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Bedfordshire Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

**A commitment to
our community**

**Terms of reference
(TOR)**



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ETHICS
ACCOUNTABILITY
COLLABORATIVE
COMMUNITY
TRANSPARENCY
PROPORTIONATE
CONFLICT
DIVERSITY



Our Purpose

Bedfordshire Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) and Bedfordshire Police are committed to increasing transparency and accountability regarding Police Stop and Search and Use of Force.

The purpose of the Bedfordshire Stop and Search and Use of Force Community Scrutiny Panel is to:

- Increase confidence internally and externally regarding the level of compliance associated with the recording of Stop and Search and the Use of Force within Bedfordshire
- Increase transparency and legitimacy around police powers in Bedfordshire
- Increase public trust and confidence in the use of police powers in Bedfordshire amongst the communities of Bedfordshire.
- Maintain an organisational culture of learning, providing appropriate feedback to individuals and the wider organisational learning regarding police powers .
- Maintain staff accountability relating to Stop and Search and Use of Force in Bedfordshire.
- Ensure compliance with the Code of Ethics and the Standards of Professional Behaviour.
- Meet periodically to undertake the above responsibilities at the following:
 - Quarterly Full Panel meetings
 - Monthly Sub Group meetings for Stop and Search and Use of Force
 - Community Complaints Trigger meeting as required

Our Principles

We conduct ourselves in line with the seven principles of public life, accepting that the panel do not hold public office but are acting on behalf of local residents and in the public interest.

The seven principles are

1. Selflessness
2. Integrity
3. Objectivity
4. Accountability
5. Openness
6. Honesty
7. Leadership

Code of Conduct

Members agree

- To treat others with dignity and respect at all times.
- Not to use bullying behaviour or harass any person.
- Not to be aggressive or use exclusionary language.
- Not to conduct themselves in a manner that could reasonably be regarded as bringing the panel into disrepute.
- Not to disclose information to outside bodies or individuals that is subject to the terms of the confidentiality agreement.
- Disclose to the OPCC any matter outside of the panel that may impact on the effective discharge of responsibilities.
- Attend at least one main meeting and two sub-panel meeting within a 6-month period (failure to do so without reasonable excuse, could cause membership to be removed).
- For more information about expectations of members, please see the [Appendix](#).



Our Chairs

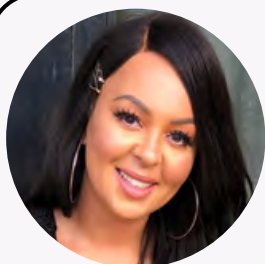


Phil Dickson Earle

Chairperson

Phil Dickson-Earle was appointed your new Stop and Search and Use of Force Chair following the resignation of Natasha Clewly in May 2023.

Mr Dickson-Earle has been a dedicated member of the Bedfordshire Scrutiny Panel since it started 8 years ago, and he thrives to ensure Bedfordshire Police are held to account and police powers are used appropriately with the help of Deputy Chairs Renee Henry, SC and the panel. "During my time as part of the Scrutiny Panel, I have witnessed some positive outcomes resulting from effective collaboration of the panel and the Police Cohesion Team, so I look forward to continue holding our police to account in order to foster greater community relations."



Ms Renee Henry

Deputy Chair

Ms Renee Henry joined the Scrutiny Panel as Deputy Chair in January 2022. Ms Henry worked alongside Natasha Clewley and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. Ms Henry will now be working with the Chair, Phil Dickson-Earle to ensure the Scrutiny Panel continues to grow and ensure that it continues to be diverse and representative of Bedfordshire. Ms Henry is an experienced senior leader with expertise in acting as a Chair and Deputy Chair. She said "I feel it is important to give back to my local community and police powers have been under much media scrutiny, I would like to play a role in ensuring the processes and procedures are undertaken correctly and fairly and to support the team to do so."

Mr Simon C

Deputy Chair

Mr Simon C joined the Scrutiny panel in October 2022, as a way of continuing his 25 years of volunteering experience to support the residents of Bedfordshire. The scrutiny panels allow for the practices adopted by police, to be monitored and where necessary, actions challenged, improvements raised and best practices fed back to officers and personnel. His aim is to find ways to improve the experiences of Bedfordshire residents with police officers, using his many years of experiences within People Management along side his knowledge and experience in the areas of Use of Force and Stop and Search. He hopes that by taking on the role as Deputy Chair, he is able to focus on more of the detail and help guide both the wider police organisation and also panel members on how improvements, better standards and confidence in the police, can be achieved for members of the public living or travelling through Bedfordshire. Simon says in his year as a panel member, he has seen progress, improvement and positive actions by panel and police representatives and hopes to help maintain this momentum.

