

Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel

CASE REVIEW REPORT

Panel Meeting 27th June 2024



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PANEL OVERVIEW

The Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel (the Panel) has been appointed to scrutinise the use of police powers to ensure it is appropriate and proportionate. This includes reviewing the use of Taser, Stop and Search and other use of force, by reviewing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera footage and reading police records of each incident.

The Panel of trained members acts on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) as a '*critical friend*' to Avon and Somerset Police by communicating local people's views on how the police use their powers. The ISoPP Panel convenes quarterly to scrutinise files and footage related to the police's exercise of their powers. The meeting is attended by the Panel members, representatives from Avon and Somerset Police, and representatives from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).

Who are the Panel?



The Panel is composed of 15 local people from a diverse range of backgrounds. The Panel started their work in June 2017 and meet quarterly, reviewing and scrutinising a sample of files and footage on the use of police powers.

What does the Panel do?

- Independently scrutinises Avon and Somerset Police (the police) use of their powers.
- Aims to enhance the public's confidence in the work of the police.
- Ensures police openness and transparency.
- Acts as a '*critical friend*' to the police.
- Provides feedback on drafted police policy documents.
- Offers feedback, from a local person's perspective to the police on their use of police powers, particularly the use of force.
- View BWV camera footage of police incidents, including Stop and Search, feeding back good practice and areas for improvement.
- Observe police training.



In addition to special case reviews*, as standard, every four months (each quarter) the Panel chooses 50+ cases to scrutinise, reviewing the BWV on each case and preparing a report. Feedback is sent to the police with particular emphasis on identifying individual and organisational learning. The police response to learning is tracked by the Panel.

**A special case review is an incident/case that has gained a lot of media attention/public interest, causing public debate/questions around actions taken by the police.*

SUMMARY OF JUNE SCRUTINY



42 cases were scrutinised by the Panel



3 themes were identified



More than **70 hours** of BWC footage was viewed

WHAT THEMES DID WE IDENTIFY IN JUNE?

1. The use of Body Worn Camera (BWC)
2. Compliant Handcuffing
3. The Racialised Harm of Strip Searches

More details about the above themes are to be found at page [10](#).

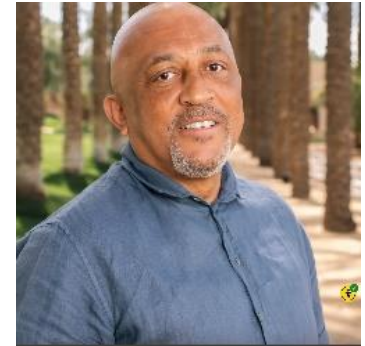
June case review comments can be found on page [11](#).

Ongoing organisational learning tracker can be found on page [19](#).



Chair Introduction

I would like to take the opportunity within this quarter's report to warmly welcome our new ISoPPP Chair, Desmond Brown. Desmond has been a member of the panel for some time now, since 2017 in fact and has graciously accepted the role of Chair. Here are some words from him:



'In February of this year, we experienced the profound loss of our Chair, David Woodward, who passed away after a short illness. David's passing has been deeply and keenly felt by all of us who have worked alongside him on the Scrutiny Panel since the inception of ISoPPP in 2018, as well as by our colleagues in the Police and OPCC. David's integrity, resilience, and courage were instrumental in enabling ISoPPP to achieve the best outcomes for the residents of Avon & Somerset in the pursuit of equality, equity, and justice for all. His humility and attention to detail have set a high standard, making it a daunting task to fill his shoes. However, David has left behind a strong legacy, structure, and ethos that will ensure the continued robust scrutiny of Avon and Somerset Police powers.'

2024 so far, has been a challenging year for the Avon and Somerset Police (ASP) and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC), as well as for many of our communities. The tragic murders of children across our region, the rise in serious youth violence, and the threats of, and violent disorder that have touched our country have all added to the daily challenges of policing. We've also seen an increased use of Section 60 and Section 60AA powers, which have historically been used sparingly by ASP compared to other UK constabularies. Now, more than ever, the work of the ISoPPP is crucial to building trust and confidence in our police service and revitalising the principle of policing by consent through accountability.

We welcomed the appointment of Claire Moody as the new Police and Crime Commissioner in May of this year. ISoPPP appreciates her wholehearted commitment and support for our work, as well as her willingness to consider our comments and feedback, and to act on them where appropriate.

Finally, I would like to express my special thanks to ISoPPP members for their dedication to maintaining our core value of independence in thought and action.'



