

Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel

Case Review Report

20 April 2022

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- Finding an object other than that searched for in Asian, Black and Mixed Groups (No. 6)
- Stop & Search by Op Remedy
- Stop & Search of women and girls
- Complaints (Report Recommendation No. 9)

Use of Force:

- In custody
- Taser in Somerset West against Black or Asian subjects by Officers with 1-3 yrs. experience (From UoF Report (Q2) Somerset West had the highest increase from last quarter and highest usage of Taser is officer 1-3yrs.)
- Handcuffing, PAVA and Taser against women and girls
- Use of Force by Op. Remedy at a Stop & Search.
- Complaints

Community requested incident:

- From Bristol [Commission on Race Equality Criminal Justice Chair](#) via Panel member: S.23 Stop Search and arrest 30/8/2021.

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Who are the Panel?

The Scrutiny Panel, currently 14 local people of diverse backgrounds, started in June 2017

The Panel meet quarterly and select categories for police case scrutiny.

Panel member Diversity and Inclusion:

Age: 20s to 70s

Disability: 2

Sex: Female 7; Male 7; Non binary = 0

Race: White = 8; Black = 3; Asian 2; White European 1

Sexual orientation. LGBT+: 1

What does the Panel do?

- Independently scrutinises the Police use of their powers.
- Enhances the public's confidence in the work of Avon and Somerset Police (the Police).
- Ensures openness and transparency by the Police.
- Acts as a 'critical friend' to the Police.
- Offers feedback, from a local person's perspective, to the Police on their use of their powers, in particular the use of force.
- Views Body Worn Video (BWV) camera footage of police incidents.

The Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel (the Panel) has been appointed to scrutinise the use of Police powers to ensure it is appropriate and proportionate. This includes reviewing the use of Taser, Stop and Search and other use of force, by reviewing Body Worn Video (BWV) camera footage and reading Police records of each incident.

The Panel of trained members acts on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) as a 'critical friend' to Avon and Somerset Police (the Police) by communicating local people's views on how the Police use their powers.

In addition to special case reviews, as standard every 4 months (each quarter) the Panel chooses 60 cases to scrutinise, reviewing the BWV on

each case and preparing a Report. Feedback is sent to the Police with particular emphasis on identifying Police Officer and Organisational learning.

In the Panel year from September 2020 to August 2021 the Panel scrutinised 231 cases, completed 564 Feedback Forms and viewed 84 hours of BWV.



CATEGORIES OF CASES

The Panel selected 60 cases to review from Police incidents within these Categories:

Themed cases (Oct-Dec 2021 incidents, financial quarter 3):

Stop & Search:

- Smell of cannabis ([Identifying Disproportionality Report 2022](#): (*Recommendation No. 2)
- Finding an object other than that searched for in Asian, Black and Mixed Groups (**No.6)
- Complaints (***) Report Recommendation No. 9)
- Stop & Search by *Operation Remedy* Police Officers
- Stop & Search of Women and Girls

Use of Force:

- In custody
- Complaints
- Taser in Somerset West against Black or Asian subjects by Officers with 1-3 years' experience (From Use of Force Report (Q2) Somerset West had the highest increase from last quarter and highest usage of Taser is officer 1-3yrs.)
- Handcuffing, PAVA and Taser against women and girls
- Use of Force by Op. Remedy at a Stop & Search.

Community requested incident: 1 case

- Section 23 (misuse of drugs Act) Stop Search and arrest 30/8/2021.

***Recommendation 2. Avon and Somerset Constabulary's** scrutiny of the 'smell of cannabis' as the sole grounds for a stop and search, to continue to be a focus theme of the Avon and Somerset Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel (SoPP) and Internal Scrutiny Panel to ensure any contravention is identified. A strategy needs to be developed to ensure comprehensive training and communications are provided to police officers, as appropriate, to ensure understanding of the policy and improved policing approach to stop and search

The smell of cannabis is not a sole legitimate ground for a Stop Search and the Panel will continue with this case selection category to review incidents and BWV. The Panel is also working alongside the Constabulary's Internal Scrutiny Panel (ISP) and the lead Chief Inspector for Stop and Search, so the Police training and communications aim to improve policing of Stop Search is an objective supported by the Independent Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel.

PCC's Police & Crime Plan

PRIORITY 2 Engaging, Supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations.

PRIORITY 4 Increasing the legitimacy of and public confidence in the Police and Criminal Justice System

****Recommendation 6. Avon and Somerset OPCC External Scrutiny of Police Powers Panel and the Stop and Search/Use of Force Internal Scrutiny Panel** must ensure scrutiny of disproportionality within stop and search includes all ethnicity groups.

The Panel welcome all ethnicities to be included as a comparison for checking and monitoring disproportionality within case categories.

PCC's Police & Crime Plan

PRIORITY 2 Engaging, Supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations.

PRIORITY 4 Increasing the legitimacy of and public confidence in the Police and Criminal Justice System.

*****Recommendation 9. Avon and Somerset OPCC External Scrutiny Panel** (this Panel) must review the scrutiny of stop and search complaints working with the Independent Residents Panel (IRP) to ensure all stop and search complaints are consistently scrutinised and lessons learnt. SoPP and the Stop and Search Internal Scrutiny Panel need to increase the rigour around the scrutiny of complaints by ensuring any areas of disproportionality are proactively addressed. Further analysis of the complaints 'process' may be required to assess disparities.

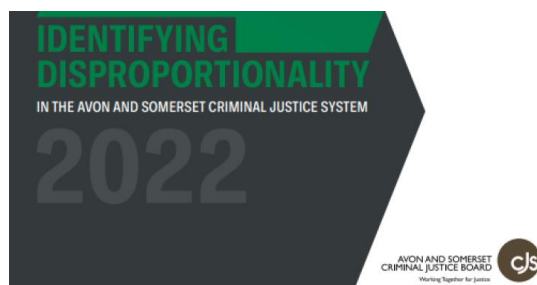
The ISoPPP and IRP will work together and continue to review complaints from members of the public against the Police regarding Stop and Search.