Our Data Panel Leads



Zion Ayetuoma

Stop and Search Data Lead

Mr Ayetuoma joined the data panel late 2023 and is driven by his passion for data-driven decision-making and his commitment to public service. He believes data analysis plays a crucial role in shaping effective policing strategies and enhancing community safety. As a resident of Bedfordshire, he understands the importance of transparency, accountability, and fairness in policing, and hopes the data panel's work will contribute to building greater public trust. Mr Ayetuoma sees an immense potential for the panel to develop data-driven solutions to complex challenges like crime prevention and resource allocation, ultimately leading to a safer Bedfordshire.



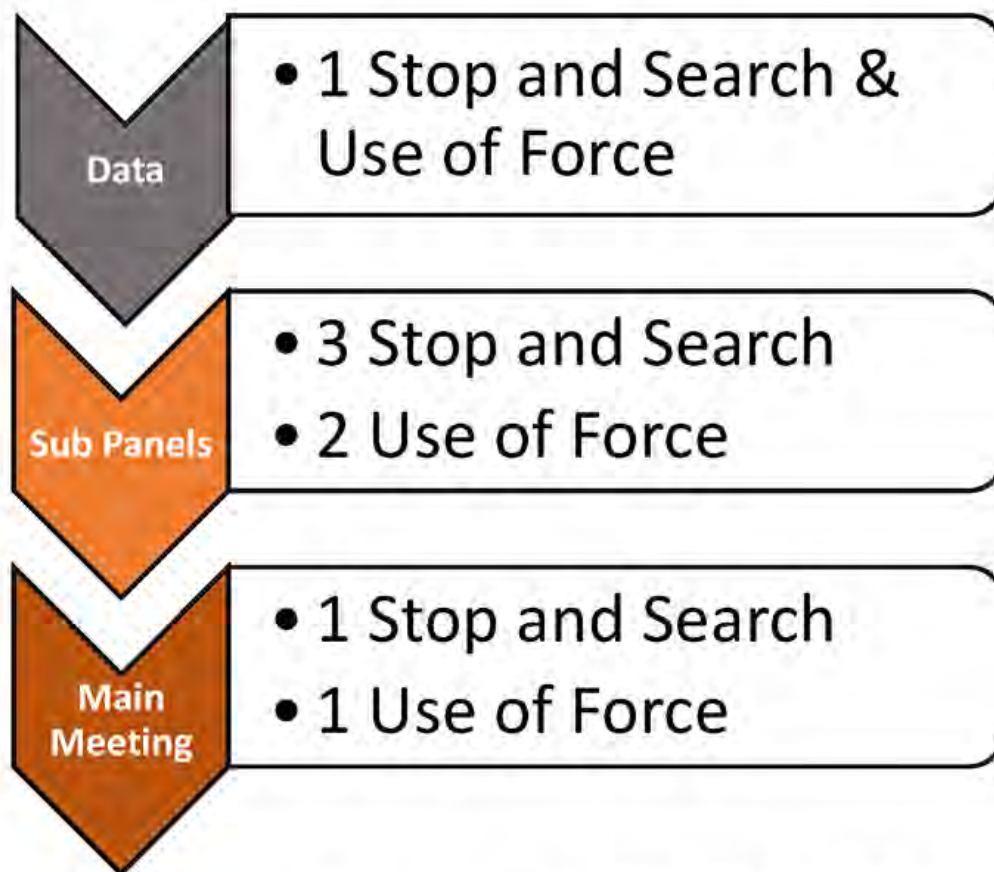
Elizabeth Ginns

Use of Force Data Lead

Ms Ginns joined the Bedfordshire Scrutiny Panel in 2022 as a member and expresses her interest to become a data panel lead as she is an experienced mathematics teacher and believes she can use her day-to-day job skills to identify aspects of interest in the police statistics.

The data panel consists of individuals from the Stop and Search and Use of Force panel who volunteered themselves to analyse and scrutinise data provided by Bedfordshire Police on a quarterly basis, to identify patterns, trends and disproportionality within the data sets. This information will be fed into the sub panel meetings to allow panel members to make informed selections of the bodyworn videos.

PANEL STRUCTURE

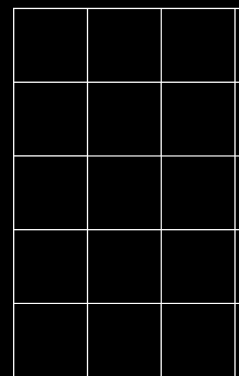


The parameters for selecting each BWV will be identified during the data panels.