JUNE SCRUTINY FOCUS

SECTION 60 STOP SEARCHES IN BRISTOL

Across the 9th and 10th of June, a Section 60 power was authorised in the Easton area of Bristol. As mentioned in March's report, Section 60 removes the need for police to have 'reasonable grounds' to carry out a stop and search. Section 60 searches cover a specified area, usually a neighbourhood, for a defined period of time. This can last initially up to 24 hours but can be extended up to 48 hours. More information can be found on the following link: [Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1994/37/section-60).

On this occasion, the decision was made not to extend this power beyond the 24-hour period, the criteria was not met after this period and as such, the power was then rescinded.

Implementation

The reason that Section 60 was authorised, was in response to a number of knife crime incidents in the area involving young people. The tactics used were to try and reduce the risk of knife crime offences. Due to the nature of this piece of legislation, people need to be made aware that the power is being enforced and this is done by communicating/publishing across social and media platforms.

Overview of Results Presented to Panel

A total of 14 searches were completed. Body worn camera was used during every interaction. Use of force did take place for half of the searches; no knives were found, and some cannabis was located. None of the individuals stopped were White and were classed as either Black or Asian. One person that was searched was a child, necessary safeguarding measure checks were completed.

Body Worn Camera Footage Dip Sample

All the footage from the Section 60 stop searches (14 in total), are being reviewed for the next Panel meeting in September.

Panel Scrutiny/Questions at Panel Meeting

Panel Question:

The stats showed that out of the number of S60 Stop Searches carried out, 6 individuals were Black, and 6 individuals were Asian. Why were there none for White individuals – were there any in the area?

Police Response:

I cannot comment on whether there was anyone who identified as White in the area at the time and do not feel it would be right for me to do so, as it would be supposition only, not based on fact. I also can't definitively say why there were no searches of White individuals. 4 of the 6 interactions leading to searches were of groups of people, with only 2 of individuals on their own. The groups of people appeared to be friendship or associate groups on review of the BWV. We know that groups have been involved in serious violence incidents in the area, rather than people acting on their own.



Panel Question:

What does this do for those figures long term?
What does the force learn about why those decisions were made? (In relation to only BAME individuals being stopped).

Police Response:

We are regularly reviewing stop search disproportionality data as part of our governance processes. Any changes (increases in RRI for a specific ethnicity or group, for example) are looked into in detail, with a view to explain or reform.*

**Relative Rate Index*

Panel Question:

When the S60 is invoked, does it say we will only be stopping BAME individuals?

Police Response:

No, not at all. We do not specifically state who we will stop as the power allows us to stop anyone. ASP's expectation is that even though there is no requirement for suspicion the officer must tell the person why they have chosen to use the powers on them. An example of this might be, we know that young men aged between 16 and 25 have been involved in incidents involving knives in the last two days, therefore I would not expect, without something extra to justify it, the power to be used on a 40-year-old male. It doesn't mean that it can't be, but I'd want officers to explain what it was about the 40-year-old male that led them to use their powers.

Panel Question/Feedback:

Following a meeting with some community members, they welcomed the action. People do want this, but the overwhelming thing was 'would it be fair?'. We felt that we had been abandoned.

We don't want to see our kids thrown to the ground and pushed into a van; the community did say thank you that something is being done.

Police Response:

This is understandable and what I have been hearing from community feedback on Stapleton Road particularly in community meetings (not related to stop search but feeling abandoned). In community consultation on stop search more generally the main sentiment is support for the legitimate use of police powers but only when done fairly, equitably and respectfully.

Panel Question:

If you are going to do deep dive analysis in this area, are you going to speak to the officers to determine their grounds and reasons for the stop search? (In relation to why all BAME people stop searched)

Police Response:

There are currently no plans to speak to each individual officer about their use of s.60 on this occasion. We must strike a balance between effective and suitably intrusive scrutiny and affecting officers' confidence by being questioned on their decision by a C/Insp. If the usual review processes (BWV and Niche review by the stop search lead as well as the officer's supervisor) do not identify anything of concern, then it will be for the organisation rather than the officer to explain disproportionality. It is important officers feel confident in using their powers and that our processes are effective in identifying and dealing with any instances of misuse of powers or inequitable / unprofessional use, rather than individual questioning, which could have a significant impact on an officers' confidence.



JUNE CASE CATEGORIES

Each quarter, the Panel will identify a number of case categories for scrutiny focus at the meeting. A full list of cases that fall under each category type are then requested from the police.

