

Use of Police Powers and Standards Scrutiny Panel
Summary of the meeting held on
Thursday 5 March 2026
Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Panel Members

David Sidwick (DS)	Police and Crime Commissioner
Simon Roach (SR)	Member
Lionel Yafele (LY)	Member
Erika Lindsay (EL)	Member
Jim Phillips (JP)	Member
John Sutcliffe (JS)	Member
David Senior (DS)	Member
Steve O'Connell (SO)	Member, Deputy Chair
Natalie Hill (NH)	Chair, Independent Custody Visiting Panel
Richard Mangnall (RM)	Chair, Out of Court Disposals Scrutiny Panel
Adam Harrold (AH)	Director of Operations
Callum Bremner JP (CB)	High Sheriff of Dorset

Dorset Police

Chief Supt Heather Dixey (HD)	Contact Management
Supt Stuart Pitman (SP)	Contact Management
Ins Mike Kynaston (MK)	Professional Standards Dept
Supt Joe Pardey (JP)	Strategic Lead for Stop & Search
Chief Insp Greg Tansill (GT)	Deputy Director of Intelligence
Ins Gareth Bishop (GB)	Incident Manager

OPCC

Tom Smith (TS)	Scrutiny Manager
Yvonne Fenwick (YF)	Governance Manager
Jenny Heaver (JHe)	Policy & Commissioning Officer
Georgie Munster (GM)	EA to the Senior Management Team
Lucy Gould (LG)	EA to the PCC

APOLOGIES

Bharati Joshi (BJ)	Member
Lee Hardy (LH)	Member
Scott Richardson	Member
Chief Insp Ashley Smith (AS)	Strategic Lead for Use of Force
Simon Bullock (SB)	Chief Executive
Gavin House (GH)	Det Head of Criminal Justice

1. ADDRESS BY THE HIGH SHERIFF OF DORSET

Callum Bremner JP, the High Sheriff of Dorset gave an address to thank volunteer members of the scrutiny panel for their work and how the panel was an excellent example of the community working together to provide an effective voice to hold the Force to account on behalf of the people of Dorset.

2. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS/ DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST/CONFIDENTIALITY

TS reminded the meeting of the requirements of the confidentiality agreement they had each signed. He also drew attention to the handling instructions for the papers which should be deleted appropriately after the meeting.

3. MINUTES

The minutes of the meeting held on 26 November 2025, were agreed to be a true and accurate record .

4. MATTERS ARISING/ACTIONS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING by exception only

A comprehensive update on the actions from the previous meeting had been circulated to members before the panel meeting. All actions were reviewed later in the meeting under their respective agenda items.

5. PUBLIC CONTACT

HD and SP gave a presentation on contact management for Quarter 3, from 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025.

From April to December 2025, the force has seen a 3.4% increase in 999 calls. Of these, 91.9% were answered within 10 seconds. For triage calls, 56% were answered in 60 seconds, with the average answer time standing at 144 seconds. The national average for answering 101 calls is 2 minutes and 36 seconds. Over the last quarter, Dorset's answer time was 2 minutes and 24 seconds. For secondary call handling, the average answer time is 26.4 mins, this has decreased from last quarter. The force is aiming for 15 minutes.

The use of single online home has increased, up by 14.2% in the 8 months April to December. At its peak in the summer period, the force received around 1200 emails per week.

Overall response times for grade 1's has improved. Currently, in 77% of cases the force is responding to grade 1's within 15 minutes. For grade 2's, the force aims to attend incidents within 1 hour. Currently, this stands at 60% for grade 2's. For grade 3's, the force should respond within 48 hours. This stands at 65%. Resourcing has a significant impact of incident response times.

6. VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (VAWG) IMPROVEMENT PANEL

JHe provided an update on the VAWG Improvement Panel held on 22 Jan 2026. The panel reviewed cases relating to the crime type of stalking and harassment.

Following feedback from the previous case reviews it was agreed that it would be beneficial to include an input from the Force Control Centre to provide greater context around the types of calls received. The Performance & Quality Assurance Manager had delivered to the VAWG Panel a comprehensive and informative overview, which was well received by panel members.

VAWG Panel members were provided with five pre-selected cases including associated calls to Dorset Police. Members were asked to review each case and score the victim's experience using the online assessment form.