The scrutiny panel will work on a quarterly basis as shown below, starting with a data panel as per the organogram above.

- Q1 - January - March
- Q2 - April - June
- Q3 - July - September
- Q4 - October - December

Rules of Engagement



Panel Requirements

- ✓ Admission to membership of the panel will be subject to the completion of an application form, interview by the Chair/Deputy Chair and OPCC, confirmation of appointment from the OPCC, training and the signing of a non-disclosure agreement.
- ✓ All members of the panel will be invited to meetings to ensure there is a balance representing the different areas of the county, different interests, ethnicities, experiences, ages and gender.
- ✓ Members of the panel must attend at least one main meeting in every six month period to remain as part of the panel.
- ✓ The data panel will set the parameters for the sub panel meetings, based on patterns/trends identified from the data panel. Each sub panel should include 1 video from the Black Community, Section 163, 1 Custody video and Under 10's.
- ✓ From 2024, there will be 4 main meetings in person based at either Kempston HQ or Luton.
- ✓ If panel members do not participate in one meeting in any 6 month period, they will be removed from the panel.
- ✓ Panel members will also be required to excuse themselves from consideration of any material where they know, or have personal knowledge of the officer, detained individual or injured person being the subject of the footage under consideration.
- ✓ Quorate is a minimum of 10 members for each main quarterly meeting and a maximum of 6 for each sub-panel meeting.
- ✓ The panel will meet on a quarterly basis for the main meetings with the ability to meet on a monthly basis for the sub panel meetings.
- ✓ All members are required to be in a quiet room when joining meetings online and ensure that your back is against the wall to prevent other's in the same environment viewing restricted video's/information. Headphones will be required if you are not alone.
- ✓ All questions and issues must be reported to the OPCC as a first point of call and will be addressed accordingly.
- ✓ All members are required to undergo training prior to joining any panels and on a quarterly basis thereafter. Participation is dependent on up-to-date training.



Meeting Format

Documents

The Panel will be shown and allowed to read documents created on the police system (TuServ) relating to the circumstances of each power or action to be observed relating, for instance, to the grounds of use of force or nature/justification.

Conflicts of Interest

Details of the individuals involved are disclosed and any panel members associated with them or with knowledge of them are asked to absent themselves.

Briefing

Prior to the video being shown to panel members, the Force Lead within the Community Cohesion Team will provide a short briefing to all panel members introducing the video.

Video

The video will be shown to the panel. After viewing the video, documents and mutual discussion, each member of the panel will be asked to vote using the voting system.

Voting

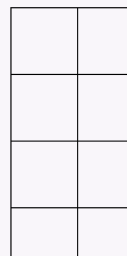
The voting system is digital and anonymous, giving panel members the confidence to vote. Once voting is completed, a discussion/rationalisation of that vote will take place and be documented.

Rating

Once voting and discussion has concluded, and a final rating submitted by the panel, the Force Lead will be able to provide further operational comment when required.

Video selection

The last 10 mins of the sub panel will be allocated for the sub panel to select the video for review for the following sub panel meeting.



Panel Etiquette



Be punctual

Arrive to meetings atleast 5 minutes before the scheduled time, this ensures that the meeting begins and finishes on time. Arriving on time will also ensure that you do not miss important information or the viewing and grading of videos, as your opinion matters and is important.



Follow the Chair's lead

The meeting will be led by the Chair or Deputy Chair. In their absence, the meeting will be chaired by an experienced member of the panel.

It is important that the panel waits for direction from the chair throughout the meeting. If there are any questions, you can politely let the chair know by using the raise hand function or post on the Teams chat.



Ask questions

If you are unsure about something, ask questions at the appropriate time, when the question is relevant to what is being discussed.



Actively listen

It is important to actively listen when a member of the panel is speaking. This shows that you respect their opinion. It is good to allow them the time to voice their thoughts, if you have further contributions, wait for the member to finish speaking. The Chair will give you a chance to speak afterwards.



Follow the agenda

Stay on topic to make the discussion more productive and save time.



R.A.G. Document

Familiarise yourself with the Red, Amber, Green (RAG) voting system. Ensure you have it to hand at every meeting.



Selection of Videos

The selection of videos viewed in the sub panels will be based on the patterns and trends identified in the data panel meetings. The purpose of the data panel is to review quarterly Stop and Search and Use of Force data provided by the Force to ensure that any disproportionality, patterns and trends are highlighted. , this information will be used in the sub panel meetings as a focus point to find out the cause of this or if there are underlying issues/concerns that must be addressed.