The following categories were selected for scrutiny. The Panel then selected, reviewed, and scrutinised 42 random cases against these categories:

Use of Force

1. Compliant Handcuffing of members of the public during a stop and search by race and gender
2. The use of taser on BME members of the community
3. Any use of force on females under 18 years of age with race as an overview
4. The use of baton or PAVA on members of the public over the age of 18, including race and gender overview
5. Any use of force by officers working with the Operation Hardy team – (proactive police team)
6. Any Section 136 powers used
7. Complaints by a member of the public against police relating to use of force by police.

Stop and Search

1. Effected because of a suspicion of use/smell of cannabis as the only ground
2. Complaints by a member of the public against police relating to Stop and Search
3. Strip searches for persons under the age of 18
4. Effected after a S163* vehicle stop by officers
5. The stop and search of persons of all ethnicities other than white in the Somerset Area.

*[Road Traffic Act 1988 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/1988/26)



June: Identified Themes

Each Panel meeting will generate healthy and thought-provoking discussion around the use of police powers and give the Panel an opportunity to raise concerns and questions to the police. 3 key themes were highlighted as part of June's meeting, and they were as follows:

- ✚ The use of Body Worn Camera (BWC)
- ✚ Compliant Handcuffing and
- ✚ The Racialised Harm of Strip Searches

BWC: Concerns were raised around slipping back into BWC being switched on late and not seeing the end/conclusion of interactions with detained individuals.

Police Response: *We have a newly published refresh of our force BWV policy – within this it covers that all users must have pre-record active when deployed with BWVC's.*

This means that compliance of capturing all interactions with the public are maximised. This is a new amendment along with many others so we will be putting out internal comms to all users mandating compliance of this soon.

We are also looking at a replacement camera with the project team in the coming couple of years and the preferred model will have the pre-record function permanently turned on – the user will not be able to deactivate it like the current model.

Compliant Handcuffing: The question was asked; what does compliant handcuffing actually mean? Is it for the public to state what compliant handcuffing is, or for the police to justify their use of force?

Police Response: *Currently there is no National or local definition around compliant handcuffing. So, whilst we are recording our use of handcuffs under two categories, compliant or non-compliant, we haven't got an agreed terminology that we inform and educate our officers with, to ensure their understanding, leaving it open to individual officers' interpretation. Currently, we could be seen as criticising officers for something they may not fully understand or be taught, therefore as part of work around compliant handcuffing, there will a recommendation to the force that we should create a force definition.*

The Racialised Harm of Strip Searches: (A report was recently published by the Runnymede Trust regarding disproportionality in strip searches. The report can be found here: [Strip search front and back cover \(website-files.com\)](https://www.runnymedetrust.org/strip-search-front-and-back-cover)). Another report was also published around this matter; the Children's Commissioners Report on Strip Search, which can be accessed here: [Strip searching of children in England and Wales: First complete dataset for 2018–2023, including new data July 2022-June 2023 | Children's Commissioner for England \(childrenscommissioner.gov.uk\)](https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/reports-and-publications/strip-searching-of-children-in-england-and-wales))

- What is a strip search?
- What do you mean by the age group of children?

Police Response: *Black children are 2 and a half more than likely to be stop searched within ASC (Avon and Somerset Constabulary). We have searched 19 black children within the last 12 months. We are trying our best to input our data, these are KPI's (Key Performance Indicators) which involve strip search data.*

- *A strip search is anything more invasive than outer garments.*
- *The age group of children is classed as under the age of 18. Police officers do not ask suspects to squat. Strip searches can happen in and out of custody.*

Regarding this theme, the Panel have asked the police to provide more detailed data around the demographics of strip searches amongst children in the Avon and Somerset area. This data will be provided and discussed at the next Panel meeting in September.



JUNE INDIVIDUAL CASE REVIEWS

Each quarter the Panel will review between 40 and 60 cases. These cases are graded using a RAG rating system (Red, Amber, Green) and will highlight areas of concern (that require addressing) and cases whereby good practice has been recognised.

For each Panel meeting, several of the reviewed cases (up to 20) are selected and scrutinised during the meeting. June's meeting had 9 case reviews that were discussed:

Case No.	Incident Background	Panel Comments	Police Comment – Any Individual/Organisational Learning?
1.	<p>Stop Search - S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act</p> <p>Bong and Grinder seized - NFA to all youth.</p> <p>Yeovil</p> <p>4 Youth being stopped for s23 MDA search as bong and grinder standing next to them and smell of cannabis around them. - GOWISELY done.</p>	<p>5 Total Reviews - 1 Red, 2 Amber and 2 Green - Mixed views.</p> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Officers were courteous, calm and friendly throughout, explaining what was happening at each stage of the questioning and search.' - 'Officers endeavoured to build a good rapport with the detainees.' - 'The female officer dealt with the two young girls respectfully and the search did not require handcuffs or restraint.' <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Male officer accepted the young male declining to give his surname and did so graciously. It was a bit disappointing that he later told him his friend had been much more compliant and given his name. This felt unreasonable when the young man had simply exercised his rights and had been politely compliant throughout.' - 'There was no clear reason given for handcuffing the two young males, nor did I hear anyone discuss an appropriate adult being available when it was clear these were children.' - 'Calling for an additional male officer to conduct search on 2nd male. I question the necessity of that as male officer already present could have conducted both male searches. That is what happened in practice as officer new on scene suggested male with full knowledge of the grounds do the search. Another officer was needed to bring evidence bag, but final line up was 5 officers (one a community support PC) on scene for 4 compliant young people aged 13 and 14 which looked a bit heavy handed and as a layperson seemed an inefficient use of resources.' - 'I appreciate officers have individual discretion over handcuffing practice, but for fairness and gender equality a more consistent approach when dealing with a compliant group would be good.' 	<p><i>The Constabulary thank the panel for their feedback in this case. Feedback has been provided to the officers involved. An appropriate adult is not required for a 'JOG' (jacket, outer coat, gloves) search of children, however the disparity between the actions taken between the different genders and timescales between 2 young people, does need to be explained and will be fed back.</i></p>



Case No.	Incident Background	Panel Comments	Police Comment – Any Individual/Organisational Learning?
3.	<p>Stop Search - S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act</p> <p>Both males arrested, forensics revealed no controlled substances detected.</p> <p>Filton.</p> <p>Drugs Warrant executed under section 23 MDA at address. Male detained under s23 of MDA. Warrant explained. Another male detained in a bedroom. Possible drugs found in the room. Male being strip-searched. Nothing found.</p>	<p>4 Total Reviews - 0 Red, 3 Amber and 1 Green</p> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Explanations of why actions were being taken given throughout.' - 'Very good entry and descriptions of powers use.' - 'Terms of the warrant very well explained when asked to do so, all maintained a good level of communication with suspects throughout the incident.' - 'Officers were polite and accommodating.' <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'The police wanted an outcome.' - 'Seemed to be a degree of uncertainty as to what the final outcome was going to be, if one or two persons were to be detained and what for exactly.' 	<p><i>The panel are thanked for their observations in this case. The officers took extra time to contact the force's Forensic Drugs Officer for advice on one of the items found to support decision making on outcome after finding something during the search they were uncertain as to whether it could be an illegal drug. This is what the uncertainty related to, but the way in which the officers addressed this was innovative.</i></p>
4.	<p>Stop Search - S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act</p> <p>Arrested on suspicion of PWITS.</p> <p>Easton, Bristol</p> <p>Male stopped due manner of driving. Male detained for s23 of MDA. GOWISELY explained. Male searched, nothing found, vehicle searched.</p>	<p>5 Total Reviews - 0 Red, 0 Amber, 5 Green - Recognised good practice.</p> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Officers were courteous, friendly but professional throughout, and worked efficiently together. There were long periods of waiting in the police car (during search and during drive to station), and officers kept male suspect engaged and talking, answered his small-talk questions etc. Kept the situation calm and organised.' - 'Both officers in this case present an exemplary model of how to communicate during a stop search. They have a friendly manner, make a lot of patient effort to explain things well and to acknowledge the detainees' feelings which minimised the risk of any escalation. I was impressed with the thoroughness of the car search and the independent decisiveness of the officers on next steps (e.g. car back to station). They were both very considerate to the detainee throughout. They also coped very calmly and well with persistent abuse and interference from a member of the public. All very well done.' - 'An example of good practice. Good explanations to the DP, good rapport.' 	<p><i>Thank you to the panel members for their feedback in this case, which has been shared with the officer involved and will be used as an example of best practice.</i></p>