PCC's Police & Crime Plan

PRIORITY 2 Engaging, Supporting and working with communities, victims and partner organisations.

PRIORITY 4 Increasing the legitimacy of and public confidence in the Police and Criminal Justice System.

The Identifying Disproportionality in the Avon and Somerset Criminal Justice System (CJS) Report can be read [here](#).



KEY FINDINGS – THEMES



The Panel identified 8 Themes from:

- **60 selected cases**
- **30 Use of Force cases**
- **30 Stop and Search cases**
- **49 scrutinised cases (body worn video provided)**
- **12 hours of Body worn video (BWV) reviewed**
- **102 Panel feedback forms completed**

Total number of Stop and Search complaints

Jan-Mar 2021	17
Apr-Jun 2021	14
Jul-Sep 2021	9
Oct-Dec 2021	6
Jan-Mar 2022	9

ACTIONS

1. The Panel wish to invite the Police BWV Lead officer to attend the next meeting.
Invitation sent to Lead Officer
2. Offer to Panel members to review the online CPD training package.
Members provided with documents to review and provide feedback.

Panel Themes and Constabulary responses

THEME 1: Smell of cannabis as the only ground for a Stop and Search.

Cases 5, 14, 22 & 53.

1. Smell of cannabis does not provide grounds alone for a stop search. It may start a conversation with a person but is not sufficient on its own to detain. A specific scenario will cover smell of cannabis searches in the Stop Search CPD package to address in detail this issue.

THEME 2: Inadequate BWV, including no BWV for complaint cases.

2.1 BWV is activated late, early or both or obscured for cases: 2, 3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 11, 17, 20, 26, 27, 30, 31, 37, 38, 39, 40, 42, 53, 54, & 56.

This is a total **21 out of the 60 cases** scrutinised.

2.2 BWV is not saved as evidential for cases: 33 & 35, i.e. 2 out of the 60 cases.

There is no BWV for cases:

44, 45, 46, 47, 48, 49, 50, 51, 52, 58 & 59.
11 out of 60 cases.

Of the 60 cases dip sampled, 34, i.e. 56%, had no or inadequate BWV.

Avon and Somerset Police state the use of BWV is 92%. By the above sample, this figure would reduce to 44%.

It would assist the Panel to understand in what situations a Police Officer:

1. is obligated to
a) activate the BWV
b) save the BWV as evidential
e.g. Stop & Search and Taser deployment.

2. is expected to
a) activate the BWV
b) save the BWV as evidential.

This theme was noted in the Panel's December 2021 Report (theme no. 4).

2. The use of BWV, including the time of activation and saving as evidential will be specifically addressed in the CPD. A technical solution in the BWV software has been created to allow negative stop searches (i.e. nothing found) to be saved for 1 year – compliance will be fully scrutinised by Force Lead for Stop Search

THEME 3:

Handcuffing at a Stop and Search.

Cases 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 12, 17, 18, 19, 24, 40, 43 & 44.

This theme was noted in the Panel's December 2021 Report (theme no. 5).

3. This is a national issue and one which our force have discussed in depth with the College of Policing as we are ahead of the curve in our response to this. In fact, the College of Policing are looking to our training as national best practice. This will take some time to embed, as officers only go through the training cycle annually, but is being addressed.

The new Personal Safety Training curriculum reinforces the need to justify the use of handcuffs in any circumstance. Officers are encouraged to 'commentate' their reasoning and justification on BWV when handcuffs are applied (where safe and practicable to do so), especially if the basis is on information and intelligence, rather than obvious behavioural indicators of threat. As with all uses of force, the justification must also be recorded in notes of evidence and a use of force form. In addition, Beth Hawke, our lead trainer has produced a document (which the panel have received) giving guidance on the justification for handcuffing which has been cascaded to all frontline staff through team briefings and is available on Pocketbook for reference. Use of Force is routinely dip-sampled as part of the operational training staffs' role, and any themes or issues fed back into training.

THEME 4: Seizure and Interrogation of a mobile phone at a Stop and Search under Section 23(2)(c) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971.

Cases 2, 6, 15, 18, 24, 30, 37, 40, & 43.

This theme was noted in the Panel's December 2021 Report (theme no. 7).

4. Further work is being undertaken in this area to understand the scope of the usage of s.23 powers in this way and discussions are being had with stakeholders to determine how this power will be used and scrutinised going forward. This will include discussions on any bespoke training required in this area. Of note, there are differences of approach across the country in using s.23 in this way.

THEME 5: At a Stop and Search, an officer should not give the impression to the subject that personal information has to be disclosed.

Cases 5, 6, 10 & 11.

This theme was noted in the Panel's September 2021 Report (theme no. 1)

5. This will feature in the CPD package and emphasis will be placed on the fact that not providing name and address cannot be used to form grounds, nor should a person feel obliged to provide them.

THEME 6: Strip Search as a consequence of a Stop and Search. Cases 18, 19 & 40.

Questions:

What criteria have to be satisfied to justify a Strip Search?
During a Strip Search, is it a requirement to have the BWV activated on audio only? If not, why not?

6. There are no additional requirements for a search exposing intimate parts of the body ('strip' search) – the grounds for search suffice, however it is important that officers are able to justify the additional level of search – detailing objective reasons why it is necessary and proportionate. BWV should be activated but the lens pointing towards the ceiling to capture audio only.

THEME 7: Data quality.

Use of Force in Custody source data is not always for incidents in custody.