At the beginning of each sub panel, the data lead/OPCC representative will feedback all findings from the data panel and inform the chair/ panel members of the suggested focus of the videos.

Parameters:

Each panel member will be asked by the Chair to select a video during the sub panel meeting based on the following parameters:

- Black community
- Under 10's
- Section 163 (Vehicle stops)
- Custody video

Things to consider

When selecting body worn videos, panel members must also take into consideration whether the police officer conducting the search has in date training as this will affect the validity of the search.

It is also important as panel members to check the validity and length of time of intelligence markers if they have been used.



Feedback Mechanism

The OPCC hold the responsibility of recording all actions and feedback provided by the panel during sub panel and main meetings. This information will be collated into a spreadsheet and distributed to the respective Force representatives.

All feedback will be submitted to the OPCC representative ahead of the meetings to ensure it is of an adequate standard and all questions and concerns raised by the panel have been reviewed accordingly and answered sufficiently.

Stop and Search

Stop and Search's new mechanism will consist of a new feedback form that ensures body worn videos (BWV) are reviewed with line managers and where appropriate this forms part of the officers Performance Development Review (PDR).

Use of Force

Use of Force will adopt the same process as stop and search regarding using a feedback form. An internal panel of experts within the police force (to include Professional Standards) will review the panels feedback on the viewed BWV. Officers may be required to attend this panel to provide a full account and be given the feedback from the panel. Actions and learning where appropriate will form part of the officers Performance Development Review (PDR).

All feedback will be distributed to panel members in written form ahead of the main meetings to promote transparency and raise any questions or concerns with the feedback ahead of time.



Section 60 (S60) Stop Searches

Main powers requiring reasonable grounds for suspicion:

1. Section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE)
2. Section 23 of Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 (MDA)
3. The Psychoactive Substances Act 2016 (PSA)



The 'reasonable grounds for suspicion' test is key to fair decision making in stop and search.

Section 60 of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994

Section 60 powers allow a police officer in uniform to stop and search any pedestrian, or anything carried by them, or any vehicle, its driver and passengers, for offensive weapons or dangerous instruments. The officer can make any search they think fit, whether or not they have any grounds to suspect that the person or vehicle is carrying the above items.

Such wide powers must be used only where necessary and in a proportionate manner and must be authorised, and their geographical scope and duration must be limited.

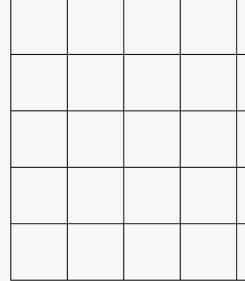
Use of section 60 powers may only be authorised by an officer of at least Superintendent rank and they must ensure that a superintendent rank is informed about the authorisation as soon as practicable.

Permitted grounds:

- Incidents involving serious violence may take place in the police area.
- Persons are carrying dangerous instruments or offensive weapons without good reason in the police area
- An incident involving serious violence has taken place in the police area and a dangerous instrument or offensive weapon used in the incident is being carried by a person in the locality

Bedfordshire do not utilise S60 often, there has been 2 uses in the past 5 years, however when they do, contact with the scrutiny panel chair and OPCC must be made by the on-call community cohesion officer or via the Sergeant. The chair must inform the panel and a decision must be made on whether the use of S60 was proportionate.

Upcoming dates for your diary



Use of Force Main Meetings

08/02/2024
09/05/2024
29/08/2024
14/11/2023

Use of Force Sub Panels

18/01/2024
18/04/2024
01/08/2024
17/10/2024

Stop and Search Main Meetings

28/02/2024
16/05/2024
15/08/2024
28/11/2024

Data Panels

04/01/2024
21/03/2024
21/06/2024
19/09/2024

Stop and Search Sub Panels

25/01/2024	27/06/2024
01/02/2024	18/07/2024
28/03/2024	03/10/2024
25/04/2024	31/10/2024

Notes

Meetings will not always be held on Thursday's.
Members will be expected to attend quarterly stop and search and use of force training.

Events

Volunteers Celebration

SCAN ME

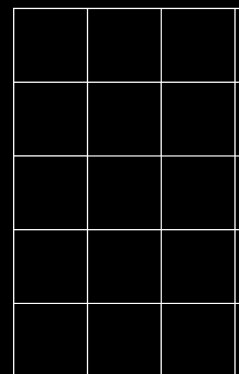


On the 28th September 2023 the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner hosted first ever awards ceremony for the Independent Stop and Search and Use of Force Scrutiny Panel and the Independent Custody Visitors (ICV's). The Lord Lieutenant, Susan Lousada, was also present to support the event, to explain her role as His Majesty's representative in Bedfordshire, and show her thanks to the volunteers. The Lord Lieutenant presented 9 special awards, highlighting specific examples of where volunteers had gone above and beyond.