Case No.	Incident Background	Panel Comments	Police Comment – Any Individual/Organisational Learning?
7.	<p>Stop Search - S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act</p> <p>Filed as not in the public interest.</p> <p>Bristol East</p> <p>Amb. were called due to male suffering from mental health crisis. Police were called to assist due to his aggressive manner. Officers noticed a large amount of cannabis on the bed so male detained under S23 MDA.</p>	<p>5 Total Reviews - 1 Red, 1 Amber, 3 Green</p> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Officers were generally calm, quiet, and considerate when dealing with this male, and did not crowd him. They kept in the background once the ambulance crew arrived.' - 'One of the officers who appeared to arrive on scene later (slightly curly hair and a beard, possibly sergeant? was impressive - he was calm, spoke gently and effectively with the individual and was pragmatic about the approach to be taken (MH). He cleared the lounge when too many officers present and gestured for quiet when too much officer noise disturbance. The remaining officers apart from PC also had a calm and respectful manner focused on calming and reassuring the individual. The ambulance person was a great communicator and the police worked well with her.' - 'POs used good communication skills with the DP who was in the middle of a mental health episode possibly triggered by taking cannabis. The DP was scared and unstable and the POs did a good job in not escalating matters.' - 'Incredibly patient police officers throughout.' <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'The officer leading communications with male on arrival appeared to escalate the situation from the start. It was evidently a mental health crisis, and the bombardment of questions was not helpful - the manner of questioning was sharp and her tone at best impatient, at worst aggressive. The decision to conduct a S23 search was questionable in the circumstances and seemed to be at odds with the approach of other officers focusing on the MH aspect by chasing for ambulance. At times it seemed too many officers were involved, crowding the individual and talking about him in his presence.' <p>Other comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'This was sad and disturbing to watch. This case serves to flag up the importance of the current discussions around getting the right people to deal with issues around mental health crises - 'the right people' probably meaning NOT the police. It was difficult for the officer with the BWV to interact effectively with this male as she probably did not have the mental health training or the life experience to know how to. At one point, she pointed a finger at the male, said 'Don't start 	<p><i>The panel's comments in this case are noted and shared by the Constabulary. The feedback for the officer has already been addressed regarding their communication style in this case through notification of their Inspector.</i></p>



Case No.	Incident Background	Panel Comments	Police Comment – Any Individual/Organisational Learning?
		<p>swearing at me!' in a forceful manner and threatened him with handcuffs, when it should have been obvious that this tactic was completely inappropriate in the circumstances - it's doubtful the male even registered this threat. But the female officer was probably dealing with the situation in the only way she knew how.</p> <p>It is likely that the police will continue to be called to situations involving people with mental health problems, so there will still be a need for ongoing training in how best deal with these situations.'</p>	
9.	<p>Stop Search - S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act</p> <p>NFA - Nothing found.</p> <p>W-S-M</p> <p>A vehicle was seen by Officers being driven. Very recent intelligence stated that it was involved in the supply of drugs. As police were driving behind it the vehicle it changed lanes and took an exit from the roundabout quickly and it was suspected this was in a bid to avoid the police. Vehicle was stopped. Occupants did not speak English, so Language line used to give grounds and GOWISELY, Vehicle and persons searched. Handcuffs applied. Search was commenced before Language line used.</p>	<p>4 Total Reviews - 0 Red, 4 Amber, 0 Green</p> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'polite interactions.' - 'Police officer very courteous and professional'. - 'Good use of interpreter, overall, well and compassionately handled, I expected the vehicle to be seized and was surprised it wasn't, thoughtful and fair considering the misunderstanding probably caused by the language barrier.' - 'Officers were polite and helpful and gave advice about need for name of driver to be on insurance but did not take action on this as they seemed to assume it was a genuine mistake based on language issue.' <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Not sure that African heritage people would have had the same procedural legal outcomes'. - 'perhaps use interpreter from the start prior to cuffing and commencing search, scary situation for those who do not understand what is happening.' <p>Other comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Remember grounds for handcuffing and to give name of station.' 	<p><i>The Constabulary want to thank the panel for their feedback in this case. The officers dealt with the situation patiently and calmly, making sure to use translation services before searching to ensure they knew their rights before commencing.</i></p>



Case No.	Incident Background	Panel Comments	Police Comment – Any Individual/Organisational Learning?
12.	<p>Stop Search - S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act</p> <p>The driver was arrested for driving offences. One passenger was arrested for possession of the brown liquid, suspected to be heroin, but then de arrested at the scene for the substance to be tested and deal with later.</p> <p>W-S-M</p> <p>A member of the public reported that a vehicle pulled out of a mini supermarket and swerved onto the roadside of the road, hitting their van. Police have attended and the driver was drowsy and unsteady on his feet, so was arrested for driving whilst unfit. The vehicle contained 2 passengers. Officers could see drug paraphernalia in the vehicle, so the passengers and the vehicle were searched. a rear passenger was unwell, and ambulance attended for them. Leaving one passenger being searched.</p>	<p>4 Total Reviews - 0 Red, 2 Amber, 2 Green - Mixed views.</p> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Managed very professionally throughout.' - 'Officers treat the suspect very well and explain what they are doing.' - 'Officers were polite.' <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'difference in cuffing techniques on similarly behaving subjects?' - 'Officers did not remember all of Gowisely.' 	<p><i>The panel's observations are duly noted in this case. Upon review it appears as though all GOWISELY was given to the people being searched. The officers considered powers under the Road Traffic Act as appropriate given the collision and perceived intoxication of one of the drivers.</i></p>



