
Tracker.xlsx

A discussion was held around action 68 and 69.

Various press stories about young people being searched or stripped searched which is inappropriate, also safeguarding issues the trauma impact.

The exact procedure for taking someone into custody with consideration to situations when a child not under arrest and a strip search taking precedence over a PACE prisoner needs to be formalised to ensure everyone knows what process to follow in order also to maximise safeguarding, also to minimize trauma.

EN confirmed there have not been any strip searches in this quarter of anybody under the age of 18.

Action 68 & 69 were discharged as the work is part of continued business.

Action 70 – generated a discussion around one observation which was raised at the External Stop and Search / Use of Force Scrutiny Panel which was the use of offensive language by officers which was highlighted through BWV clips.

MC stated this was one of two points he to mention regarding unnecessary swearing and name calling by officers during the S&S / Uoff BWV clips which the external panel had viewed.

MC stated it can be appreciated that in the heat of the moment, sometimes the words will slip out however there needs to be an emphasis on how this can escalate a situation with certain individuals and also there is a level of professionalism and reputation to be observed.

AT concurred that there are a number of complaints, received in PSD regarding these sorts of allegations around language and agreed with MC that there is really little place for it.

CT confirmed that there seems to be a similar trait in Sussex Police around language especially in the use of force context which is completely inappropriate.

MC stated that the external panel members had agreed to review some more focused body worn review footage, also, a couple of the external panel members have expressed an interest in operational observations either at Spelthorne and / or Reigate and Banstead.

MC did ask that as these areas are close to the border of London boroughs if that would influence the data and perhaps that this would be something that Shanice George could look at.

New actions on embedded action tracker

Stop and Search



SS Q1 Apr-Jun 2023
Performance Product.



Q1 Quarterly
Summary Stop & Sea

CD stated that the Stop and Search data is always slightly distorted due to Thorpe Park. However, discounting that there is the biggest increase in search find rates is on North division of 8% this year with a much bigger decrease on West division.

Overall Force find rates have increased to almost 35% compared to previous years when the find rate was around 20 – 25%.

CD asked those colleagues attending to consider in their respective updates what they have been doing locally in their direction, targeting and briefings which has contributed to an increase in the success rate of searches.

In terms of ethnicity and disproportionality the black to white disproportionality is the bigger disproportionately figure, of all the different ethnicities compared to white subjects, albeit it is increasing between black and white subjects and actually decreasing between Asian and white subjects.

In Surrey, even with the new census data, which has brought numbers down slightly disproportionality wise subjects are still almost seven times more likely to be searched if of black ethnicity.

It is an overall reduction in searches but the reduction regarding Asian subjects being searched is the biggest reduction followed by white subjects followed by black subjects.

The reduction of black subjects being searched is falling at a much lower rate which means disproportionality it is therefore increasing on East division.

This is not seen on North and West and therefore the divisional updates may explain the reasons for this.

East Surrey Division

Op Flight is an operation working with the East Surrey College, whose catchment area covers quite large areas of Greater London and the Surrey borders.

There have been issues with violence and knife crime, and therefore police have been working with the college and in partnership with them to try and tackle some of those issues. That has been an ongoing operation which can account for some of the increased stop and search activity in the Redhill and Reigate area. This can also be linked in some respects to Op Gravity, which is centred around Reigate Priory Park area where a number of section 34 dispersal powers have been put in place due to an increase in antisocial behaviour.

There are also County line issues in Epsom.

The local proactive team are tasked to tackle some of the issues linked to violence with young people.

All of those issues are fed into our TTCG meetings where some of our priority resources are put into those specifically over the weekends.

In particular with Op Flight, it is the intelligence information which shows disproportionately.

CC stated this echoed the discussion held with the external panel members and the offer for any panel members to the patrol teams to observe the operations first hand

A discussion was held around stop and search forms. Each division now has a SPOC who has supervisory oversight. However, there are currently 143 outstanding forms that still require initial supervision, which is higher than it has been in recent months.

