

Youth Scrutiny Panels

Stop Search



**CLEVELAND
POLICE**

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October 2018



What is the Stop Search Youth Scrutiny Panel?

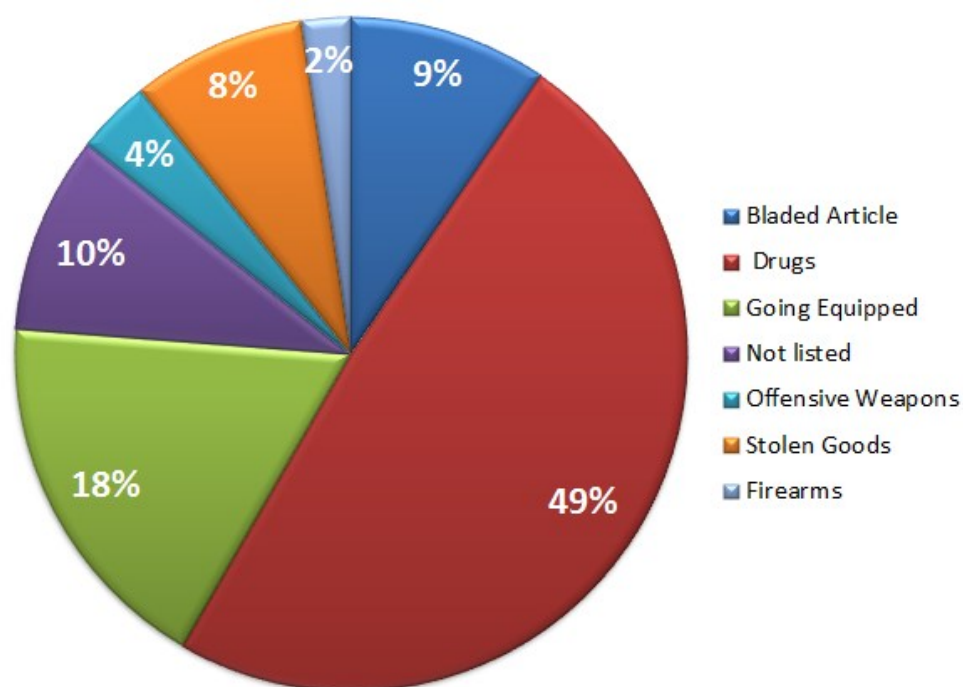
A Youth Scrutiny Panel is where a group of young people from across Cleveland are invited to attend a session with Cleveland Police to review recent cases of Stop and Search within the area. All cases are anonymised and the participants of the panel are able to learn and discuss these searches in a productive environment.

Since 1st January 2018, did you know...

84

Under 18's were searched

Purpose of search...



Youth Scrutiny Panel

May 2018

Participants: 3 females between the ages of 17-20 years old

How do you feel about Stop Search?

None of the panel members had been stop searched however they had heard stories of friends being spoken to by Police. They all agreed that if an officer came across dishonest then this would upset them.

Opinions after reviewing the first search:

All of the members of the panel agreed that this was a good search as the officer had grounds to search as it was a high crime area where a male was acting suspicious. One of the panel members stated:

'good to get involved if the officers see something suspicious, as that's their job'.

They also all agreed that they feel safe around an officer in uniform and that they have all previously had good interactions with the police. They stated that they like it when an officer speaks to them for positive reasons and that they prefer that instead of officers not interacting with them,

Opinions after reviewing the second search:

This search was in relation to a 13 year old searched for drugs. The panel positively reacted to the officers actions regardless of the subjects age because they are aware that younger people are committing these types of crime.

They did believe that the officer should try to educate the young person on the area and that some areas are not safe to be in due to high crime.



Youth Scrutiny Panel

September 2018

Participants: 1 Female and 3 Males between the ages of 13-14 years old

How do you feel about Stop Search?

All of the panel members have had some involvement with the Police. This involvement varies from a simple Stop Check to one young person being Stop Searched.

The panel member who was stop searched shared their experience and initially the panel were unhappy with how they had been treated. The process of Stop Search was then explained to them and then the panel member understood why they had been searched. It should be noted that the individual still did feel that the officer was too aggressive in their approach.

Opinions after reviewing the first search:

All participants initially agreed that 'Acting Suspiciously' alone was not enough for grounds to search. However, when looking at the further information/ intelligence, they then agreed that it was good enough for a search.

After reading the Officer Statement the Panel were happy that the Officer had met all of the GOWISELY criteria – and if they had been the Police Officer, they would have conducted a Stop & Search.

During the Supervisor Statement it revealed that the suspect was only 15. None of the panel had been shocked by this. In fact they all said that they know of young people who are 'Drug Runners'.



Youth Scrutiny Panel

September 2018

Opinions after reviewing the second search:

The entire panel agreed that there was not much information to go on with this stop search – making it difficult to determine whether it was lawful or not.

Straight away the panel identified that the suspect was 16 years old and that the search was carried out at 23:20hrs. They did agree that a 16 year old out at this time of night would be a reason for police to speak with youths.

A knuckle duster was located near to the subject of the search and this raised difference in opinion between the panel members:

‘You can’t prove it was theirs, just because it was near them’

However, another said:

‘I think it is a reason to stop them, because they might have more weapons on them and you would just let them go without checking.’

The entire panel agreed that, based on the information given, the officer did not follow the GOWISELY procedure – e.g. REASON, NAME, STATION etc.

Based on this, the panel agree with the Officer carrying out the Stop & Search, but question the legality because the correct procedure was not completely followed.

Opinions after reviewing the third search:

The entire panel agreed again, that there was not much information to go on with this stop search – making it difficult to determine whether it was lawful or not.

Whilst reviewing this search, they discussed whether the smell of cannabis was enough for grounds to search. They deemed that this was enough to search the subject.



Youth Scrutiny Panel

Additional Notes from both panels

‘If you didn’t stop him, then he could get away with the drugs and sell them – and someone else could take them and die...so you could have stopped that by getting the drugs off them.’

‘Children need more education about stop search’

‘Body worn video is good as it is evidence of what occurred as younger people like to twist things.’

Outcomes of the Youth Scrutiny Panels for Stop Search

- ⇒ Educating young people on the power of Stop Search and by allowing them to review cases and ask questions this has minimised any negative feelings towards the Police for carrying out this power.
- ⇒ All of the panel members left the session with greater understanding that Police use the power of Stop and Search to make communities safer.
- ⇒ The panel members were able to give their opinions of the Police and it is evident that they enjoy positive interactions.