Case No.	Incident Background	Panel Comments	Police Comment – Any Individual/Organisational Learning?
16.	<p>Stop Search - S.1 PACE</p> <p>Phone was seized from the detained male to perform phone download.</p> <p>Taunton, Somerset</p> <p>Officers were called to the area following a sperate report of males with weapons attempting to gain entry to a property. Whilst searching the area for the suspects, a male with all black clothing with a balaclava was spotted, the detaining officer engaged in a short foot chase with the male, where he was detained for a section 23 MDA search. Search is done on the detained male, where nothing was found. The officers however seized the detained males' mobile phone as they suspected he was involved in drugs supply. The officers took details from the suspect in order to contact an AA and to progress the investigation slow time, suspect gave multiple false details as well as phone numbers. Officers contacted the parent of the</p>	<p>4 Total Reviews - 0 Red, 2 Amber, 2 Green - Mixed views.</p> <p>Positive:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'The police officer doing the speaking on the video had a very good tone of voice and way of dealing with the DP.' - 'Officer was courteous and considerate throughout the incident, explaining to the suspect what was happening and why at each stage of the procedure.' - 'Clear explanation to detainee throughout - calm manner and considerate - thanking individual for co-operation with search. Respected initial refusal to provide name and address.' <p>Negative:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Confusion and conflation on the grounds for the stop and search.' <p>Other comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 'Although the case summary says there are 2 videos, in fact only one was uploaded for ISOPP to watch.' - 'Some language used not readily accessible - 'paraphernalia' 'multitude' 	<p><i>The feedback of the panel is gratefully received in this case. It is pleasing to see that the officers' manner was as we would expect, particularly in relation to the provision of name and address. It is felt that the grounds are clear, and the description clarified well.</i></p>



Case No.	Incident Background	Panel Comments	Police Comment – Any Individual/Organisational Learning?
	suspect and conveyed him to the AA.		
37.	<p>Use of Force</p> <p>Arrested</p> <p>Somerset West</p> <p>Call from victim stating the suspect had smashed her window and threatened her with a hammer. Suspect refused to come out of his address, made threats to kill officers and brandished knife, sword, and axe at the officers. Male Tasered after opening the front door and arrested.</p>	<p>4 Total Reviews - 0 Red, 1 Amber, 3 Green - Mixed views.</p> <p>Positive:</p> <p>- 'Lots of examples of each police officer individually making decisions about how to engage with the DP inside his flat to convince him to come out. Their efforts did eventually succeed in getting the DP to leave his flat once the armed response arrived.'</p> <p>- 'There were many officers present to deal with this difficult and potentially dangerous situation. All worked smoothly together, reviewed the situation constantly, and kept it controlled and calm. All continued attempts to engage the suspect in general conversation, to reason with him, and to explain what was happening. The suspect was respected at all stages, and every attempt was made to bring things to a calm and quiet conclusion. Unfortunately, the suspect was so distraught and distressed that this was not possible.'</p> <p>Negative:</p> <p>- 'No coordination between the officers at the window and the back door, a lack of any strategy as to what they were trying to achieve. Were they waiting for armed response? Were they waiting for a door batterer to gain access to the flat? This was referred to on multiple occasions and yet never materialised. My sense is that this seeming lack of command caused confusion and escalation of the difficulty of the situation. None of this is a criticism of any police officer - it is more a comment on what appeared to me to be a lack of a proper command structure to let their efforts be effective.'</p> <p>Other comments:</p> <p>- 'I found it very difficult to navigate the 13 videos as the case summary was inconsistent with the upload of BWV. There were 2 videos labelled as 1 of 1. There were 5 videos labelled as 4 of 5. There were 2 videos labelled as 5 of 5. There were 2 videos labelled as 7 of 7. Could ISOPP please be provided with a consistent case summary as against the BWV upload and could there please be a more consistent labelling of the videos, that would be most helpful.'</p>	<p><i>We thank the panel for the feedback in this challenging incident. We recognise and accept the comments from the panel; however, we would also like to highlight the complexity of dealing with this incident. The subject in this case appeared to be in crisis and therefore lengthy verbal interactions with him concluded with him walking out of his address and he was safely arrested by officers without harm to anyone present.</i></p> <p><i>We also accept the feedback with regards to the providing of footage and this will be improved by the next quarter. On a positive note, the force has been able to make all BWV for each interaction available to the panel for full transparency.</i></p>