7. The recording of use of force allows officers to record 'continuous' uses of force to simplify the process and create efficiency. For example, if an officer uses force at the roadside, makes an arrest, uses force whilst transporting and then continues to use force at custody, then only one form is required, rather than requiring three separate forms and instead. The same is true for each individual tactic, where the use of physical restraint, followed by handcuffing, followed by Taser, would only be recorded on one form, rather than 3. Therefore, this is not a data quality issue, but one of efficiency and fulfils the requirements around recording as set by the Home Office. We would be reluctant to increase recording requirements purely to make scrutiny easier on those rare occasions where one particular element is being looked at.

THEME 8: Adequacy of grounds to justify a Stop & Search. Cases 5, 7, 14, 15, 18, 19, 22, 23, 43 & 53.

8. The adequacy of grounds remains a key area of focus for the Constabulary and all officers will receive a detailed input as part of the CPD package, which will be checked and tested in a refreshed supervisor review process.

Organisational Learning tracking (coloured by date)

No.	Date	Panel's Identified Organisational Learning	Avon and Somerset Police Response	Action: Completed or Ongoing
1.	Sep 2021	At a Stop Search the officer should not give the impression that personal information has to be disclosed.	Officers have been reminded not to hector someone reluctant to provide this info. ISP has it as an ongoing theme.	Ongoing
	Apr 2022	As above.	This is a training issue and part of a CPD package.	Ongoing
2.	Sep 2021	Poor positioning of BWV cameras by Firearms officers.	Fixings are being issued to attach cameras to helmets	Completed
3.	Dec 2021	An Officer's power to detain an individual for a Stop Search ends when a negative search is completed. Thereafter the individual cannot be lawfully detained. For example the person can't be detained for a PNC check.	This has previously been part of yearly stop search training, regarding detention period for a stop search (no longer than is required to carry out an effective search). If we are seeing this being abused, then a refresher of this information would be timely. The lead for Stop Search should carry out a review of this situation.	Ongoing
4.	Dec 2021	BWV switched on late, obscured, inadequate or not saved as evidential. Of the 40 cases scrutinised 11 i.e. 27% came into this category. The stated use of BWV is 92% but in this sample it reduce to 71%.	A topic within yearly training. A technical fix of the camera operating 30 seconds before it's turned on is being considered.	Ongoing
	Apr 2022	In this sample the available use of BWV was 44%		Ongoing
5.	Dec 2021	Standard practice handcuffing a compliant person at a Stop and Search.	This is an ongoing discussion and training on whether to handcuff or not. Certainly there should be no automatic handcuffing. It is partly a cultural issue.	Ongoing
	Apr 2022	As above.	A briefing note has been distributed to all front line staff.	Ongoing
6.	Dec 2021	Lack of consistency about explaining the availability of a Stop Search receipt and how the person searched can access it.	Internal working group set up to address this issue, which will feature in Spring 2022 training.	Ongoing

No.	Date	Panel's Identified Organisational Learning	Avon and Somerset Police Response	Action: Completed or Ongoing
7.	Dec 2021	<p>The practice of seizing mobile phones under Section 23(2)(c) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971. The Panel's questions include:</p> <p>a) In what circumstances would a mobile phone constitute 'evidence of an offence under this Act'.</p> <p>b) Once seized, are officers empowered to 'interrogate' the phone and record details, regardless of the outcome of the search?</p> <p>Continued ...</p> <p>c) Are officers obliged to explain to the detainee the justification for the seizure of the phone?</p> <p>d) How does the officer record the justification for the seizure and detention of the phone?</p> <p>e) Are seizure cases 'flagged' in some way to facilitate scrutiny?</p> <p>f) If the S&S is not under section 23, is it the case that there is no power to seize or detain?</p> <p>g) If the search is after a vehicle stop, is there any power to seize or detain?</p>	<p>This practice is being considered by the Police.</p>	Ongoing
	Apr 2022	As above.	The review is continuing.	Ongoing
8.	Dec 2021	The significance of language, volume, tone and content, when speaking to a member of the public, particularly in escalation/de-escalation situations.	A topic within yearly training.	Ongoing
9.	Apr 2022	Smell of cannabis alone does not provide grounds for a Stop search.	This is a training issue and part of a CPD package.	Ongoing
10.	Apr 2022	At a strip search BWV on audio only should be activated.	This is a training issue and part of a CPD package.	Ongoing
11.	Apr 2022	Lack of adequacy of grounds for a stop search.	This is a training issue and part of a CPD package.	Ongoing

Operational policing general questions

1. Some incidents involve the need for a **breathalyser and a drug swipe**. It appears that not all Police Officers carry these items and not all Officers are trained to use them. Panel members are interested to understand how this works.

All officers are trained in how to use the roadside breath test ('breathalyser'). There are sufficient number of these items and they are issued to vehicles, rather than officers individually. They require regular recalibration to remain accurate therefore there will be some situations where an officer does not have one to hand as it is awaiting calibration, therefore request one from another colleague.

The use of drugs wipes does require additional training and not all officers are currently trained. We are continuing to train officers to ensure officers have the skills required to carry out their roles, and it is a work in progress. The drugs wipes are issued individually to officers and replaced following use.

2. Recently the Panel note that the quality of Body Worn Video footage is poorer than in previous years. The BWV is shorter, starts later and doesn't have the Officer's pre-arrival contextual summary narrative.

The Constabulary acknowledges the Panel's observations and are committed to the effective use of BWV, including the pre-arrival narrative where operationally practicable and being activated for sufficient time to capture the incident being attended. This has been raised with the Force Lead for BWV, as whilst identified in the Use of Police Powers scrutiny, is an important aspect to get right across all elements of policing where BWV is used.

3. When should Police Officers switch on their BWV?

When attending an incident, officers should switch on their BWV prior to attendance – ideally capturing any conversations or considerations prior to arrival. If this is not practicable for operational reasons (officers respond dynamically to a situation emerging in front of them) then BWV should be switched on as soon as practicable.

