

## Stop & Search Reference Group (SSRG) Minutes

Date: 29<sup>th</sup> March 2023, 16:00 – 18:00 (via Teams)

Chair: Franstine Jones / Phaniel Mutumburi

Minute Taker: Travis Dickerson

Number in attendance: 14

Franstine Jones (FJ), Sharon Lee (SL), Savitri Tyndale-Biscoe (STB), Phaniel Mutumburi (PM), Travis Dickerson (TD), Claire Connick (CC), Karis Le Winton (KW), Simon Mills (SM), David Brown (DB), Stella Frangleton (SF), Romel Mallick (RM), Siobhan (S), Matthew Lakin (ML), Carols Walker (CW)

<p>Welcome: Introductions &amp; Actions</p>		<p>All actions from the previous meeting have been completed and shared at this meeting.</p> <p>Simon provided a breakdown search by ethnicity during a section 60, requested by Carlos walker.</p>	<p>Simon Mills</p>
---	--	---	--------------------

Item	Discussion/Response	Response	Action by whom & when
Review of Forms: <b>GROUNDS</b>			
<p><b>Form ID:</b> 371745/210123/164814</p> <p>The subject and his three associates were located walking through Ipswich town centre at 0000 hours on 21/01/23 with no reason or cause. Two of the subjects are known for low level Class B drug supply and robberies. It was felt prudent to search under Section 60 given that they had no good reason or cause for being in the town centre at this time and with two have criminal activity recorded against them recently.</p> <p>SL: How did this male match the section 60</p>	FJ: Is this officer a long serving officer?	SM: Regarding Section 60 searches, officers have been given guidance on what should be added to the form under the grounds section to avoid confusion. An inspector requested further detail from an officer who stopped a young adult male matching the Section 60 criteria. The male was walking through town with a group known for youth anti-social behaviour and violent crimes, and was wearing dark sports clothing, which connected him to the description of the person responsible for the murder that caused the Section 60 to be put in place. All members of the group were searched, without use of force or handcuffs. No body-worn video was used and the filling out of the form was due to human error.	

<p>criteria? Were the other males searched, if not, why was this male searched from the group? The write up lacks detail, if this had been written in the See, Know, Suspect, the officers reasoning may be clearer for us to scrutinise. Were handcuffs used in this search? Can we also find out why BWV was not used for this search, also how does an officer then record it use (apparently in error)?</p>			
<p><b>Form ID:</b> 370697/200123/215908</p> <p>Subject was encountered and arrested on suspicion of murder following him matching description of outstanding suspect. Subject was arrested straight away and searched Under 32 PACE post arrest. Stop search form completed to cover the search of subject and to</p>	<p>CW: Due to this individual's age did a legal guardian not have to be present?</p> <p>FJ: I would like to have a better understanding on how one officer claimed him to be the suspect they were looking for and then another office to quickly mention he is not who they are looking for. Why did this initial officer believe he was the suspect?</p> <p>STB: I am concerned that the use of handcuffs was used on a 13-year-old.</p>	<p>SM: The young lad was arrested on suspicion of murder but was later identified as not being the suspect. Handcuffs were used due to the serious nature of the offence. The officer took the young lad back to his home address and recorded the incident as a stop and search to provide the mother with further details. Section 32 under PACE allowed the officer to conduct the search following the initial arrest.</p> <p>SM: To clarify Carols, when we make an arrest, we can search someone under police powers without requiring a legal guardian present. However, for a stop and search, the young person protocol must be followed with a supervisor authorising the search. The rules for stop and search are different from a search following an arrest. The officer recorded the matter on a stop and search form which may not have been the most appropriate response.</p>	<p>SM: To provide the BWC footage of the officer having a discussion with the mother explain the situation as to why her son was arrested</p>

<p><a href="#">provide mother a reference number.</a></p> <p>SL: There are no clear grounds for this search, and I note supervisors' comments this was due to misidentification. Could we have more details on this one please for scrutiny, particularly as this was a 13-year-old, I also, note from the form that handcuffs were used.</p>	<p>What's the reasoning for this as he is so young?</p>	<p>SM: Mistaken identity does not occur due to ethical grounds or race, but sometimes happens. Tension were high during the investigation, and it's not surprising that a misidentification was made. I don't have information about the original description yet, but it can be provided in the next meeting.</p> <p>SM: In addition, Fran, I've viewed portions of the BWC where the officer informs the mother of the situation and provides a description of the suspect, to which the mother indicates that it matches her son.</p> <p>SM: Savi, we can legally handcuff anyone despite their age. In this case, the suspect is wanted for a serious offence involving weapons, and statistically, young people are more likely to carry weapons. Additionally, there has been an increase in assaults on officers from every age group. Although we understand the concern, as police officers we must consider all available information and decide. This was a unique scenario, with the suspect being wanted for murder. Although we made a mistake, it may have been appropriate to handcuff the 13-year-old in this situation.</p>	<p>then unrested.</p>
<p><b>Form ID:</b> 371783/190223/154153</p> <p><a href="#">Bus stop staff called into the control room on CAD SC-18022023-307 to advise 4 males and 1 female were in Bus Stop section B smoking cannabis. As soon as the report came in Tango Victor placed CCTV cameras on the location</a></p>	<p>FJ: Simon I am curious how correct it is to state that "4 males appeared eastern European origin". Because personally I could not describe an eastern European.</p> <p>PM: I would just like to make a comment, I believe we need to be thinking about in terms of the current situation locally with the protest and counter protests with the migrant communities. Everybody locally has</p>	<p>SM: I received a response from the Sargent, who reviewed the BWV and GOWISLEY but did not approve the search due to insufficient grounds. The Sargent provided a SEEN, KNOW and SUSPECT format to the grounds and discussed the points raised with the officer face to face. The officer will now have a mark in their PDR regarding stop and search</p> <p>SM: Yes, Fran I don't believe this is a worthy description and this is something we are working on being descriptions. There are always distinguishing features to describe someone which is generally clothing. This is something I will take away as an area to re-focus on as its also something I am recognising.</p>	