Case No.	Incident Background	Panel Comments	Police Comment – Any Individual/Organisational Learning?
		<p>- 'female officer attempted to deescalated by taking off her uniform coat at the request of the DP, it didn't work but it was a good attempt at build rapport and trust. She should be commended for trying a different approach to help control the situation.'</p>	
44.	<p>Use of Force</p> <p>Section 136 Mental Health Act</p> <p>Detained</p> <p>Officers attended to support AMHP executing section 135MHA warrant. Service user had left house and located on street by officers. Detained under 136MHA transported to Hospital for assessment.</p>	<p>4 Total Reviews - 0 Red, 0 Amber, 4 Green - Recognised good practice.</p> <p>Positive:</p> <p>- 'Both officers had a gentle and patient manner and used minimal restraint to retain the lady and move her safely to the police van.'</p> <p>- 'Officers spoke calmly and quietly, attempting to engage the distressed woman in dialogue, listened courteously when she was speaking, and explained what was going to happen. Although they had to hold on to her arm firmly to make sure she did not run away and to get her into the police van, it was done in a gentle manner.'</p> <p>- 'The two male officers dealt with the distressed person well, using minimum UOF necessary.'</p>	<p><i>We are grateful for the comments from the panel. This was a fairly short interaction with the member of the public; however, it demonstrates the varied role that officers play. It also highlights officers care, compassion, and use of minimal force to achieve the outcome of keeping the public safe.</i></p>



ORGANISATIONAL LEARNING TRACKER

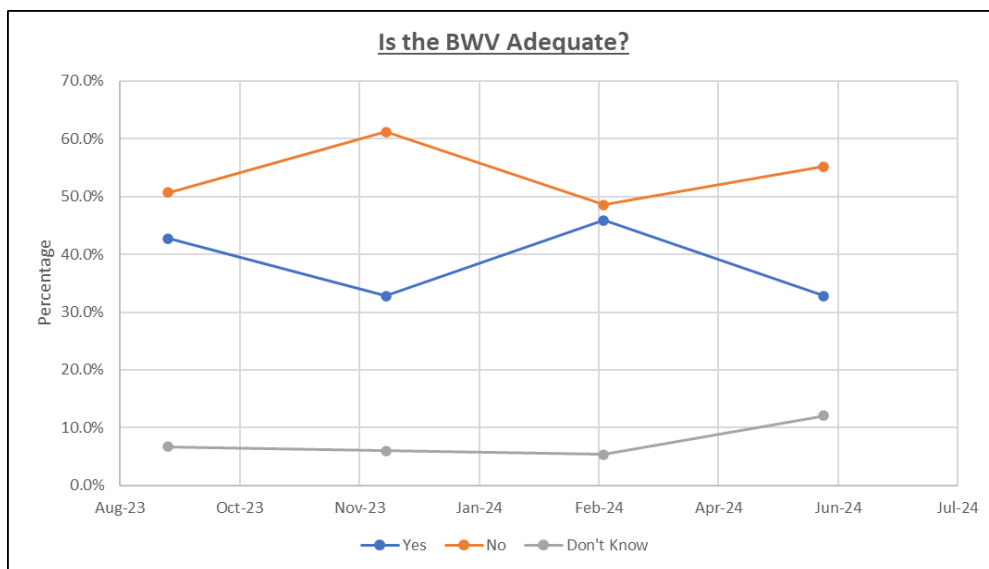
Since September 2021, as part of their ongoing work to scrutinise policing, the Panel have identified key organisational learning areas for Avon and Somerset Police. The Panel continue to review, track, and scrutinise how lessons identified are managed. To date, there have been 13 key areas of focus that have been flagged to the Avon and Somerset Constabulary.



6 of these areas have been satisfactorily concluded. Below are the current organisational learning areas that are being tracked and monitored. The police have provided updates to the below outstanding areas of concern:

Dec 21 - June 24:
BWV switched on late, obscured, inadequate or not saved as evidential.

This has been an area of concern for some time, highlighted by the Panel. Data from September 2023 to June 2024 shows a lack of consistency with the adequacy of BWV. Force procedural guidance was being looked at, therefore an update on this area of business would be welcome.



