



Stop and Search Policy

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Stop and Search Policy

1. Policy statement

Cleveland Police will ensure that powers to stop and search will be used fairly, responsibly, with respect for people being searched and without unlawful discrimination.

All Stop and Search's must be conducted and recorded in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 as specified in Code of Practice A. More specifically this Code of Practice details the grounds upon which a Stop and Search must be based, how the search should be conducted and what must be recorded.

Supervisors and managers will focus on the **quality** and not the quantity of stop/searches. The number of stop and searches will not be used as a performance indicator.

The misuse of stop and search powers can lead to disciplinary or civil action.

This policy must be applied fairly, equally, and consistently by all Police Officers and employees irrespective of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage or civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation or any other unjustifiable grounds.

2. Purpose

The purpose of this document is to outline the procedures to be adopted for Stop and Search powers. Cleveland Police believes that the powers of Stop and Search should be used with the support and understanding of all communities and that all members of the public should be treated with dignity and respect at all times, particularly when being searched.

Cleveland Police aims to understand the proportionality of the searches conducted and increasing the effectiveness of the use of Stop and Search through intelligence based tasking and evaluation of its use. Cleveland police will be publicly accountable for the way and manner in which the powers are used.

This Stop and Search policy supports the appropriate and proportionate use of these powers to target criminality and terrorism. The quality of every Stop and Search intervention can influence public confidence in the use of police powers and can provide a positive contribution to reducing the fear of crime. Powers should be used with the support and trust of our communities, and individual members of the public should be treated with dignity and respect.

All officers must be aware of the negative impact poorly conducted stops searches/stop and accounts can have; incivility, rudeness and aggression will have a negative impact

on the person stopped, and research shows that they are likely to inform family and friends, which has a negative impact on the wider community. Stop and search is an intrusive power, therefore it is vitally important that officers are confident in their use of the power and that they conduct themselves in a manner that is compatible with the standards of professional behaviour, the code of ethics and that positively reflects Cleveland Police.

We will only use our powers when it is necessary, proportionate and lawful to do so in the pursuit of the following legitimate aims:

- In the interests of public safety
- To prevent crime and disorder
- In the interests of national security
- To protect the rights and freedom of others

Searches should be conducted on objective grounds, based on information and intelligence and observable behaviour. The effective, open and transparent use of the power to stop and search members of our communities should improve the trust and confidence that our communities have in Cleveland Police's use of this power to tackle crime and disorder. We will make use of community panels such as IAGs and Scrutiny Panels to develop and inform our use of Stop and Search. We will publish information on its use and effectiveness, together with other relevant information on our website.

3. Underpinning procedures

Legislation allows Police Officers to conduct a Stop of an individual or vehicle and Search that person or vehicle without first making an arrest.

All Stop and Search's must be conducted and recorded in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 as specified in Code of Practice A. More specifically this Code of Practice details the grounds upon which a Stop and Search must be based, how the search should be conducted and what must be recorded. Code of Practice A must be read in conjunction with this policy.

The National Intelligence Model will be used to effectively task officers to be in the right place at the right time, to focus on those crimes which matter most to our communities and which present the greatest risk of harm to our communities.

As such the intelligence we act upon will need to be current, relevant and appropriate to the circumstances. Cleveland Police have signed up to the Best Use of Stop Search Scheme (BUSSS); officers have been trained as per BUSSS and College of Policing guidance and recommendations.

All Stop searches must be carried out with courtesy, consideration and respect for the person concerned. Every reasonable effort must be made to minimise the embarrassment that a person being searched may experience. The co-operation of the person to be searched must be sought in every case, even if the person initially objects to the search.

Legally there are no obligations placed on the person being searched to provide any information to the officer conducting the search. Cleveland Police will routinely ask the person being searched for their name, ethnicity and date of birth, but again there is no obligation for the person to provide this personal information. If the information is given it will be recorded.

Whilst any member of the public is allowed to observe officers carrying out a Stop and Search, provided the person being searched does not object; the dignity and privacy of the individual being searched is of paramount importance and will always be considered.