The Deputy Chief Constable (DCC) from Bedfordshire Police, Dan Vajzovic, and Community Policing teams were in attendance alongside Custody Inspectors. DCC Dan Vajzovic said "I was honoured to be part of the awards ceremony alongside our incredible volunteers. Their dedication, enthusiasm and commitment is exemplary and thoroughly deserves to be recognised. "Without them as our critical friends, we wouldn't be able to improve and give constructive feedback to our officers. Their work enables us to make better policing decisions and is invaluable in shaping our scrutiny processes going forward.



Terms of Reference

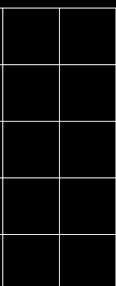


Community Scrutiny Panel

1. Purpose

The purpose of the Bedfordshire Scrutiny Panel (the panel) is:

- To achieve greater transparency and community involvement in the use by the Police of Stop and Search and Use of Force powers across Bedfordshire.
- To improve public confidence and trust in how these powers are used by Bedfordshire Police, by involving the panel within the process.
- To improve public confidence and trust in the way Bedfordshire Police conduct stop and searches by understanding and being sensitive to the impact of these powers on individuals and from the public's perspective.
- To act in an advisory capacity to help to ensure that stop and search powers used by Bedfordshire Police Officers are appropriate, lawful and legitimate; recognising that these powers are useful in preventing and detecting crime.
- To promote the panel, and its work to ensure all communities in Bedfordshire are aware of the role of the Panel.
- To scrutinise the use of stop and search and use of force and to provide feedback to Bedfordshire Police on the use of Stop and Search and Use of Force.
- To convene as a Panel if the Community Complaints Trigger threshold is activated requiring Bedfordshire Police to explain to their communities the use of the tactics, powers, complaints, actions or lack of actions which led to the activation of the Community Complaints Trigger.
- To understand and analyse disproportionality in Bedfordshire, seeking to address disproportionality that cannot be adequately explained.
- To examine Stop and Search/Use of Force forms to ensure that they have been carried out in accordance with Policing powers. The scrutiny group shall collect the criteria of the forms and data to be examined i.e. all youth/Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic-related Stop/searches/ NFAs.
- To meet periodically to undertake the above responsibilities at the following:
 - Full Panel Meetings which are Quarterly
 - Sub Group Meetings for:
 - (a) stop and search – Monthly
 - (b) use of force - once every 2 months
 - Community Complaints Trigger – When required
- There will be one panel for the county of Bedfordshire that covers the three constituent authorities of Bedford Borough Council, Central Bedfordshire Council and Luton Borough Council in full.



Non Disclosure Agreement

For Organisations, Partners and members of the Bedfordshire Community Scrutiny Panel, attending meetings with or participating in panel activities.

This agreement covers the time period of 01 January 2024 to 31 December 2024

I agree that I will not share with any other agency, member of the public or third party any personal information contained or discussed within Bedfordshire Use of Force Community Scrutiny Panel meetings or activities, without the authority of Bedfordshire Police.

Due to meetings taking place virtually on teams, I agree that I will adhere to the following:

- I will ensure I am in a room where no one else can hear or see the information
- The environment will be confidential
- I will ensure there is no listening or recording devices in the room, e.g. Alexa, Video Camera, Phone Cameras or Dictaphones which are switched on
- I will ensure that I will not have anything on my viewing device which captures images or records these images that I will be viewing
- I will ensure that I declare any person's name I recognise prior to any BWV being played
- I will ensure that note-taking is restricted

Personal information includes any data which can identify an individual.

If such information is required to be disseminated I will seek the permission of the data force lead for stop and search. In addition I agree not to disseminate documents containing personal information.

You are required to comply with the terms of:

- a. Data Protection Act 2018 (DPA)**
- b. General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)**
- c. Computer Misuse Act 1990**

These Acts outline your personal liability for any wilful or reckless act regarding misuse of information.

I have read, understood and accept the above. I accept that a breach of this agreement may result in me personally liable for offences under the aforesaid legislation.