UPDATE FROM ASP:

This has been directly addressed in the new stop and search policy, which launched in June 2024. It is specifically included in the in-person training inputs to all front-line officers and supervisors (2,500 officers approximately) being delivered by the force lead for stop and search in the next 6 months. This is being led by Insp. Ross Hurwood. This should also improve adequate BWV.



Dec 21 – June 24:

Standard practice handcuffing a compliant person at a Stop and Search.

This is another area that has been kept in view since December 2021. It was established at the June Panel meeting, that Nationally, there is no definition for the term *compliant handcuffing*. Work has been ongoing for some time around the use of handcuffs and a task and finish group was set up to look into this area of business, specifically in relation to Stop and Search.

UPDATE FROM ASP:

At the end of 2023 ASP issued an internal questionnaire to better understand the root causes of compliant handcuffing; there were circa 500 responses.

There is now a dedicated team of colleagues, led by Inspector Lippiatt, who are using data and operational experience to review our working practices in this area of business. We anticipate tangible outcomes at the latter end of 2024.

Dec 21 – June 24:

Lack of consistency about explaining the availability of a stop search receipt and how the person searched can access it.

This area has improved over the last couple of years and the Panel are reviewing more cases than not whereby a receipt is offered and details given on how this can be obtained. There are still some incidences where this is not being done. How are the force monitoring this and is this highlighted in any sort of training for officers?

UPDATE FROM ASP:

Avon and Somerset have recently launched a new stop and search receipt and all officers have been issued a replacement receipt pad to replace the old pads.

The in-person stop search training over the next six months specifically includes a section about the offering of receipts and making sure all officers know about the new receipt pads, including the QR code that people can scan to give feedback that we have introduced.

Reviewing if a receipt has been offered or not will form part of the refreshed supervisor oversight, which is also included in the training.

Find out more about police stop and search

- What are my rights?
- What happens during a 'stop and search' interaction?
- What information should I have to provide when stopped?
- What if I want to complain?

Scan the QR code below, to find answers to the above and further information on our website.



Feedback

We value your feedback on how we are using stop and search. If you would like to give feedback on the service you received, please scan the QR code below to complete our online feedback form.



Stop and search receipt

Reference number:.....

Search conducted by (officer name / collar no / police station):
.....

Location of search:

Time and date of search:

Police power used:

Grounds for search:

.....



Avon and Somerset Police
SERVE. PROTECT. RESPECT.



April 22 – June 24:
The smell of cannabis alone does not provide grounds for a Stop search.

This is still an area that is being kept in view.

UPDATE FROM ASP:

Section 7.11 of the new stop and search policy specifically refers to the smell of cannabis as grounds for search.

Excerpt below:

Smell of cannabis alone cannot be used to form reasonable grounds for suspicion to stop and search.

The presence of a smell of cannabis, whilst easily recognisable, does not give an indication on whether the person has just been around others smoking the substance or if they themselves are in possession of it. It is not sufficient on its own to provide reasonable grounds for search.

This is reiterated in person as part of the stop search in-person training delivered by the force lead for stop and search.

April 22 – June 24:
At a strip search BWV on audio only should be activated.

Again, an area that is being regularly monitored by the Panel.

UPDATE FROM ASP:

Section 7.24 of the new stop search policy specifically refers to the use of BWV in EIP searches.

Excerpt below:

Officers must keep their BWV recording throughout the search but ensure the lens is pointed to the ceiling, so as not to capture any video of the person being searched exposing themselves but record all audio.

This is reiterated in person as part of the stop search in-person training delivered by the force lead for stop and search.



April 22 – June 24:
Lack of adequacy of grounds for a stop search.

Continual monitoring of this aspect to ensure proper and adequate grounds for a stop search are communicated.

UPDATE FROM ASP:

Grounds for search are covered in detail in the new stop and search policy – expectations relating to the forming of grounds and the importance of explaining them well, both in person and on the recording on Niche.

A large portion of the in-person training is dedicated to effective grounds and will be reviewed by supervisors in detail going forward to ensure quality is maintained.

Sept 23 – June 24:

It was felt that the officer persisted in asking the DP for their details after they declined to give them (SS).

This has been kept in view for the last few months. We are still seeing cases whereby officers are trying to get the individuals name, even when they have refused.

UPDATE FROM ASP:

This is detailed explicitly in the new stop and search policy and expectations of officers made clear in the in-person training.

The difference between persistence and making a request as part of policing practice is made clear by the stop and search lead delivering the training.



Further information about the Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel (ISoPPP)

Further information about the ISoPPP can be viewed through the following link:

[Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel | OPCC for Avon and Somerset \(avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk\)](https://www.avonandsomerset-pcc.gov.uk)

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