There are two means of recording stop and search;

- Electronic recording
- Paper recording on form SE2.

Officers will utilise electronic recording unless they are not equipped to do so or there is a problem with the technology.

Every person who has been personally Stopped and Searched or who has had their vehicle searched by a Police officer is entitled to a record of this search within 3 months of the search being conducted.

Current technology does not generate a hard copy record that can be given at the scene of the search. The device does issue a Unique Reference Number which will be written on a Z card receipt with information regarding Stop and Search powers and given to the person searched. This receipt may then be used by the person stopped to obtain the full record of the Stop and Search at a police office.

All officers will be issued with Z cards providing the member of the public information in relation to stop and search and means of recording a complaint. It is best practice for officers with access to Body Worn Video (BWV) to use it when carrying out Stop Search.

Stop and Account is seen to be an important part of on-street policing and constitutes the next step beyond the general conversations officers have with members of the public every day. During a Stop and Account an officer will ask the following types of questions: whether the person being spoken to is a witness to an incident, what they are doing and/or why they are in an area; where they are going or what they are carrying. There is no obligation on the person questioned to provide any information.

There is no requirement for officers to record a stop and account encounter.

Regular refresher training on Stop and Search will be available to officers.

The Equality Act and stop and search.

The Equality Act 2010 places a general duty on specified public authorities including the police service when carrying out their functions to:

- Work towards the elimination of unlawful discrimination
- Promote equality of opportunity between persons of different racial groups and;
- Promote good relations between persons of different racial groups.

Cleveland Police must actively work to eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and take steps to foster good community relations.

All powers to Stop and Search must be used fairly, responsibly, with respect for people being searched and without unlawful discrimination. The Equality Act 2010 makes it unlawful for Police Officers to discriminate against, harass or victimise any person on the grounds of the 'protected characteristics' of age, disability, gender reassignment, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation, marriage and civil partnership, or pregnancy and maternity when using their powers.

The recording and monitoring of Stop and Search data will allow us to identify and address any disproportionate use of the powers by particular officers or groups of officers particularly in relation to ethnicity and specific sections of the community.

Removal of Religious headwear

Many people customarily cover their heads or faces for religious reasons for example Muslim women, Sikh men, Sikh or Hindu women, or Rastafarian men or women. A Police Officer cannot order the removal of a head or face covering, except where there is reason to believe that the item is being worn by the individual wholly or mainly for the purpose of disguising identity, not simply because it disguises identity. The officer's rationale for why they formed the opinion that the garment was being worn to disguise identity should also be recorded in their pocket book or log.

Where there may be religious sensitivities about ordering the removal of head or face covering, the officer will ensure the item is removed out of public view. Where practicable, the item should be removed in the presence of an officer of the same sex as the person and out of sight of anyone of the opposite sex.

Transgender

Sensitivity must be shown when conducting searches of transgender individuals to minimise embarrassment, avoid discrimination and promote equality as required under the Equality Act 2010. Guidance on the searching of transgender and transvestite individuals is provided in the Code of Practice A.

In law, the gender (and accordingly the sex) of an individual is their gender as registered at birth unless they have been issued with a Gender Recognition Certificate (GRC) under the Gender Recognition Act 2004, in which case the person's gender is their acquired gender.

The person must not be asked if they have a GRC.

If there is no doubt as to whether the person concerned should be treated as being male or female, they should be dealt with as being of that sex. If at any time (including during the search or carrying out the procedure) there is doubt as to whether the person should be treated, or continue to be treated, as being male or female, the person should be asked what gender they consider themselves to be. If they express a preference to be dealt with as a particular gender, they should be asked to indicate and confirm their preference by signing the search record or the officer's notebook. Subject to below, the person should be treated according to their preference.

If there are grounds to doubt that the preference stated accurately reflects the person's predominant lifestyle, for example if they ask to be treated as a woman but documents and other information make it clear that if they live predominantly as a man, or vice versa, they should be treated according to what appears to be their predominant lifestyle and not their stated preference.

