

Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel (SOPPP)

CHAIR'S UPDATE 2020/21

1 This has been a challenging year for the Constabulary, the PCC's office and for the SOPPP. However, we have risen to the challenge, dealing with the extra workload created by Covid, having to work remotely and working with reduced resources. Nevertheless, over the last four quarters we have:

- Scrutinised 231 cases
- Completed 564 case feedback forms
- Viewed about 84 hours of BWV
- Provided specific feedback to the Constabulary on 113 of the 231 cases
- Contributed to the Lammy Review of Stop and Search
- Contributed to the quarterly meetings of the Constabulary's Internal Scrutiny Group.

The one disappointment of the year has been the lack of progress in improving SOPPP's engagement with our communities. We hope that in twelve months' time we will be able to report significant progress in this area.

2 What do others say about us?

- In September 2020, the Regional Director of the IOPC said, 'I was pleased to observe the SOPPP at work. I saw first hand the important contribution made by members of the public to view the Use of Powers by Avon and Somerset Police. I look forward to following the Panel's progress and their impact on local policing practice.'
- In February 2021, HMICFRS's report on disproportionate use of police powers highlighted SOPPP's outstanding achievements in their scrutiny of the Use of Force and Stop and Search.

3 My special thanks go to:

- The Panel members who have, in difficult circumstances, maintained the Panel's core value of independence of thought and deed.
- Kathryn Palmer for her unstinting commitment to our work.

David Woodward, Chair

1/9/2021