and pinpointed four males in the locus, specifically in Section B of the bus stop. Given there was 4 males there, and they were the only group in the location and were in specific area pinpointed by the informant and between the time of the call and Police arrival CCTV was monitored and captured the individuals in the area not leaving. Based on this, upon Police arrival, the male in the area was stop searched.

SL: This stops, and search lacked clear grounds. Why was this male searched, what was it from the group that made him the suspect to search. Were there identifiable features from CCTV, if so, what? We are pleased this has been picked up by the supervisor and the search not approved on insufficient grounds.

these different opinions. I am just curious how we can ensure that the police are not being used by specific members of the public to do the bidding of the people who are anti-migrant. I think the police just need to be careful of a possible situation like this.

<p>Can we please be advised of the outcomes on situations where a search has not been approved, and what about the suspect who was stopped and searched without clear grounds?</p>			
<p><b>Form ID:</b> 370532/050123/223717</p> <p>talked to a group of males by a car in an ASB area at TESCOS LOWESTOFT. one of the males smelled strongly of the aroma of herbal cannabis when officers talking to him</p> <p>SL: This form is poorly written and does not show clear grounds for a stop &amp; search. How many were in the group, could the smell be coming from others in the group? What was so suspicious for this male to be searched, as the smell of cannabis in a group does not show clear grounds to</p>	<p>PM: Having viewed the body worn video, we could not see the bloodshot eyes referenced on the form. The main discussion was that this form was not written up properly as we have further details from the BWV and the extra grounds provided by the officer after the form was completed. It is not reflective of what happened.</p>	<p>SM: The form lacks detail and was not filled out using the new SEE, KNOW, SUSPECT format. The officer received a complaint about loud music and engine revving in Tesco car park. Upon approaching the group, one member was acting suspiciously with bloodshot eyes and a strong smell of cannabis. The officer detained him under section 23 misuse of drugs act and searched him. The other members of the group were also searched, but no drugs were found. No use of power was used.</p> <p>SM: Personally, I found the search was poor and cultural awareness is needed, especially regarding the removal of head dress. The form was not up to standard, and the response from the officer was requested directly to ensure accuracy.</p>	

<p>search? What was the ethnicity of the other members of the group? Were any of the others searched, if not why? Was force used? Is there a BWV? I, Phaniel and Travis also viewed the BWV very recently.</p>			
<p><b>Form ID:</b> 371901/140223/231310</p> <p>See: <a href="#">Police officers in a marked response vehicle have been driving on Clarkson Street Ipswich behind a Silver Audi A3, index On Wilberforce Street, Ipswich. The vehicle has been driving erratically and officers have illuminated their blue lights and put a stop on the vehicle in case it was a drink driver.</a></p> <p>Know: <a href="#">Intelligence from 1st December 2022 in relation to drug supply. Vehicle was stopped and driver of</a></p>	<p>SL: A very good form, when they are filled out this efficiently it leaves less room for questions to scrutinize.</p> <p>SL: Yes, I would agree Simon. I have noticed the quality improvement when forms are filled out with the SEE, KNOW, SUSPECT format.</p> <p>FJ: What was the reasoning for implementing this new format?</p>	<p>SM: I believe the “See, Know and Suspect” format officers are using when filling out forms allows for much more detailed grounds. And I think it's fair to say this time around a lot of the forms had this format.</p> <p>SM: Every year we get inspected by the HMIC and we have a grounds audit, and we have done ok over the last few years with an 89% and 84% in the last two years. The next one will be in October. At a national working group for stop and search which I attended. The West Yorkshire had a 96% which is the highest I have ever seen a force get. They have had this SEE, KNOW, SUSPECT format in place and it clearly showed us that it works. So, we decided to implement it.</p>	

vehicle at the time decamped and was later stopped and searched under sec 23 MDA and mobile phone work linked male to being concerned in the supply of Class A. and he was subsequently arrested. Vehicle was seized for no insurance. Vehicle has since had a drugs marker placed on the vehicle.

