



Hertfordshire Community Stop and Search Panel

30th July 2025, 5.30pm – 8.30pm

Titan Court, Hatfield

Minutes

Attendance:

Demitrius Nurse (Chair)	DN	Valerie Shrimplin	VS
Andy Taylor	AT	Robert Lloyd	MIR
Jeffrey Burke	JB	Tara Bullworthy	PR
Jacqueline Gaffin	JG	Supt Owen Pyle	RL
Bukola Efunshile	BE	Ch Insp Ricky Bartlett	TB
Linda Blake	LB	PS Adrian Pikett	AP
Godfrey Minsky	GM	James Coady, OPCC	JC
		Sue McNeill, OPCC (minutes)	SMc

Also present: Dov Gerber (BTP IAG), Jamal Pasha (obs), Insp Canning, PC Clemmit and PC Field.

1	Welcome, Introductions and Apologies
1.1	The Chair (DN) welcomed panel members, officers from the Constabulary and observers, particularly Dov Gerber (DG) Chair of the British Transport Police Independent Advisory Group, and Jamal Pasha (JP) observing the panel process.
1.2	Apologies were noted from: Insp Clare Cray, Jerry Rudd, Eddie McCarroll, Megan Holland, John Gillett, Ben Platt, Dennis Elam, David Reynolds, Mohammad Islam Ruman, Paulette Reed, Phil Millard and Mamadou Bah.
2	Minutes of the Previous Meeting, Actions and Matters Arising.
2.1	The minutes of the previous meeting were agreed (see pack item 1) and the action tracker was updated (item 2.)
2.2	Prior to the meeting, Constabulary feedback was circulated to the panel (Item 3). At the last meeting, members had expressed concern relating to the search of an infant. AP explained the response, in that the inspector's rationale had not been

	provided in the grounds box and had therefore not been seen by the panel. Upon review by the Constabulary, some learning was acknowledged in terms of the officer's original written record, but the rationale, proportionality and legality of the search was sound.
3	Section 60 Authorisation – Watford, May 2025
3.1	The Section 60 application, authorisation, communications (press release) and panel guide were circulated prior to the meeting (see pack item 4.) NC explained the rationale behind the application (recent incidents) and the level of credible intelligence. The authorisation was reviewed every 90 minutes by a chief inspector and superintendent and, although originally granted for 24 hours, the authority was rescinded at 11.30pm.
3.2	Communication messages circulated at the time advised the public that the power had been granted as a preventative measure. The Safer Neighbourhood Team was made aware of the intelligence and authorisation and no subsequent community tension was noted. Public opinion on the use of the power (via social media) was positive.
3.3	Two searches were conducted under this power. As part of the scrutiny process, the records and the BWV footage was reviewed by Group 1 and both incidents were graded Green 1.
4	Introduction to British Transport Police (BTP) Independent Scrutiny Panel
4.1	Raised as an action at a previous meeting, DG was invited to panel to explain the scrutiny process employed by British Transport Police (BTP) and the potential crossover when officers from both BTP and Herts Constabulary attend an incident. DG clarified that stop/search ownership remained with the home force based on the location of the stop as the Constabulary is accountable to the local community.
4.2	DG described BTP practices, including the holding of ad hoc panels to conduct scrutiny around major events. He stated that recruitment was challenging and invited the police to assist by reaching out to their community contacts.
4.3	Having been advised of the Hertfordshire Panel's remit and processes, DG commented that, compared to his experience of both BTP and the Metropolitan

	Police, these were advanced. Reciprocal invitations were made for panel members to observe scrutiny. DN asked for a letter of thanks to be sent to DG along with a reminder of the invitation to return to the Hertfordshire panel. Action: OPCC / Chair to send letter of thanks to DG <i>Post meeting note: email sent 11th August 2025</i>																																																
5	Stop & Search records May & June 2025 (East Herts and St Albans deep-dive)																																																
5.1	The scrutiny took place between 6.25pm and 8.05pm. The below grid represents the gradings as recorded by the panel. A registration sheet is cross-referenced with the individual records for accuracy. The figures in brackets relate to scores given for the BWV footage as this is also fed back to the Constabulary but separated so as not to distort record review figures. Where the panel was split in its decision, the poorest grade has been recorded.																																																
5.2	As there were insufficient panel members for five subgroups, groups four and five records were not scrutinised																																																
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5.4	Of the above, 23 records related to incidents which occurred within the districts subject of the deep dive.																																																

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	EH – 9	3	3	3	0
	St A – 14	4	4	3	3
5.5	General feedback: In viewing BWV footage, Group 1 commented that sometimes officers' language was questionable but did not detract from the grounds and overall grading of the stop/search. BWV has provided good evidence, however, of young officers acting calmly and professionally.				
5.6	In respect of the one under 18 strip search, whilst the report had been graded green 1, the panel was unsure whether an appropriate adult had been present. After grading the report, advice was sought and AP confirmed that an inspector's authorisation had been secured although that detail was not present on the record provided. AP added that OST conducts a monthly audit of all juvenile strip searches to ensure authorisation sought and appropriate safeguarding referrals made.				
6	Re-appointment of Panel Chair				
6.1	JC reported that during the Chair election process in May 2025, as no expressions of interest were received, DN agreed to stay on for a second term (expiring in April 2027.) The Panel agreed with the re-appointment.				
7	Chair and OPCC updates				
7.1	Chair: Police Powers Board (PPB) - DN had recently attended PPB meeting along with the Chairs of both the Use of Force and Sec 163 Panels. Ch Supt Jon Simpson has taken over as Chair of PPB and DN was pleased to report that the discussion was open and honest, and felt collaborative. JS has been invited to join a future panel meeting. Data – Constabulary restructure and staffing issues within the Data Engineering Team has created difficulties in terms of securing information. The Data Subgroup was aware and OP was hopeful that the information would be provided ahead of the next meeting.				

7.2	OPCC: JC advised the panel that he was leaving the OPCC. Both DN and OP thanked him on behalf of the panel and Constabulary respectively for the constructive and positive support ensuring meaningful scrutiny.
8	Any Other Business
8.1	On 2 nd July, VS attended officer training and was pleased to report that the course content appeared well-received. The delivery included group work and interactive sessions. Approx. 30 people attended, and it was a mix of new officers and those receiving refresher training.
8.1	SMc reminded the panel that this meeting had been scheduled as a 5.30pm start as the OPCC was keen to make meetings as accessible as possible, including those who work full-time. The panel agreed that, as the January meeting is scheduled to be held online, an evening meeting would be appropriate. It was agreed that of the six meetings per year, two of each would be held morning, afternoon and evening.
8.2	Constabulary update: OP advised the panel that the Constabulary was undergoing restructure, which had resulted in the Operational Strategy Team being disbanded (in September 2025.) The panel will continue to be supported by Insp Cray and Sgt Pikett but under the management of Local Policing Command. Under the new model, OP will move away from his current role, it was therefore also his last meeting. DN and JC asked for thanks to be formally recorded.
8.3	Invited to comment, JP introduced himself to the panel, stating that he had enjoyed the meeting and was keen to join the membership.
8.4	No other items were raised and DN closed the meeting
9	Date of next meeting: Tuesday 30 th September 2025, 10.00-13.00 at Joint Emergency Services Academy (JESA), Stevenage