If the person is unwilling to express a preference efforts should be made to determine their predominant lifestyle and they should be treated as such. For example, if they appear to live predominantly as a woman, they should be treated as being female.

If none of the above applies, the person should be dealt with according to what reasonably appears to have been their sex as registered at birth

Non-English speakers

If there is any doubt that as to whether a person can understand what is being said, or there is any doubt about the person's ability to understand English, the officer must take reasonable steps to bring information regarding the person's rights and any relevant provisions of this Code to his or her attention.

Officer should consider the use of language line for this purpose.

People with disabilities

Officers should ensure that when dealing with persons with disabilities proper considerations are adhered to ensure that the person understands fully what is being said. Consideration should be given to the use of an appropriate adult.

If someone is deaf or unable to comprehend what is being said, then the officer must try to establish whether an interpreter or otherwise can be used to help the officer to provide the required information.

Children and Young People

The power to stop and search someone is an intrusive power. Officers should give particular consideration about the proportionality of their actions when considering using this power on children and young people as it may have a more significant impact on a young person than it may on an adult and the public perception of stopping and searching a child should also be considered.

There should be a presumption against children who are, who appear to be, under 10 years of age being subject of stop and search except in exceptional circumstances. There may be occasions where older children or even adults may use children under 10 years to carry prohibited articles knowing that it may reduce the likelihood of them being subject to stop and search and they will also be exempt from prosecution due to their age. Careful consideration should be given to how best to deal with this kind of situation and whether or not the exercise of stop and search powers is the most appropriate course of action.

Where stop and search does take place on a child under 10 years of age a parent or guardian should be informed at the earliest opportunity and a safeguarding referral

submitted.

When any child or young person (under 18 years of age) is subject to stop and search and there are concerns for the safety or welfare of that child or young person a safeguarding referral should be submitted.

Searches Involving the Removal of More Than Outer Coat, Jacket or Gloves

Officers should always carefully consider their grounds and the proportionality of their actions before moving to a search that involves more than the removal of outer coat, jacket or gloves especially when children or young people are subject of the search.

The fact that a search has involved the removal of more than outer coat, jacket or gloves should be recorded on the search record.

Searches that involve the exposure of intimate body parts (EIP) will require an Inspectors prior approval which should also be recorded on the search record.

S60 Criminal Justice and Public Order Act

S60 criminal Justice and Public Order Act forms are available on the stop and search intranet site to officers requesting s60 powers. These forms reflect the recent changes to s60 powers and requirements under the Best Use of Stop and Search Scheme (BUSSS).

The requesting officer will make the duty Superintendent aware of the request.

A register of s60 request is stored with Hub intelligence. Whether authorised or refused, officers must obtain a sequential unique reference number and upload the form to IRIS file ref SG14820340. This will form the organisation memory of all requests for s60 authorisations and refusals for interrogation.

Provision to members of the public

Every person who has been stopped and searched or their vehicle has been searched by a Police Officer is entitled to a record of this search within 3 months of the search being completed.

Two methods of recording searches are utilised by Cleveland Police:

- Electronic recording using mobile data applications by officers issued with such devices.
- Paper recording on form SE2 for officers not equipped with mobile data devices

The use of mobile data devices does not generate a hard copy record to be available at the scene of the search.

A receipt will be given to the person searched on the Z card issued to officers. This is a credit card sized information document and it includes the details of the officer who conducted the search and a Unique Reference Number (URN). The person searched may then attend a Police Station and request a copy of the search record.

As name, date of birth or other personal identifying information is not recorded during a stop and search, it is necessary that the receipt is presented to request a record of a Stop and Search.

Front desk staff will have access to the records database and will print a record off for the member of the public (See Appendix 1).

In order to obtain a record of the search the following must be provided, if the person searched has provided their personal details:

- The Z card receipt given at the time of search.
- Proof of identity (Photographic proof of identity is preferred, but not essential. Other proof of identity includes utility bills, passport, drivers licence, bank cards, library cards etc.).