Suspect: When officers approached vehicle, male driver has been hesitant in opening car and delayed whilst appearing to move his hands around the car and appeared to be reaching into the glove box and the foot well, unknown to police what he was doing. The back windows were tinted, and officers had no view of what the passenger(s), if any were doing with their actions and behaviours. Rear door has been opened and 14-year-old male was sitting in the rear nearside seat.



<p>Officers had suspicions that due to hesitation and delay in driver opening door, both passengers had adequate time to try and conceal items related to drugs. Area in Ipswich in known for drug supply in Ipswich.</p> <p>SL: Clear grounds, good write up using See, Know, Suspect.</p>			
<p><b>Form ID:</b> 370040/230123/034007</p> <p>Whilst walking up towards the top of St Stephens Lane I have smelled the strong smell of cannabis and to our right on the benches outside of St. Stephens Church were a group of 2 males and two females. On approach only one of the males was smoking and once he spotted police, he very quickly through what he was smoking on the floor. On looking at the floor where the male had</p>	<p>PM: The male initially did not comply with officers' commands according to the form, but in the BWV footage, he was compliant throughout. The use of GOWISLEY was questioned as the individual did not fully understand English. The location of the stop and search was public, and we need to consider the potential impact on the individual and the community if it were to be recorded by the public and used out of context.</p> <p>SL: It's very important to note that the BWV was not turned on at the first point of interaction between this group and the officers. The BWV provided</p>	<p>SM: The body worn video created a good discussion in the BWC video review. St. Stephens Lane has high anti-social behaviour, violence &amp; weapons. On foot officers target anti-social behaviour. Handcuffs use was questioned. Individual didn't speak English. Friend translated. Search only for the individual seen smoking.</p> <p>SM: The officer engaged well with the individual, attempting to calm them down. The BWV footage shows the officers repeatedly telling the individual "You are not being arrested". However, the handcuffs could have been removed once the situation was calmed down. The use of GOWISLEY had little impact as the individual did not understand English. The use of language line or Google Translate would have been more helpful. It is important to work on educating refugee and migrant groups on police procedures for stop and searches.</p>	

<p>been sitting there looked to be the end of a RIZZLA paper with rolled up card inside, commonly used when smoking cannabis. For these reasons I had confidants grounds to stop and search the male.</p> <p>SL: What was the reasoning for using handcuffs? Why was this the only one searched from the group, others may have had drugs on their possession. What was the ethnicity of other group members? Is BWV available? I, Phaniel and Travis have viewed the BWV.</p>	<p>started off with this individual already being in handcuffs and at this point he was calm and settled. The BWV needs to be switched on earlier so we can see the full account.</p>		
<p>AOB</p>	<p>CW: Just wondering Simon what is meant at the bottom of the table where it states “Use of handcuffs for those who have defined as Black is clearly a stand-out and this is the first time I have looked at data in this way. I will need to do some more work to understand this in any detail.</p> <p>FJ: I would like to discuss strip searches. Firstly, Simon could you please explain</p>	<p>SM: Handcuffing during stop and searches is a topic of public concern, but figures show that handcuffs were used in only 58% of cases across all ethnicities. However, there is a clear disproportionality between the use of handcuffs on black and white individuals. It's important to consider differences in the volume of stop and searches and address locations. Despite this, the speaker believes that the handcuffing rate is lower than expected and hopes that training around relevant legislations will continue to lower it.</p> <p>SM: In the APP report I mentioned earlier, I proposed a process to prevent schools from being used for strip searches. Since the beginning of 2021, we have had no strip</p>	

	<p>what these figures mean to you from the data that shows when handcuffs are used during a stop and search regarding disproportionality of ethnicity.</p> <p>I have had a few people come to me and request data for strip searches. I believe this is in-light of the story for the commissioner for children's report on children as young as 8 can be strip searched.</p> <p>CW: I would like to raise the question to Simon regarding the vetting process within the force.</p> <p>How often are you vetted?</p> <p>CW: Thank you Simon, perhaps we can pick this up outside the meeting due to the conversation not being very relevant to stop and search.</p>	<p>searches in schools, and the youngest person strip-searched was an 11-year-old. To justify strip-searching minors, we must have more intelligence and get approval from a higher authority. Out of 48 strip searches, 31 had a positive outcome where we found something, indicating that most of the time, strip searches were carried out for the right reasons. I can also provide further data on age and gender breakdowns if needed.</p> <p>SM: We vet everyone when they join and every four years thereafter. Additionally, anyone who moves roles is also re-vetted. However, those who stay in their roles for a long time may be put at the back of the queue for vetting, as we are vetting people who have moved through different roles throughout the years.</p>	
<p><b>Next Meeting: May 31st 4-6pm</b></p>			