

Stop Search Quarter 1 Report

April – June 2025

Overview

This report is to provide information about Stop Search Scrutiny Panels undertaken by Independent Stop Search Volunteers between 1st April and 30th June 2025.

Panels

Due to several panel meetings being cancelled last year as a result of officer unavailability, a strategic decision has been made to reduce the frequency of these meetings. Going forward, scrutiny panels will now convene on a bi-monthly basis.

To ensure the annual volume of cases reviewed remains consistent, the number of cases considered at each meeting will increase. Each panel session will now review up to 15 cases within a three-hour timeframe.

In quarter 1, 2 Stop Search Scrutiny Panel was conducted and a total of 30 cases were reviewed by the panel. This is split into 15 cases for the north of the county and 15 cases for the south of the county.

Cases	April	June	Total
North	8	7	15
South	7	8	15
Total	15	15	30

Findings

The following table outlines information on the panel's findings into whether the description of the grounds justified the Stop Search, if Body Worn Video (BWV) was available for the cases and if the search was conducted appropriately.

Cases	Did the description of the grounds justify the Stop Search?	Was BWV available?	Was the search conducted appropriately?
North	15/15 - yes	15/15 - yes	14/15 - yes
South	15/15 - yes	15/15 - yes	12/15 - yes
Total	30	30	26

The panel concluded that search was not conducted appropriately for 1 north case in April. This was because there was no record of GOWISELY being relayed at all in the BWV.

For the south cases viewed in April, the panel could not confirm whether the search was conducted appropriately for 2 cases because the BWV was only 30 seconds long and did not show the search. Additionally, for 1 case in June, the BWV wouldn't load therefore, the panel did not watch it and could not confirm whether the search was conducted appropriately.

Feedback, Causes of Concern and Good Practice

Examples of good practise

- Told him he wasn't going to handcuff him then did but explained why he had changed his mind – good practice
- Good practice that he was asked if he needed any help or support as he can put referrals in
- Female officer in the BWV interacted with him really well to make him more compliant
- The panel commented that the Officer was very sensitive towards the young female and also took into account others in the house therefore spoke quietly to keep it private.

Causes of concern

- No record of GOWISELY being relayed at all in the BWV
- Concerns were raised around the subject actively smoking a cigarette and the safety for officers

Summary

In summary, the panel concluded that:

- 30 descriptions of the grounds reviewed, did justify a stop search.
- BWV was available for 30 cases reviewed.
- 26 searches were conducted appropriately.