For under 13s searched, there have been none on East division over the last quarter. In terms of people searched for multiple times to ensure there's no inappropriate targeting, two people were stopped three times. Nobody was stopped more than three times. Looking at the subjects who were both stopped three times, the stops were for offensive weapons, possession of Class A and Section 1 PACE. The grounds were all justifiable.

Looking at the top users of the power, and the appropriate use of power, the top searchers have been reviewed and the searches are appropriate.

BWV East Division

EN - A total of eight BWV clips viewed over the quarter, a variety of stops search with a variety of outcomes. Main development points have been fed back to officers with the focus on officers to remember to explain to the subject that they are detained for the purpose of a search. One case the stop search form was returned to the officer because the grounds were poorly written up.

North Division

Biggest increase in searches.

DMc - North Division have pushed really hard and in the divisional briefings, face to face meetings with the teams and following up with comms around making sure that officers are aware of having appropriate grounds for Stop and Search. Officers are encouraged to be inquisitive when they make that initial interaction by talking and engaging with the subjects.

A lot of work has been done around GOWISELY and PST training which has had an impact reminding officers, of the legislation the grounds for stop and search and how to conduct stop searches.

North division have promoted a positive mindset and their proactive team have a good working relationship with the local SNT team as they work on a number of joint operations and produce good results and good find rates.

North Division have good results on NPT. During the early hours if the teams manage to get some down time, they are encouraged to be out conducting proactive policing. For example a vehicle was stopped at 03:00 hrs and as a result of the stop search there was a find of a large amount of cannabis, scales and a flick knife.

North division is very busy as it borders METPOL ground, such as Kingston where there is a lot of cross border criminality. Hounslow, Surbiton, Sunbury, Ashford, and Stanwell.

Over the last quarter, we had two under 13s searched.

The reports were reviewed and there were good grounds although nothing was found looking at the search, it was believed they had made off and it is believed they ditched items.

Regarding repeat searches there is a particular female individual who is known for carrying blades to self-harm.

Other than that, fourteen persons were searched, twice, of which eight positive finds were recorded. One person searched six times resulted in four finds.

A discussion was then regarding a review into the female subject that was repeatedly searched and known for carrying blades and known for self-harming.

These searches were carried out with the best intentions to try and ensure she's not going to harm herself with something they could potentially cause significant injury.

Action: DMc to review stop and searches related to this particular female subject.

Overall DMc stated he felt the reasons for the increase in results on North division is a change in mindset, good relationships between the teams and good Intel and appropriate interaction and use of grounds.

West Division

BR reported that the number of stop searches has decreased. This could be due to the fact that since February there has been a significant increase in both emergency grade one, and priority grade two response calls. Officers therefore have less time to be proactive. Also, a large number of officers including SNT officers have been moved to backfill NPT to assist in clearing NPT workloads.

There is a significant increase of grade two priority calls for Surrey Heath which has also got the biggest reduction with a good find rate of 32.8%.

The Proactive team's main priority has been arrest attempts of child abuse subjects of which there have been numerous over the last few months.

CD stated that the increase in grade two priority response calls on West division had been noted through the Local Policing meeting held each morning at 09:30 across the force.

A discussion was held regarding West division and its find rate of 42.7% with the majority of that result being based around Guildford town centre where they are two proactive teams operating and Op Colt which is related to ASB on Sunday evenings with young people.

The area of Waverley, where the rate is lower, but this is due the fact it is more rural and the possibility of less county lines intelligence.

Under 13s

Quarter 1 – no person under the age of 13 were searched

Multiple searches

One male individual stopped three times – reviewed – the searches were appropriate.

Highest user of stop and search, is a Woking NPT officer with a find rate - 28.6%. Six of those seven searches were from the same incident, for drugs.