4. In what circumstances should Stop and Search BWV be saved as Evidential?

Stop searches resulting in an illegal item being found, thus an offence committed, should be saved as evidential – retaining the footage for six years. A recent policy and software change has introduced a one year retention period for any stop search that is negative in terms of find outcome. Therefore, any stop search BWV is saved for one year minimum.

APPENDIX 1:

CASE REVIEWS WITH POLICE RESPONSES

20 of the 60 CASES are highlighted within this Report:

1.Stop & Search Case no.	BWV length in minutes	Case Category
2	16	1.1 Ground: Smell of cannabis
5	15	1.1 Ground: Smell of cannabis
6	12	1.2 Finding an object other than that searched for in Asian, Black and Mixed groups
7	3	1.2 Finding an object other than that searched for in Asian, Black and Mixed groups
8	22	1.2 Finding an object other than that searched for in Asian, Black and Mixed groups
10	5	1.2 Finding an object other than that searched for in Asian, Black and Mixed groups
14	3	1.4 Stop Search by Operation Remedy
15	5	1.4 Stop Search by Operation Remedy
18	10	1.4 Stop Search by Operation Remedy
19	17	1.4 Stop Search by Operation Remedy
22	20	1.5 Stop Search of a woman or girl
53	3	1.3 complaint regarding a Search

2. Use of Force Case no.	BWV length mins.	Case Category
26	10	2.1 Use of Force in custody
29	10	2.1 Use of Force in custody
32	9	2.4 Handcuffing, PAVA & Taser against women & girls
34	1	2.4 Handcuffing, PAVA & Taser against women & girls
36	10	2.4 Handcuffing, PAVA & Taser against women & girls
37	8	2.5 Use of Force by Op. Remedy at a S&S
40	10	2.5 Use of Force by Op. Remedy at a S&S
56	25	2.2 Complaint regarding Use of Force



1. Stop and Search

Case 2: 11/10/2021 11am Section 23 Misuse of Drugs Act. Stop Search
Grounds: Smell of cannabis. Bristol South

Background: Informant reporting a male on an electric wheelchair dealing drugs. Officers located the male at the location along with others and searched them under the Misuse of Drugs Act.

Was the searched for item found? Yes. Cannabis.
Positive outcome? Yes.

Positive member feedback: An amiable officer.

Member concerns and comments:

BWV stopped. BWV inadequate.

Mobile phone detained for the duration of the Stop and Search; Not confirmed if the mobile was returned. There was a discussion amongst officers whether the phone had to be returned (as they had found cannabis). The male and female officers had different views on this matter.

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Constabulary notes the Panel's feedback, with thanks. On review of the BWV it appears that whilst the search is being conducted the officer keeps the phone in order to prevent the male answering the phone which it is clear the officer feels will delay or frustrate the search. It is not looked through and is returned to the male afterwards. The discussion between officers in relation to the phone is part of a conversation about how to deal with the matter – which is part of normal policing practice between colleagues.

The BWV starts at the point of the detention and is stopped once the search is concluded – which appears to be adequate in the circumstances.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? No

Case 5: 22/11/2021, 8pm. S23 Misuse of Drugs Act Stop Search. Stop Search
Grounds: Smell of cannabis. Bristol North

Background: Two youths matching descriptions of youths causing ASB were stopped and one was observed smoking a spliff.

Searched for item found? Yes. Cannabis joint.
Positive outcome? Yes. Words of advice (WOA) given.

Positive member feedback:

The second officer seemed much calmer in his demeanour and de-escalated the situation by getting the male to sit in the car, closing the car door thereby limiting the first officer's involvement. Officer 2 achieved far more without the support of officer 1. The member liked the officer's commentary when bagging and tagging the evidence, all commented for avoidance of doubt.

Member concerns:

The Police report states the male matches the description of males regarding ASB but the Stop and Search ground states it is the smell of cannabis.
Handcuffs seem unnecessary and appear to be just a default option.
When male says: I don't have to give my name the Officer says: If you don't give your name you will go to custody. An Officer also says: I intend to find cannabis. An odd phrase.
There seems to be an element of 'good cop/bad cop' between the two officers. Officer 1 seems to cause more issues than solve.
Police Officer words and behaviour can escalate rather than defuse a situation.
The Officer makes a veiled threat that the male will more than likely be detained if he fails to provide details.
Force used appears inappropriate.
The subject declines to give their personal details yet the officer persists in asking for this information.
An arrest for just a spliff?
This peer group will now be anti-Police and it's a generation lost.
The BWV camera lens is half obscured by poor camera placement.

Operational policing questions:

Are the Stop and Search grounds adequate?
Why handcuff immediately?
Are Police Officers taught to say "If you don't give me your details I'll arrest you"? How has this behaviour crept in? If part of learning then this should stop.
Why give the impression the male had to provide his personal circumstances? and threat to be taken to custody?

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Panel's feedback is noted in this case. This feedback has been shared with the officers involved.

On review of the grounds recorded, more detail would have been expected to be given – in addition to the smell of cannabis. Whilst it is noted that a 'spliff' was seen to be smoked, the record needs more detail to meet the objective test of reasonableness.

The issue of handcuffing during stop searches has been addressed in detail in the last month – a detailed PowerPoint package has been written by the lead trainer for officer safety training and shared with all frontline officers. It is also being refreshed in the yearly Officer Safety Training refreshers. This will remain an ongoing area of attention for the Constabulary.

Officers are not taught to threaten arrest if details aren't provided – however once an offence has been identified (such as possession of cannabis in this case) the provision, or lack thereof, of name and address, becomes a necessity for arrest under Code G of PACE. Clearly, the way in which this is communicated is important, to ensure matters are not escalated unnecessarily but people are provided with potential outcomes.