Each case was discussed during the meeting and collective feedback was given. Feedback has been shared with Dorset Police to support learning and to ensure any comments are shared with relevant staff and officers.

7. INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING (ICV) PANEL

NH as Chair of the Independent Custody Visiting Panel gave a verbal update on the work of the ICV Panel, which had met on 19 January 2026.

The annual report for 2024-25 was shared along with the minutes. There was just under nine thousand people detained in custody in Dorset for the year. 104 unannounced visits were carried out and 345 detainees were offered visits across the year. Day time visits resulted in more detainee engagement.

8. OUT OF COURT RESOLUTIONS SCRUTINY PANEL UPDATE

RM as Chair of the OoCR Panel gave a verbal update on the work of the Out of Court Resolutions Panel, which had met on 10 December 2025.

The theme at the December meeting for the dip sample was OoCR relating to drug possession and supply. All the six adult cases related to possession and the panel believed that the resolutions were appropriate with one exception. This case related to drug driving, and the panel felt the drug aspect should have gone to court along with the motoring offence.

Out of the six youth cases, five related to possession and the panel felt that the disposals were appropriate. One case related to possession with intent to supply a controlled drug C. The panel felt that the resolution, a condition caution, was appropriate.

9. COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT

Complaints Performance

MK gave a presentation to the panel on the complaints performance with data on complaints received for Quarter 3, from 1 October 2025 to 31 December 2025. The timeliness of complaints is on par with the national average and is overall improving.

The volume of complaints this year is above last year. If this trend continues, the force will see a 17% increase in the volume of complaints received.

Complaint Reviews

AH presented the Complaints Review Quarterly Dashboard for Quarter 3, 1 October 2025 to 31 Dec 2025. The number of number of complaints reviews received in Quarter 3 had increased which was in line with the increase in complaints received over the same period.

The outcome of reviews for each quarter and for Q3 the number of reviews upheld was the same as the average for the most similar forces.

Dip Sampling of Complaints for Q3 2025/26

YF presented the results of the dip sampling of complaints in Quarter 3, from 1 Oct to 31 Dec 2025.

Six complaints were reviewed with a large variety of allegations. In one case, it was felt that the outcome was not right. It was recorded as resolved but an apology was offered for an error that had been made. It was felt that this should have been recorded as service not acceptable.

10. DISPROPORTIONALITY

Use of Force Performance

JP presented the Use of Force (UoF) Update for Quarter 3, from 1 Oct 2025 to 31 Dec 2025. The UoF in Q3 has decreased since Q2. Further work needs to be done to understand disproportionality in terms of repeat searches of individuals.

Two actions following an audit of the governance of UoF are complete. The internal scrutiny/ review process is now established. Since September, 200 reviews have taken place. This is focused on procedural justice elements and the legality and process. At future panels, a monthly report will be presented relating to the reviews.

In 97% of UoF forms, the subjects have ethnicity filled and only 2% show as not stated.

11. STOP AND SEARCH PERFORMANCE

JP presented Q3 data for Stop and Search from 1 Oct 2025 to 31 Dec 2025. The find rate has increased from 26-34% in Q3 from Q1.

12. WRITTEN FEEDBACK REPORT FROM FORCE INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY PANEL

GT presented the report from the Independent Scrutiny Panel (ISP) held on 8 December 2025.

Twenty-six members of the public attended the panel. The youngest member was fifteen and the oldest member was in their 70's. At this panel, 6 or 7 students from a local school attended and reviewed stop and search of the same demographic. In total, twelve searches were shown, and the theme was on searches of children and young black males.

The ISP felt many stop and searches they scrutinised were very good and professional.

13. STOP AND SEARCH DIP SAMPLE CASES INCLUDING BWV

On behalf of the OPCC, TS had selected two cases of BWV involving a stop and search. In one case the camera did not clearly show the details to enable the Panel to properly scrutinise it. It was therefore agreed to view the second case involving the search of child.

BWV Case 1

The case shown to the panel relates to the search of child using a catapult to damage buildings. The panel agreed to a score of 1.

14. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday 4 June 2026, 9:30 to 13:00

Meeting finished at 12:50