In order to obtain a record of the search the following must be provided, if the person searched has NOT provided their personal details;

- The Z card given at the time of the search.

If no receipt is readily available and the person did NOT provide their personal details Cleveland Police will be unable to provide a record of the Stop and Search unless the applicant can provide the officer's details and date, time and location of the search.

If the person does not have the receipt but provides their personal details along with proof of identity, then a copy of the search record will be provided. This is to protect the privacy of those searched having their records accessed by others not entitled to a copy.

Monitoring of Stop and Search

All Stop and Searches are required to be recorded by law. Cleveland Police will make best use of technology to ensure every use of a power to Stop and Search is recorded accurately and efficiently.

All Stop and Searches must be overseen by a supervising officer. The supervisor will examine the validity of the grounds for the search, the power used in relation to the object of the search and the appropriate nature of the outcome and the legitimacy of the search.

The force will continuously monitor the quality of Stop Search and ensure the process is robust and quality assurance checks are highlighting any issues in order to drive improvements.

Cleveland Police will be open and transparent in our use of Stop and Search powers and welcomes scrutiny by independent organisations and our communities in how these powers are used. We will seek and act upon the community feedback by producing Stop and Search data at a neighbourhood level. Using existing and new community engagement opportunities, this data will be shared with our communities.

Cleveland Police recognises that the inappropriate use of these powers and any poor

treatment of a person being searched damages the trust and confidence of our communities in the service we provide. Confidence can, however, be built when officers are seen to be tackling those crimes that matter to communities and when the powers of Stop and Search are used ethically, treating people with dignity and respect. We will ensure the powers of Stop and Search are used ethically.

Stop and search will not be subjected to arbitrary numerical targets as performance indicators. A national definition of what a fair and effective stop and search has been agreed. This definition has been subject to broad consultation with police officers, staff, members of the public, stakeholders, campaigners and monitoring groups.

A stop and search is most likely to be fair and effective when:

- The search is justified, lawful and stands up to public scrutiny
- The officer has genuine and objectively reasonable suspicion that s/he will find a prohibited article or item for use in crime
- The person understands why they have been searched and feels that they have been treated with respect
- The search was necessary and was the most proportionate method the police officer could use to establish whether the person has such an item.

Cleveland Police will use this definition to improve our performance in the use of stop and search.

Lay observation

Members of the public will be given the opportunity to observe officers conducting Stop and Search through the Ride Along Scheme (RAS).

The Ride Along Scheme invites lay members of the public to apply to observe officers undertaking their everyday duties. Guidance in relation to the Ride Along Scheme can be found on the Stop and Search website. <https://www.cleveland.police.uk/advice-information/StopandSearch/22947.aspx>

Scrutiny Panels comprising members of the public and young people have been developed to review Stop and Search records on a quarterly basis.

The Scrutiny panel meets quarterly to review records of Stop and Search undertaken by Cleveland Police officers. The terms of reference for Cleveland Police adult and youth panels is included as Appendix 4.

Any issues raised by the panels will be directed to the force lead for stop and search for resolution. The panel will then receive feedback in relation to these issues.

Complaints regarding stop and search

Feedback on how we perform our duties is important to us and will help to improve the service we provide. Cleveland Police expects its officers to treat all persons in a professional manner, with respect and dignity. Complaints can be made through the following channels;

- Contacting the Independent Police Complaints Commission
- Contact Cleveland Police in person, via letter, via phone or via the website
- Contacting Citizens Advice

The force has established a community trigger to address complaints arising out of the use of stop and search. The community trigger will be invoked under the following criteria;

- Three complaints regarding the use of stop and search from members of the public in a concentrated geographical area within twelve months
- Three complaints about a specific officer's use of stop and search within twelve months
- A single complaint of sufficient gravity resulting from an allegation of discriminatory behaviour or behaviour sufficient to be deemed misconduct

Professional standards will monitor complaints and will deal with complaints which invoke the community trigger.