This case was reviewed during the meeting and Supt Blatchford noted that he will address this issues highlighted upon review with the officers involved.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes Any Organisational learning? Yes

Case 6: 12/10/2021, 1pm. S23 Misuse of Drugs Act Stop Search. Bristol South

Background: Male seen acting suspiciously running in and out of an address back to a taxi Searched S.23 Misuse of Drugs Act (MDA) and arrested for Possession With Intent To Supply (PWITS).

Searched for item found? No drugs but several phones and large amount of cash seized.

Outcome: Ongoing (as at March 2022).

Member concerns:

No reference to the male regarding interrogating his phones. The Officer interrogated one and then asked the male for the passcode of another mobile. The male asked "Do I have to" and the Officer says "Yes".

Operational policing questions:

Did the officer breach protocol re S23(2)(C) SEIZURE?

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Constabulary notes members' feedback in relation to this case. This feedback ties directly into the Constabulary response to Theme 4 (page 7) and a further update will be provided to the Panel next quarter.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? Yes

Case 7: 26/10/2021 1am. S23 Misuse of Drugs Act Stop Search. Bristol East

Background: Male seen acting suspiciously with a known service-user (drug taker) in location where street dealing takes place.

Searched for item found?: Yes. No drugs but a multi-tool with switch blade found.

Outcome positive? Yes

Positive member feedback:

Member concerns:

Stop and Searched person is handcuffed at the outset.

Inadequate grounds.

BWV stopped early.

Operational policing questions:

Male was searched because he was with a female 'known to be a service user'. Is being a friend of a drug user grounds for a Stop and Search?

Was the white female also searched?

Were there adequate grounds?

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Constabulary notes the Panel's feedback in this case, thank you. The phrase 'service user' is a clunky use of language by the officer and has been addressed by direct feedback. Being in company with a drug user is not sufficient grounds for search, however the officer has described in more detail on the Niche record that the male turned away on seeing Police, walked away from the female and then returned to her after the Police vehicle drove past – which was deemed by the officer to be suspicious and potentially an indication of drug dealing.

The female does not appear to have been searched on review of the stop search record.

The grounds weren't articulated as clearly on review of the BWV which has been addressed by feedback to the officer through their supervisor.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes Any Organisational learning? No

Case 8: 14/11/2021 5a.m. s.1 Police & Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). Bristol Central

Background: Male matching description of male threatening people with knife located close by with similar article.

Was the item searched-for found? Yes. Found a Black handled knife sharpener.
A Positive Outcome? Yes. NFA.

Positive member feedback:

Clear explanation of grounds and GOWISELY items. Officer allows the male to film. The officer is unprovoked when the male is difficult and shouts.

The male subject claimed that the officers were racist for singling him out, but the officers acted appropriately on the information they had. A potentially difficult situation handled calmly.

Handcuffing is justified because of the reference to a knife.

A Good example of a Stop and Search and how not to be provoked.

Member concerns:

Officers detained the male for several minutes after the search for reasons which are not clear and the male became agitated at one point.

Did the Police make any incorrect decisions during this episode? Yes (1) based on intel known; No (1).

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Panel's feedback is noted in this case and has been shared with the officer concerned. It appears on review of the BWV that the male is detained whilst the officers determine if the knife sharpener would constitute an offensive weapon and consider whether arrest was justified. This is a slightly obscure item and the detention is proportionate whilst the outcome is discussed, which appears to be a matter of minutes.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Any Organisational learning?

Case 10: 28/12/2021 at 10pm. s.1 Police & Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). South Glos.

Background: Member of the Public is reporting four males looking over the informant's gate and looking into neighbouring properties. Mentions previous burglary incidents. Males have made off from Police upon arrival and before being detained.

Searched for Item found?: Yes. No prohibited articles but small amount of Cannabis.

A positive Outcome? Yes. No prohibited articles but small amount of Cannabis. Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion (YADD)

Positive member feedback:

Relaxed approach from officers and excellent use of GOWISELY, very fully explained.

Member concerns:

BWV inadequate and switched off early.

Seemed that use of handcuffs were a foregone conclusion on this stop and search. Handcuff first then talk to after. Handcuffs were out immediately, before any interaction had taken place. The boy was fully compliant and purported to be only 14 years old.

Stop Search receipt: Officer told the subject to get a receipt from a Police Station.

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The observations of the Panel are noted, with thanks. On review of the BWV and associated information from the log, it appears as though whilst officers were on their way to the location a male from the suspected group had been seen running away. The officer states that the handcuffs are being applied to prevent escape and whilst the male is compliant, in view of the prior information it is believe this is proportionate. BWV starts as the officer gets out of the car and does capture the entirety of the search and GOWISELY being given.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? No

Case 14: 23/10/2021 6pm. S23 MDA Vehicle stop with smell of cannabis coming from within. Bristol South.

Background: Vehicle stop with smell of cannabis coming from within.

Searched for Item found? No. Nothing found.

Outcome: No further Action (NFA).

Member concerns:

BWV started late and ended early.

No GOWISELY.

NO grounds stated. Niche states smell of weed.

An example of how NOT to conduct a Stop and Search.

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Constabulary notes members' feedback. On review of the stop search record, the officer's supervisor has already picked up on the concerns mentioned by members and discussed directly with the officer, identifying learning appropriately.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes Any Organisational learning? Yes

Case 15: 4/11/2021 7pm. s.1 Police & Criminal Evidence Act (PACE). Somerset West

Background: Officers stop known suspects involved in street crime. On being told he would be searched the subject admitted he was in possession of cannabis.

Searched for Item found?: No weapons but small bag of cannabis bud found.

