



Dorset Police and Crime Commissioner
Minutes of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel
Tuesday, 10 September 2019 at 1.00 pm



Attendees

- Andy Taylor – AT Independent Panel Member
- Garry French – GF Independent Panel Member
- Emma Knipe – PM Senior Performance Analyst, Corporate Development
- Pete Browning – PB Chief Inspector, Stop & Search Tactical Lead, Dorset Police
- Daniel Tamblyn – DT Inspector, Dorset Territorial Policing, Critical Incident,
Dorset Police
- Andy Keel – AK Inspector, Alliance Resourcing & Development, Dorset Police
(part of meeting only)
- Simon Bullock – SB (Chair) Chief Executive, Dorset OPCC
- Tom Smith – TS Scrutiny Manager, Dorset OPCC
- Conrad Astley – CA Comms & Engagement Officer, OPC
- Julia Harrison - JMH PA to SMT, Dorset OPCC

Apologies: Garfield Charles, Jane Healy, Michael Cummings and Romaana Kanamia.

Subject to minor amendment, the minutes and public facing summary of the meeting held on 12 June 2019 were agreed by the panel.

A report on the Positive Action Strategy being undertaken by Devon and Cornwall and Dorset Police was presented by AK. The overall objective of the strategy is to improve workforce representation of Devon & Cornwall and Dorset Police and to continue to build an inclusive culture where diversity and difference is welcomed and respected.

The panel considered the draft Stop and Search Review prepared by the OPCC. The OPCC will work with the Force on the recommendations before publishing the findings in due course.

The panel reviewed the Stop Search Performance Pack for quarter 1 (April to June 2019). A total of 570 stop searches were carried out in the quarter, 65% of which were conducted on White British individuals. The disproportionality rate decreased from 28:1 in the first quarter of 2018/19 to 23:1 in Q1 2019/20 with the number of searches at a level comparable to the last quarter of 2018/19.

Average arrest rates and positive search rates remained comparative at 11.8% and 28.6% respectively. Mixed Race individuals had the highest arrest rate in Q1 at 23%, but this was for a small sample.

69% of all searches on White British individuals were for drugs, with 35% of them resulting in an object being found. The overall find rate for all White British searches was 30%. 90% of all searches on Black and Black British individuals were for drugs; 19% of which resulted in an object being found. The overall find rate for all Black and Black British searches was 17%.

With regard to location, 35% of searches in Q1 took place in Bournemouth, 21% in Poole and 15% in Weymouth.

In the quarter, 67 searches resulted in the suspect being arrested. However, the majority of stop search encounters resulted in no further action. So far in 2019/20, 13% of White British searches resulted in the suspect being arrested, compared to 12% of Black and Black British searches.

In Q1, 50 searches were conducted for offensive weapons; 66% were on White British individuals. The current arrest rate for individuals aged 10-17 is 10% and no arrests were recorded for persons aged 18-24. The majority of searches were carried out in Bournemouth and Poole.

At the previous meeting, the panel requested a thematic review of stop search cases carried out in cases where the object being searched for was an offensive weapon and the individual was aged 10-17. This information was included in the performance data.

The panel was provided with six examples of this type of case. The panel reviewed the body worn video of one case involving a 16 year old white female who was stopped and searched and found to be in possession of three knives. The panel agreed this was an appropriate use of stop and search powers.

The panel agreed with regard to all the dip sample cases that the use of stop and search powers by Dorset Police appeared to be appropriate, reasonable and proportionate.

For the next meeting, the panel requested a thematic review of stop search cases occurring during a County Lines operation.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday, 11 December 2019.