Complaints arising from the community trigger will be referred to the Scrutiny Panel.

NB: While our numbers of Stop and Search are low we will actually scrutinise all complaints relating to Stop and Search, unless there are justifiable operational reasons not to do so.

Responsibilities

It is the responsibility of the Chief Constable to ensure officers are trained in accordance with the Police and Criminal Evidence Act in relation to their powers and responsibilities concerning this act.

It is the responsibility of supervisors to ensure their teams are kept updated about new legislation.

It is the responsibility of all officers conducting stop and search that those powers are utilised fairly, proportionately and without discriminatory behaviours.

4. Appendices

Appendix	Description
1.	Instructions to print stop and search records
2.	Ride Along Scheme
3.	Ride Along Scheme Agreement
4.	Scrutiny Panel Terms of Reference

5. Compliance and monitoring

The Head of Neighbourhood and Partnership Policing Command; (The force will appoint a nominated Force Lead) is responsible for the accuracy and integrity of this document. This policy will be continuously monitored, and updated when appropriate, to ensure full compliance with legislation.

The Head of Neighbourhood and Partnership Policing Command (Force Lead) will review this process to ensure that all aspects are being adhered to in accordance with the framework of this policy.

6. Version control

This policy will be reviewed and updated at least every two years by the owner, and more frequently if necessary.

The Head of Tasking, Coordination and Performance Command will ensure this document is available on the Force intranet, including any interim updates.

The following identifies all version changes.

Version	Date	Reason for update	Author
0.1	April 2011	Policy Review	██████████
1.0	April 2011	Published policy	██████████
1.1	Nov 2012	Policy amended to reflect introduction of PCC, statement only	██████████
1.2	Aug 2015	Policy revised to incorporate BUSS	██████████
1.3	June 2016	Policy reviewed and amended re removal of more than an outer coat and the definition of a fair and effective stop search.	██████████
1.4	April 2018	Policy reviewed as due refresh and further description of Scrutiny Panels added and actions around transparency. Removal of old Ride Along appendix and replace with new one.	██████████
1.5	Oct 2018	Policy with amends added to SharePoint	██████████

Instructions on how to print Stop and Search records from Niche

- Select relevant record in Niche by using the unique reference number on the Z card or the individuals name
- Right click on Stop and Search record.
- Select 'PRINT'
- Select 'STOP SEARCH REPORT DRAFT'
- Select 'PREVIEW'
- Select 'PRINT'

Ride Along Scheme

Security Marking:

Not Protectively Marked

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This procedural guidance sets out the arrangements by which Cleveland Police engage with its citizens and communities through a particular initiative called the Ride Along Scheme (RAS).
- 1.2 This will involve placing an Observer with a Police Officer on routine activities.

2. Background

- 2.1 Its purpose is to provide an opportunity for individuals to gain a practical insight through observation into the nature of police work across the whole range of routine patrol activities and all non-sensitive areas and support functions.

3 Eligibility

- 3.1 Cleveland Police will consider anyone to participate on the Ride Along Scheme regardless of sex, marital or family status, race, colour, ethnic or national origin, nationality, religion or belief, politics, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, social position or social disadvantage.
- 3.2 In respect of age participants in the scheme must:
 - * be aged 18 years or above. However, Local Policing Area Commanders and their operational teams have the discretion to allow those aged 16 years or older to attend the RAS if they have a specific reason - for example, a school project or participation by a youth on any initiative that would be advantageous to both the observer and to the Force. Persons under the age of 18 will not be allowed to accompany a police officer on routine patrol.

Other conditions to apply are that participants:

 - * have no serious or recent convictions
 - * Read and agree to the Confidentiality Agreement, Observer Briefing Sheet and Risk Assessment.
- 3.3 To realise the aim of extending the Ride Along Scheme to as many people as possible, and given the Force's finite resources, participants will be restricted to one observation in any one calendar year. Depending upon the demand for places on the scheme there may be some delay in facilitating places on the Ride Along Scheme.
- 3.4 Participants of the Ride Along Scheme must be residents of the Cleveland Police force area.