Positive Outcome? Yes. Youth Alcohol and Drug Diversion (YADD)

Positive member feedback:

An amiable and courteous Officer with the compliant males and reasons for the Stop & Search are stated.

Member concerns:

Inadequate grounds:

Male 1: Query grounds "hanging around late at night." It is 6pm and not late.

Male 2: Officer says "lingering down here, smell of cannabis" and known for cannabis.

The subject had used a grinder to store the cannabis that was found when he was searched which was then confiscated. There is some level of inconsistency because in the Panel selected Case No. 4 the subject requested for his grinder back and it was granted.

Operational policing questions:

1. Did the Police have any intelligence that the subject was involved with any gangs in Taunton?
2. Is there a discretionary rule of how to treat potential items when they are being confiscated?

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Panel is thanked for the feedback provided in this case. The officer has been asked by the Force Lead to account for the decision surrounding the grinder and to explain the grounds provided. The officer's supervisor has been made aware for ongoing oversight.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes Any Organisational learning? No

Case 18: 10/12/2021 3pm. S23 MDA Stop & Search by Op. Remedy. North Somerset

Background: Proactive Team Officers stop known male on suspicion of dealing class A drugs.

Searched for Item found? No.

Outcome? NFA.

Positive member feedback:

BWV operated in discreet mode with audio only to protect suspects dignity, excellent narrative, explaining the procedure and what was happening next, very courteous officer came over well and in control. Previous offers of help and support for the suspect were mentioned, so quite caring. Nicely done.
BWV lens obscured for modesty during the strip search.

Member concerns:

Stated ground "We are told you are concerned in the supply of Class A controlled drugs." We will take you to the station.
Immediate cuffing.

The Officer says: If there is anything in your phone we will arrest you.

At the Police Station threat of x-ray and take to hospital seemed intimidating. The Officer said they would read his phone.

The male's age is unknown but if under 18 he would need to be offered an Appropriate Adult for the strip search.

Operational policing questions:

1. Can this male expect to be Stop Searched at any time including a strip search only because someone has said he is dealing in drugs?
2. Officers appear to have decided their course of action - including a strip search - prior to stopping the male. Is this approved practice?
3. Are the Grounds (regarding County Lines) enough?

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Constabulary notes the feedback of the Panel in this case. This matter is subject to further review after having been highlighted by the Panel.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes Any Organisational learning? No

Case 19: 29/12/2021 2pm. S23 MDA Stop & Search by Op. Remedy. Bristol East

Background: Officers stopped male matching description of street dealer who ran off before being detained and later strip searched in a police station.

Searched for Item found? No.

Outcome? NFA.

Member concerns:

Regarding the Stop Search grounds, there is no explanation of why the subject matched the description.

Operational policing questions:

1. Was handcuffing justified by the male running away?
2. What justified a strip search?
3. What happened to the male's bicycle?

Organisational learning:

Handcuffing; Grounds; Strip Search.

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

Members' feedback is noted in this case – it is an area of improvement for the Constabulary to ensure individuals are provided with information on how they match a description prior to a stop search taking place. This will be made explicitly clear in the CPD package and will be checked and tested through supervisory oversight, so that officers explain to a person how they match the description rather than simply stating that they do.

In relation to this specific case – the lack of detail provided by the officer has already been identified by his supervisor who followed it up with the officer involved, explaining clearly the expectations on them.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes Any Organisational learning? Yes

Case 22: 6/11/2021 7pm. S23 MDA Stop & Search of a woman. S. Glos.

Background: Security guard reports group of youths acting suspiciously in a bin compound near an industrial unit. Police find the group and due to a strong smell of cannabis coming from the compound the group are searched.

Searched for Item found? Yes. One person in possession of cannabis.

Positive Outcome? Yes. Community Resolution.

Positive member feedback:

Good rapport between officer and young people. Nice attitude from the female officer, really professional and caring. Really good searches, courteously carried out. In general all the officers present maintained a nice demeanour, keeping everything low key and pleasant, avoiding antagonising the young people. All very well handled.

Member concerns:

Only stated ground is the smell of cannabis.

A strange comment regarding nobody wanting a copy of the search record. Almost discouraging the young people to ask for a copy.

According to the narrative a break-in had been reported, although not mentioned in GOWISELY, only the drug smell as the grounds.
Female officer on first search asked the subject for details but then said I won't check it if we don't find anything. Strange comment to make.

Organisational learning:

Inadequacy of grounds for the Stop Search, based only on the smell of weed.

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Panel's feedback in this case is noted with thanks. It has been shared with the officers involved and feedback provided in relation to the concerns raised.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes Any Organisational learning? No

Case 53: Complaint recorded 16/11/2021. Vehicle stop. Racial discrimination

Background: The complainant was stopped by an officer while driving her car and is not satisfied with the grounds given by the officer for stopping her and believes that she was racially profiled.

Searched for item found? N/A.

Complaint outcome: The service provided was acceptable.

Positive member feedback:

Stop and search: Officer appeared to have abandoned promptly any plan to search on discovering that the smell of cannabis had not come from the subject's vehicle. A brief explanation was given to the subject and the officer went on her way without further ado.

Member concerns:

Late BMW. Officer stopped car because strong smell of cannabis and did a vehicle check from which the owner is female. Officer thinks the person sitting in the Driver's seat is male. The driver who is female says she has never smoked. The Officer says she can't smell cannabis and she is now satisfied the driver is female so she can go.

Officer decision making: Not entirely credible in the circumstances that the officer could have detected a smell of cannabis when driving past another vehicle, or how that could provide reasonable grounds for a search of that particular vehicle, as opposed to any other source of the claimed smell.

Operational policing comment:

A member can understand why there is a complaint and is interested to know Avon and Somerset Police's explanation.

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?