Second highest users were two officers, included a Guildford officer who conducted six stop searches; five of them were as a result of a passive drugs operation held at a railway station along with BTP with a find rate of 19.7% which included a find for an offensive weapon. Not as good as expected with the assistance of a drugs dog, but it can be appreciated that some false positives can come if an individual has had drugs within their clothing recently.

Finally, a Guildford Proactive officer six stop searches, 4 for drugs, and a find rate, of 83%

In conclusion, all appeared lawful with nothing to indicate abuse of power or targeting with no key issues identified.

A discussion was held around the stop and search forms which do not include Ops Command data.

CT raised that unfortunately he does not receive a performance report and currently all of the OPS officers / staff will effectively show as one of the divisions.

CT suggested that it would be beneficial to have a report that does break down the divisions and separates out Ops Command officers / staff.

Action: EN and Julian to review data to see if it is possible to separate the data for an Ops Command breakdown to see the highest users of search powers.

CT stated currently within Ops Command every Sergeant has to review two officers stop and search stops each month.

CT stated that scrutiny around this had dropped off however over the last three months he has worked on resetting this. Therefore, BWV is being reviewed and one area that is being highlighted is around the use of GOWISELY this has been noticed especially by Firearms sergeants.

CT stated the comms circulated by EN early in the year around Stop and Search and use of powers was useful and highlighted what is required and the expectations as a Force.

A discussion was held regarding Body Worn Video and a number of officers who appear to repeatedly not use BWV or Stop and Search which is concerning.

EN stated from her review of BWV which she holds every quarter, there are 312 officers in quarter one who did not activate body worn and that ranged from those who did not activate on one sole occasion to those who did not activate on more than four and above occasions.

EN stated she breaks down the data manually normally on officers who have not activated their BWV on four or more occasions - seventy-five officers did not activate their body worn out of 400 searches and the highest number of searches for a single officer was forty-one searches and there were several officers who also did not activate their body worn for over 20 stop searches.

Divisional breakdown

North Division 26 officers

West Division 23 officers

East Division 17 officers

Nine other officers identified who did not activate their Body worn.

A discussion was held around the use of BWV and its importance, issues with battery life, officers with excuses for not switching on their BWV. In terms of complaints and conduct, obviously body worn is absolutely key to investigators and in a lot of cases can actually help officers and in some cases, it can be either disprove or certainly mitigate some of the elements of a complaint from what is seen from the BWV which is crucial.

PSD offer practice requiring improvement, PRI not a formal sanction under the misconduct regime, but a recordable sanction in terms of their main process.

This may be something that could be considered perhaps for officers who repeatedly do not turn on their individual body worn.

Action: EN To draft comms regarding the guidance on officers using Body Worn Video for Chief Insp Dan Gutierrez to circulate.

Use of Force



Q1 Quarterly
Summary Use of Force



UF Q1 Apr-Jun 2023
Performance Product.

Forms

CC reiterated that a record is to be completed where an individual officer or member of police staff uses force. If an officer / member of police staff uses force on more than one person, a new form will need to be completed for each person on whom the force is used. Therefore, one incident may have multiple forms recorded against it.

In the latest rolling 12 months up and including 30-Jun-2023 the force has recorded 1,174 (previous 12 months 980) use of force Forms.

This represents an increase of 194 Forms (19.8%).

Under 18s

In the latest rolling 12 months to 30-Jun-2023 the force has recorded 710 (previous 12 months 581) use of force Incidents. This represents an increase of 129 Incidents (22.2%).

Incidents White subject

In the latest rolling 12 months to 30-Jun-2023 the force has recorded 4,455 (previous 12 months 3,987) use of force

Incidents. This represents an increase of 468 Incidents (11.7%).

Incidents Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic subject

In the latest rolling 12 months to 30-Jun-2023 the force has recorded 902 (previous 12 months 880) use of force Incidents.

This represents an increase of 22 Incidents (2.5%).

Complaints



Q1 Apr-Jun 2023
Complaints Data.pptx