



Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel Wednesday 12 June 2019



Attendees

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| • Garfield Charles – GC | Chair |
| • Jane Healy – JH | Independent Panel Member |
| • Michael Cummings – MC | Independent Panel Member |
| • Andy Taylor – AT | Independent Panel Member |
| • Paul Marsh – PM | Performance & Productivity Manager, Corporate Development (<i>part of meeting only</i>) |
| • Pete Browning – PB | Chief Inspector, Dorset Police |
| • Adam Harrold - AH | Director of Operations, Dorset OPCC |
| • Tom Smith – TS | Scrutiny Manager, Dorset OPCC |
| • Conrad Astley – CA | Comms & Engagement Officer, OPCC |
| • Julia Harrison - JMH | PA to SMT, Dorset OPCC |
| • Georgia Hylton – GH | Student Observer |

Apologies

PCC Martyn Underhill, Romaana Kanamia, Garry French, Simon Bullock.

Summary of Meeting

The panel were advised that Maggie Ayre had decided to step down as a result of other commitments.

The minutes and the summary from the previous meeting were confirmed as a true record. The action list was reviewed and updates provided.

All panel members who had expressed a wish to join a patrol as an observer had done so, or had made arrangements to do so. All were impressed and found it to be an extremely helpful and informative experience.

The panel reviewed the performance data, which is publicly available. Out of 573 searches carried out in the quarter, 24% were positive searches, in that an item was found. The panel were advised that drug searches account for the most common reason of all searches (72%) and drugs were actually found on the individual searched in 27% of cases. It was noted that in 408 out of 573 searches in Q4 no further action was taken.

It was reported that Bournemouth (34%) and Weymouth (21%) are the locations where the highest amount of searches were undertaken this year.

The disproportionality rate in Dorset stop and searches to the end of Q4 was 23:1 and noted as having decreased from 28:1 in Q2, although being comparable to the same quarter of 2017/18.

White British searches have the lowest arrest rate of all ethnicities. Positive search rates are relatively consistent across most ethnicities.

At the previous meeting, the panel had requested a thematic review of stop searches for offensive weapons and this information was included in the performance data. It was noted that in 2018/19 there were 240 searches for offensive weapons, with 74% of them being carried out on white British individuals. 62 of these searches resulted in an object being found and in 12% of cases arrests were made, with almost all arrests being of white British individuals.

It was reported that there was an even spread of stop searches across various age ranges, although there was a spike in Q1 for searches of 10-17 year olds and the panel requested more information about this figure for the next meeting.

The majority of the 240 searches were carried out in areas such as Bournemouth, Poole, Weymouth and Portland.

The panel reviewed a sample of stop and search cases and found them all to be appropriate. In one of the cases, the use of body worn video was viewed by the panel. This case was discussed in some detail and the panel agreed it was very helpful and enlightening. The panel decided it would continue to review samples of cases where body worn video is used at future meetings.

For the next meeting, the panel requested an analysis of incidents in the summer period to ascertain the breakdown between visitors and Dorset residents.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday, 10 September 2019.