2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

The Constabulary notes the feedback of members in this case – this matter was reviewed by our Professional Standards Department and it was determined that the officer acted in good faith and that it is expected that officers will investigate potential breaches of the law, even if briefly, as in this case it was rapidly identified that the officer had stopped the wrong vehicle.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? No

2. Use of Force Cases

Use of Force	BWV length (mins)	Case Category
26	10	2.1 Use of Force in custody
29	10	2.1 Use of Force in custody
32	9	2.4 Handcuffing, PAVA & Taser against women & girls
34	1	2.4 Handcuffing, PAVA & Taser against women & girls
36	10	2.4 Handcuffing, PAVA & Taser against women & girls
37	8	2.5 Use of Force by Op. Remedy at a S&S
40	10	2.5 Use of Force by Op. Remedy at a S&S
56	25	2.2 Complaint regarding Use of Force

Case 26: 6/10/2021 2am. Use of Force in a Custody. W. Somerset

Background (prior to arrest and detention in custody): Report of domestic assault using a table leg as a weapon.

Force used reason: Prevent injury to officers, victim and to affect arrest

Outcome: Subject arrested and charged to Court for multiple offences.

Positive member feedback:

Decisive action to prevent harm and achieve control.

Male officer with the Taser is decisive and in control of the situation. The female officer is very calm and considerate to the Tasered man on the floor.

Operational policing questions:

Why, after the male is Tasered, handcuffed and prone on floor, the Taser continues to be deployed?

Organisational learning:

Ideally BWV should have been switched on earlier.

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

We thank the panel for their positive comments. This incident was reviewed by the operational training team, who note that in the BWV of the case highlighted, the Taser deployment is as per training. The Taser remains armed after the male is handcuffed as the probes are still connected and if the subject presents a further threat even while handcuffed to the front and prior to search the Taser can be reactivated as a use of force option. This is as per training and the curriculum.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? No

Case 29: 15/10/2021 Use of Force in a Custody. W. Somerset

Background (prior to arrest and detention in custody): Staff at halls of residence report male is holding a machete to his throat whilst threatening to kill himself.

Force used reason: Prevent injury and to affect arrest.

Outcome: Subject arrested and charged to Court. Awaiting court outcome - conditional bail.

Positive member feedback:

Good chat to engage.

Good de-escalation skills shown initially, displaying empathy with the suspect. The officer tries to engage where possible, earning the suspect's trust. The offer of the cigarette lighter allows the officer to get closer and safely deploy the Taser to bring the situation under control. Nicely handled, all things considered.

An example of pre-emptive, positive Taser deployment bringing a potentially life-threatening situation to a satisfactory and safe conclusion.

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

We thank the panel for their positive reflection of the officer's actions and de-escalation of the situation. The officers show an understanding of how their presence could escalate the situation and their options for mitigation. This is a good demonstration of dealing with Vulnerable People from Taser training.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? No

Case 32: 5/10/2021 8a.m. Handcuffing, PAVA or Taser on a woman S. Glos.

Background: Informant's wife is mentally unwell, she has woken up and attacked the informant shouting and banging on the walls. Informant has had to lock themselves in the bathroom to prevent further harm.

Force used reason: To affect an arrest for everyone's safety.

Outcome: Arrest of female. Due to the suspect being sectioned and the victim not wanting to prosecute, the incident was not in the public interest and filed.

Positive member feedback:

Female officer with Taser is excellent and takes into consideration the lady's mental ill health, whilst still ensuring she didn't have a weapon. The Officer has a calming yet direct manner. She is confident, competent and empathetic. Very brave to enter the house knowing the female is reported to have a cricket bat.

An excellent outcome. However, lacking mental health provision and using Police resources instead.

Excellent de-escalation from the outset by the Female officer. Tone, speech and body language. Crouching to be at the woman's level, conversing with her e.g. gaining control without drama or injury.

The Female officer is to be commended.

This excellent case is one of many good examples reviewed by the Panel. On balance there are more good cases than cases of concern.

A good case for Police Training, subject to Data Protection regulation.

Organisational learning:

This incident and BWV would be good for Officer training. Pixilation if necessary.

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

We thank the panel for the recognition of some excellent policing and agree with panel comments.

This incident is very similar to a scenario used in training where the desired outcome is de-escalation and not Taser use. It is good to see that our training is realistic, relevant and equipping our officers to deal with such incidents in a controlled and compassionate manner. We note the panel's comments about there being 'more good cases than cases of concern' and perhaps this is reflective of the new training that officers are receiving in de-escalation and conflict management.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? No

Case 34: 10/10/2021 9pm. Handcuff, PAVA or Taser on a woman W. Somerset

Background: Female informant had called the Crisis Team to tell them she had placed two screwdrivers into her abdomen and superglued them in. Female was taken to hospital by land ambulance and Helicopter Emergency Medical Services (HEMS) for treatment.

Force used reason: Protection to own life and others present.

Outcome: Female detained under section 136 of the Mental Health Act/hospitalised. The individual will receive the appropriate treatment and support from partner agencies regarding mental health.

Positive member feedback:

Good engagement by the Female officer so that the knives are relinquished and paramedics could attend her. Good use of Taser to secure de-escalation.

The Officer's use of Taser (drawn) is appropriate considering the level of initial risk and when the knife is dropped to help control the situation.

The female Taser Officer did a great job controlling the scene.

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

We again want to thank the panel for their positive reflection of the officer's actions. This incident is likeable to our training involving a Vulnerable Person scenario. Is it good to see that this training is being put into practice operationally and resulting in the safeguarding of such persons without need to use excessive or inappropriate force.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? No

Case 36: 29/10/2021 6pm. Handcuff, PAVA or Taser on a woman. Somerset East

Background: Abandoned 999 call - Female has accidentally called but was said to have heard her say "Ouch". Officers have arrived to check the welfare of the female. She refused officers to enter the premises causing an altercation and her dogs biting an officer on the leg. Situation has then calmed down and the female disclosed a domestic incident had taken place with her partner.