Signature:	
Name:	
Date:	

Appendix

1. Membership of the Panels

- All membership and terms of reference will be reviewed every twelve months.
- The Panel and its Stop and Search and Use of Force sub groups shall be chaired by the Chair of the Panel for the time being appointed or a person nominated by them. The OPCC will have in attendance an official from its office which shall nominate in a non-voting capacity to observe the Panel, take notes, prepare minutes and complete documentation and other administrative tasks agreed from time to time
- Bedfordshire Police will nominate a representative who will ensure the members of the Panel receive unfettered access to information, data and footage necessary for a full and thorough independent scrutiny
- Membership shall include Panel members, a note taker from the OPCC and the Bedfordshire Police leads on Stop and Search/Use of Force. Other guests will be invited as and when required by the group
- The Stop and Search/Use of Force Scrutiny Panels will consist of a pool of people who live, work or study in Bedfordshire. The Chair and Vice Chairs will maintain a Panel that represents all communities within Bedfordshire assisted by the OPCC. The Panel should reflect the diversity of the community
- The OPCC will appoint a Chair(s) of the Panel assisted by the Vice Chairs in the recruitment process.
- The Vice Chair will be appointed for a period of twelve months with the option to extend by a further 12 months, with the approval of the OPCC.
- The Panel(s) will aim for a membership of between 12 and 30 members who will meet on a regular basis, representing the diversity of the county, a minimum of ten people are required to attend the quarterly meetings
- Panel members will also be required to excuse themselves from consideration of any material where they know or have personal knowledge of the officer, detained individual or injured person being the subject of the footage under consideration
- The OPCC will inform the Chair if they have invited observers to Panel meetings as the need arises, such as HMICFRS, other Force/OPCC leads and other third parties
- All members of the Panel will be invited to ensure there is a balance representing the different areas of the county, different interests, ethnicities, experiences, ages and gender
- Admission to membership of the Panel will be subject to the completion of an application form, interview by the Chair and OPCC, confirmation of appointment from the OPCC, and the signing of a confidentiality agreement. A Panel member will be asked to take part in interviews for new members.
- Members of the Panel must attend two meetings in every six month period to remain a part of the Panel.

- The OPCC will ensure appropriate arrangements are made for each meeting including fixing the date, venue or Microsoft Teams are set, circulating papers in advance, arranging for minutes to be taken and that management information reports are produced. This will be supported/facilitated by the Community Cohesion Sergeant or other officer of rank within the Community Cohesion Team

2. Roles and Responsibilities of Members

Working together and bringing their voices, experience and perspectives to the Panel, members will:

- Review the Panel's Terms of Reference on an annual basis proposing any changes considered
- Consider issues that are likely to impact, or have impacted, on the effectiveness of Stop and Search/Use of Force
- Review issues surrounding Stop and Search/Use of Force and consider ideas for mitigation or resolution
- Analyse data, Body Worn Video footage (BWV), and the feedback from public complaints relating to Stop and Search/Use of Force
- To promote the work of Stop and Search/Use of Force Scrutiny Panels, to increase public awareness of the scrutiny and accountability that Bedfordshire Police is held to
- Effectively scrutinise the performance of Bedfordshire Police in relation to Stop and Search/Use of Force on our communities
- Analyse demographic data trends relating to Stop and Searches and ongoing annual data analysis
- Provide the opportunity to discuss issues arising as a result of complaints and scrutinise finalised complaints that relate to Stop and Search
- Contribute to Bedfordshire Police Stop and Search/Use of Force policy and procedures, by feedback given at the Stop and Search/Use of Force Panel meetings to Bedfordshire Police lead
- Act as a critical friend to Bedfordshire Police and provide advice and guidance to improve its performance around Stop and Search/Use of Force

3. Roles and Responsibilities of the Chair/Vice Chair and OPCC

- The Panels will have a Chair and Vice Chair. Where these terms appear, the singular shall be deemed to include the plural in circumstances where joint Chairs and/or joint Vice Chairs are appointed
- The Chair will be appointed for a period of twelve months with the option to extend by a further 12 months, with the approval of the Head of Governance and Transparency
- The Chair shall not serve in the post for more than thirty six months
- The Chair, alongside the OPCC will develop and manage the agenda of the meetings and ensure meetings are well-timed and effective
- To check the minutes for accuracy and to ensure minutes are agreed at the beginning of each Panel meeting by the Panel and documented in the minutes being taken
- To facilitate discussions at the meetings, particularly where there may be conflicting views between members
- To meet with the OPCC and Force lead at least once every quarter to discuss Stop and Search/Use of Force in Bedfordshire, and matters relating to the Panel
- To ensure that feedback is provided to the Police in relation to Stop and Search/Use of Force matters. Holding the Police accountable for their Use of Force/Stop and Search. Ensuring that the OPCC has sight of all correspondence/views/feedback so it can be logged and monitored.
- To ensure Panel members at the meeting are engaged and empowered to contribute in a meaningful way and that an environment is created whereby they feel safe and enabled to do so and that attendees are "heard"
- The Vice Chair will support the Chair and deputise for the Chair when the Chair is unable to attend meetings and generally for the purpose of discharging the Chair's duties
- To work with the Force and OPCC in representing matters of Stop and Search and assisting with media requests if applicable.