4. Safety

- 4.1 Cleveland Police have a duty of care towards the observer, members of the public with whom they may come into contact and its staff.
- 4.2 A full health and safety risk assessment has been completed in relation to the Ride Along Scheme.
- 4.3 Specifically the protection of life, the prevention of injury and the need to maintain individuals' privacy in certain sensitive cases will take precedence over the RAS scheme.
- 4.4 Whilst every effort will be made to get the observer as close to the work of front line officers as is possible, there may be occasions, where for reasons of safety or privacy, the observer is asked to withdraw to a safe distance.
- 4.5 It must be made clear to observers that they must follow any instructions given by accompanying staff member at all times during the Ride Along. For example, if observing incidents they may be asked to leave or remain in a police vehicle to ensure their safety.
- 4.7 Cleveland Police will equip the observer with a Hi-Vis jacket, marked "Observer" to ensure their safety.
- 4.8 Cleveland Police reserves the right to refuse participation in this scheme and to terminate the Ride Along, if it is necessary for the officer or member of staff to carry out their work effectively, efficiently and safely.

5.2 Health

- 5.2.1 To participate on the RAS observers must have no medical conditions or injuries that will expose the observer to any additional risk of harm.
- 5.2.2 Organisers of the observations will ensure that the RAS observer has disclosed any relevant medical conditions that could affect the placement through the completion of the observer's briefing form prior to the placement.
- 5.2.3 Where a condition that could affect the placement is disclosed a request will be made for the advice of the FMA prior to the placement regarding suitability and any additional measures required to counter any specific risks beyond those set out in the Generic Risk Assessment.

6. Criminal Record/Security Risk

- 6.1 It is compulsory that persons on the Ride Along Scheme are checked on the Police National Computer (PNC) to confirm that the candidate has no serious or recent convictions if they are an external candidate (member of the public). Checks on internal police staff are down to the discretion of the Local Police Area Commander.

NB:

It is at the discretion of the Districts for police staff, trained and accredited, to conduct PNC checks.

- 6.2 It is compulsory that the Ride Along Scheme SPOC for the LPA to arrange for an intelligence check to be conducted on the candidate to establish any security risk if they are an external candidate (member of the public). Checks on internal police staff are down to the discretion of the Local Police Area Commander.

- 6.2 Where the candidate has a historic conviction for a minor offence, and/or poses a security risk a decision will be sought from the Local Police Area Commander regarding suitability. If negative, it is advisable for the prospective observer to be told by the team Inspector involved in the observation that they are not eligible to participate. This is in case there is any dispute regarding convictions and the perceived wisdom being that a police officer is best placed to respond to any such queries.

7. Process

Self-registration (through the use of the RAS leaflet) via the force website, Enquiry Offices and a variety of community locations e.g. village halls, doctor surgeries etc.

The whole process is coordinated by Local Policing Areas.

All documentation comprising the application pack are located on the Cleveland Police website entitled "Ride Along Scheme". The application pack consists of:

- A confidentiality agreement
- Officer briefing sheet
- A feedback sheet

8. Tactics

The Ride Along Scheme is an initiative that can realise a number aims. It can:

- Provide insight for potential recruits who want to join the police
- Focus on citizens on the Key Individual Network list, Neighbourhood Watchers and others from under-represented groups thus demonstrating our commitment to all differing sections of our communities
- Build positive viewpoints and help counter any negative views of the police service
- Be used to focus on opinion formers and opinion leaders.
- Facilitate the public to observe officers undertaking duties including stop and search, crime prevention and initial investigation.

Ride Along Scheme Agreement Form

Before you spend some time with the Police on the Ride Along Scheme you should read this notice carefully.

The Cleveland Police is a very professional and caring organisation that places great emphasis on confidentiality. Our success in reducing crime, bringing offenders to justice and developing trust and confidence amongst all sections of the community depends on our reputation for confidentiality.