4. Meetings and Reporting Requirement

Meetings will take place at a venue or via Microsoft Teams organised by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) this will depend on the circumstances and availability

- The Chair and the OPCC will work to ensure that there are sufficient core members and guests attending each meeting. Quorate is 10 members for each main quarterly meeting and 6 for each subgroup meeting
- The Panel will meet on a quarterly basis with the ability to meet more frequently should there be a clear operational or strategic need. A calendar of provisional dates will be set on an annual basis, to secure time in diaries, this will be administered by the OPCC
- Meetings will be blended with both in person meetings and digital meetings. The Panel will always endeavour to have a digital element to the meeting, to ensure we have high level of attendance and that panel members have confidence in the digital voting system.

5. Establishment of sub committees/Examining Body Worn Video (BWV)

The subcommittee are members of the Panel that meet in a smaller group on a monthly basis to ensure monthly monitoring of Stop and Search takes place. This consists of the Chair, Deputy Chair and other available members.

- The Sub Committee meets on a monthly basis and findings will be fed into the Quarterly Panel Meeting
- Every month members of the Panel will be invited to dip sample and review body worn video of stop and search, to ensure independent scrutiny is provided each month throughout the calendar year. This will include BWV and redacted paperwork as required relating to stop and searches selected by the panel. Reviewed in March 2022

- The membership of the sub-committee shall be agreed between the Chair, OPCC and the Force Lead.
- Members of sub committees shall be required to sign and submit a confidentiality agreement for each sub panel/panel they attend.

6. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

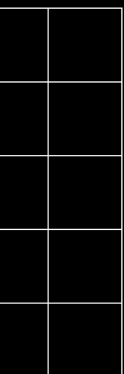
- The Panel is overseen by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, to ensure independence from Bedfordshire Police, and impartiality
- An OPCC representative will attend each meeting, in normal circumstances this will be the Head of Governance and Transparency
- The Head of Governance and Transparency is the OPCC lead for Use of Force within that office and will be the point of contact between the Panel and OPCC
- The OPCC will be the administrative support, regarding minutes, maintaining the membership database and training records
- The Chair, Force Lead and Head of Governance and Transparency will meet on a quarterly basis, to discuss all matters in regard to Use of Force, concerns and oversight of the Panel and work being completed
- The Chair, Vice Chair and Panel will share issues, concerns and compliments with the OPCC during the quarterly meeting
- The Panel will act as a reference tool for the PCC and OPCC as and when necessary, for instance for matters for the Delivery and Beating Crime Board, HMICFRS.

7. Communicating information from the Panel

- A key aim of the Panel is to encourage resident and community confidence in policing. In addition, the Panel will work to ensure transparency
- All information that will be disclosed to the Panel will be treated as confidential.
- The OPCC and Bedfordshire Police will agree what information can be communicated outside of the Use of Force Panel, as the data controllers
- The Panel Chair will work with the lead officers within Bedfordshire Police/OPCC to disseminate information that can be used on the Bedfordshire Police Facebook page, Twitter Account and any other media deemed appropriate.

8. Training

- Initial training will be provided to members before the first meeting they attend.
- Panel members need to have undertaken a dedicated training package prior to being an active member of the panel
- **This training will include:**
 - Legislation surrounding Stop and Search/Use of Force (Force Lead)
 - Operational delivery of Stop and Search (what a Stop and Search should look like)/Use of Force (what Use of Force should look like) (Force Lead)
 - History of Stop and Search/Use of Force (OPCC Lead)
 - The role of the community scrutiny panel (OPCC Lead)
 - Expectations of Panel members in terms of commitment to role, assessing Use of Force, and acting as a community ambassador (OPCC)
 - Also recommended that a ride along is completed and a visit made to the Force Control Room.



Appendix

Current Panel Members:

Alicia Brown

PANEL MEMBER

Arto Armagan (Dino)

PANEL MEMBER

Ayoola Taylor

PANEL MEMBER

Beverley Drummey (Bev)

PANEL MEMBER

Elizabeth Ginns (Lizzie)

DATA PANEL LEAD

Elaine Singaram

PANEL MEMBER

Harley Scott

PANEL MEMBER

James Turner

PANEL MEMBER

Karl O'Dell

PANEL MEMBER

Karen James

PANEL MEMBER

Kim Taylor

PANEL MEMBER

Lauren Cox

PANEL MEMBER

Loveness Bishi

PANEL MEMBER

Lucia Scozzari

PANEL MEMBER

Marcella Smith

PANEL MEMBER

Mary Perry

PANEL MEMBER

Myrna Loy

PANEL MEMBER

Natasha Loftus

PANEL MEMBER

Olivia Houghton

PANEL MEMBER

Peju Akintomide

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PANEL MEMBER

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SCRUTINY PANEL DEPUTY
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PANEL MEMBER

Ursula Smith

PANEL MEMBER




Zion Ayetuoma

DATA PANEL LEAD

STOP AND SEARCH RED, AMBER, GREEN (RAG) VOTING SYSTEM






Bedfordshire Stop and Search Community Scrutiny Panel Traffic Light RAG Rating

<p>GREEN</p> 	<p>GREEN - Stop and Search was conducted professionally.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The stop and search was conducted professionally, GOWISELY was FULLY complied with, and the feedback provided by the panel was positive and there were no differing opinions. 2. The stop and search was conducted professionally, the legal test was met, and only minor feedback is to be considered by the officer for future practice. 3. The stop and search was conducted in a professional manner, reasonable grounds test was met, and the detained person (DP) understood why they were stopped and searched, however there were minor points for consideration or handcuffs were used without explanation.
<p>AMBER</p> 	<p>AMBER - The officer did not conduct the stop and search in line with due process - This is an Advisory</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. A main item from GOWISELY was missed such as the grounds (G) a specific object (O), you are entitled to a receipt (E), or the BWV was not turned on without justification to capture the whole encounter. 5. Two or more elements of GOWISELY were missed or the officer failed to ensure the detained person understood the basis for the stop and search and handcuffing was not explained. 6. Handcuffs were used without meeting the "necessary test" or were kept on for too long after it had been established the detained person did not have the item OR officer did not treat the person fairly or with the required respect and courtesy, but the panel did not consider it serious enough to warrant an investigation.
<p>RED</p> 	<p>The basis of red is (a) Reasonable suspicion did not exist and one of the following: the panel considered the use of force to be excessive, language to be inappropriate or offensive and or the treatment of the person was not acceptable.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. Reasonable suspicion did not exist to perform the stop and search and the grounds for conducting the search were vague or the stop and search was not necessary for the officer to establish if the Detained Person had a specific illegal item. 8. Reasonable grounds did not exist, and the officers used inappropriate language, and did not comply with GOWISELY or the reasonable suspicion test was not met and the officer was unnecessarily offensive and the officer escalated the situation - A R8 will always be referred to the Professional Standards Department (PSD). 9. Reasonable grounds did not exist. The stop and search should not have been conducted and excessive force was used, or the language used by the officer caused offence - A R9 will always be referred to the Professional Standards Department (PSD).

USE OF FORCE RED, AMBER, GREEN (RAG) VOTING SYSTEM



Bedfordshire Use of Force Community Scrutiny Panel Traffic Light RAG Rating

<p>GREEN</p> 	<p>Use of Force was necessary and undertaken reasonably and professionally.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The correct level of force was applied by the officer in the circumstances and throughout the encounter. 2. The correct level of force was applied by the officer but where initial verbal communication was possible it could have been better. 3. The correct level of force may have been applied but it is desired that two minor matters need to be drawn to the officer's attention from the Panels observations.
<p>AMBER</p> 	<p>We understand why force was used but advice and /or training issues are required.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Accountability issues arise in terms of failure to switch on BWV in time and/or to accurately complete documentation or voice could have been used beforehand. 5. Force might have been justified but applied for too long or having chosen the correct level of force the officer's proficiency in its use was lacking giving rise to a need for training. 6. Force may have been justified but the officer escalated too quickly to a higher level without regard to the requirement to use the minimum level in the circumstances.
<p>RED</p> 	<p>Use of Force was not necessary nor compliant with PLANTER. The force may be unlawful.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 7. The level of force was not proportionate to the risk faced by the officer. 8. The level of force was significantly greater than necessary to protect the officer or the public and the panel had additional concerns. 9. The officer used force entirely without need and did so to injure/punish or in a discriminatory fashion. The officer's actions were unlawful.