This means that any information about individuals and operations MUST remain confidential.

To gain maximum benefit from their placement, Ride Along Scheme observers need to be as close as possible to the activity they are watching. This means they may become aware of sensitive information.

Therefore, as a participant in the Cleveland Police Ride Along Scheme, you must observe strict confidentiality in respect of any information/documentation which you see, hear or read. For the purposes of this agreement information includes but is not limited to: Spoken word, including radio communications, written and printed material, computer systems and confidential waste.

Discussion or further disclosure of such information or retention of any documentation received during the Ride Along Scheme is a breach of the Data Protection Act and the Force Information Security Policy. Such improper use may also constitute an offence under the Data Protection Act, the Official Secrets Act and the Computer Misuse Act.

Persons applying for the Ride Along Scheme will be subject to security checks.

In signing the below you agree that you have no medical conditions which would prevent you from undertaking the Ride Along Scheme and are fully fit to undertake this scheme.

I have read and understood the above conditions and agree to be bound by them.

Full Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):

Address:

.....
.....
.....

Telephone numbers (plus mobile no):

Email address:

.....

Date and Place of Birth :

.....

Signature :

If the above person is a child under the age of 18 years

As parent/guardian of the above child I have also read these conditions and agree to my child being bound by them.

Full Name (BLOCK CAPITALS):

Signature :



Cleveland Police Stop and Search Scrutiny Panels (Youth and BAME)(Do we need to specify?)

Terms of Reference

The purpose of the Cleveland Police Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel is improving the trust and confidence of communities in the way Cleveland Police use stop and search powers. The Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel will review a variety of information and carry out direct observation in order to identify areas for learning and good practice. The panel will also be informed of any complaints regarding the use of Stop and Search which invoke the community trigger. The panel is a voice to feedback to the local community, and influence police policy and decisions.

Members

The panel of up to 10 members will consist of interested parties from across the force area representative of our communities. There will be a police representative present to provide any information or answer queries in relation to police terminology or powers.

Chair

The chair and vice chair will be elected by peer members of the scrutiny panel. The chair and vice-chair will be appointed for a period of one year and this will be reviewed annually.

Frequency

The panel will initially meet quarterly. The frequency of meetings will be reviewed once the panel is established.

Method

Review and Information

The panel will be provided with a random sample of Stop and Search records prior to the meeting. These forms will have the identity of the person stopped and officer conducting the stop redacted. These forms will then be reviewed to identify any concerns, issues and areas of good practice and learning.

Should there be specific issues within communities or locations this method of sampling can be adapted to ensure that no powers are being used disproportionately against specific groups or locations in the community. The sampling can be targeted at a particular power, location or reason for search.

The panel has the discretion to request the samples from any specific area they choose to analyse.

Additional information will be provided during the meeting on crime types/trends within the areas where the stop searches have been conducted.

The panel will feedback any concerns from local communities in the use of stop and search to the meeting and also feedback to the same communities on the outcomes of the discussions and issues raised at the meeting.

The police representative will ensure that panel members are provided with minutes from the Scrutiny panel meetings including any actions.

Where issues are raised that fall outside the scope of the Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, then the chair will bring this to the attention of the police representative who will ensure that the appropriate action is taken. They will feedback to the panel of the result of any action taken.

Observing training

Panel members will be invited to observe the training input given to Cleveland Police officers in the use of Stop and Search and observe officers using Stop and Search powers.

This will be done by Scrutiny Panel members engaging in a "ride along" to observe officers carrying out their duties, including Stop and Search powers.

Cleveland Police also use body worn cameras. The footage of Stop and search powers being carried out could also be used to allow the panel to review officer's performance in the future, subject to being able to adequately anonymise subjects.

Review

A review of the panel and membership will be undertaken annually to ensure that it is representative of the communities of Cleveland.

The terms of reference is a "living document" and will be subject to regular reviews to ensure that it takes account of any Force, Home Office/ACPO, legislative changes, and good practice (learning lessons) both locally and nationally.