Female became hostile towards officers forcing officers to enter under S.17 to ensure everyone was safe. Female has then retreated into the address shutting the inner door and locking it. She has held a spanner stating that she will defend her property from officers. One officer has then warned the female and removed his Taser. Female has then put the spanner down and opened the inner door and tried to push officers out of the address and has started reaching back round the door in the direction she had the spanner. Officers have therefore pushed her back inside and onto a sofa nearby.

Force used reason: Ensure everyone is safe (s.17 PACE)

Outcome: NFA - Domestic argument where no crime had been committed.

Positive member feedback:

The male officer has good intentions but there are other issues.

Member concerns:

The whole situation is poorly handled by the male officer. 'Red mist' comes down and he loses control of the situation, mirroring the woman's attitude and language. Very unnecessary use of copious quantities of the F*** word which only makes the situation worse. Once the female officers arrive the male officer should have withdrawn because the woman is requesting him to do so. This may have de-escalated the situation, but it certainly isn't helped by the officers obstinate refusal to leave. It appears there are some issues for the woman from previous interactions with male Officers that could have been significantly eased if the female officers took the lead.

Possibly one of the worst handled situations a member has seen to date. Hopefully the male officer recognises that he was not on his best form.

When faced by the householder's strength of feeling versus him as a male and as a police officer, maybe he should have withdrawn and reassessed the situation. Stimes de-escalation means doing nothing and reassessing whether the proposed action is warranted.

Organisational learning:

Possibly some anger management training required, as the officer seemed to lose control.

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

We thank the panel for their detailed feedback in this incident and understand the concerns raised.

The Police Officers attending the address are a tutor unit and the first female officer seen in the footage is a student officer which may give some indication of why the male officer is taking the lead. The male officer concerned has sufficient grounds to enter the property using Section 17 PACE as he describes on the BWV. As identified by the panel, it is clear that both the female and the male officer increase in their aggravation as the incident progresses. We recognise that the female makes verbal threats of violence towards the male officer whilst stating that she was in possession of a spanner. We believe that the male officer was acting in the best interests of the female in order to ensure that there were no other persons present inside the address. This was a difficult situation to deal with, however, we do agree with some of the comments that are raised by the panel that once the second female officer arrives at the location, there are a number of opportunities for the male officer to distance himself from the female, thus allowing him to calm and also attempt to de-escalate the overall situation.

Considering all of the information available for the review in this case, we do not believe that this matter requires formal anger management training as suggested, although we will ensure that there is feedback provided to the male officer about his use of language and lack of consideration to withdraw sooner than he did.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes, as above Any Organisational learning? No

Case 37: 8/10/2021 3pm. Use of Force by Op. Remedy at a Stop Search. Bristol.

Background: Suspect seen to make a drug exchange within the Bedminster area. Drugs located inside their wallet. Four wraps in total.

Force used reason: section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act Stop and Search.

Outcome: Suspect was placed into handcuffs immediately due to his size and to prevent loss of any items.

Low level drugs offence, Drugs Education Program (DEP) and dealt with by an Out of Court Disposal (OoCD).

Positive member feedback: Officer calm and professional.

Member concerns:

BWV ends too early and the mobile phone is interrogated at the outset.

Operational policing question:

Was this a proper use of s23(2)(C) Misuse of Drugs Act 1971 to interrogate phone at outset or at all?

Organisational learning:

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

We thank the panel for recognising the calm and professional manner displayed by the officers when dealing with the subject.

The BWV of the female officer using force is 35 minutes long and covers the whole incident. The BWV for the male officer using force is 18 minutes and covers the whole incident excluding the interview at the end of the incident which is covered by his female colleague.

Physical factors of the subject, such as size, do form part of reasonable rationale for officers using force, such as handcuffing in this case and therefore this is in line with safety training. It would have been beneficial for the BWV to have been activated earlier in order to see the mannerisms of the subject which may have added further justification to the decision to handcuff. We should however like to share that although this is in line with training, we have since released fresher training via a PowerPoint presentation to staff detailing the appropriate and lawful reasons that handcuffs should be applied.

The initial opening of the subject's mobile phone is in order for the subject to check their blood sugar levels. We do agree with the panel's observations that there is later attempts to interrogate the mobile phone at the roadside and the legality and procedure for this is current under review by the Force Lead for Stop and Search.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? No Any Organisational learning? No

Case 40: 30/10/2021 3pm. Use of Force by Op. Remedy at a Stop Search. Bristol.

Background: Vehicle sighted acting suspiciously approaching Bristol Bridge which is for bus and taxi access only. The vehicle, prior to crossing, swerved to the side of the road and came to a stop. Officers pulled up behind the vehicle and an officer approached the driver's door. He was extremely nervous, shaking, his eyes were dilated, there was a large amount of cash in the centre console and the male's mobile phone was receiving messages consistent with drug supply.

Force used reason: Section 23 of the Misuse of Drugs Act Stop and Search. Necessary to prevent suspect escaping and potentially the disposal of evidence.

Outcome: Due to the background situation above the male was detained under section 23 of the misuse of drugs act and placed in handcuffs. Vehicle searched believed to have a small amount of cocaine in the vehicle. Due to the small amount it was not tested and doubts whether possession could be proven to the suspect. Incident filed.

Member concerns:

No GOWISELY items for the Search.

BWV switched on late so missed quite a lot. This makes it difficult for Panel members to give full feedback. The BWV starts with the subject out of the car and already handcuffed.

Panel members are also concerned about the search of the male's phone. Also:

Why is there a strip search?

Why not search the car at the location where it has been stopped?

What is the reason for handcuffing a very compliant person?

No BWV (audio) of the strip search. Whereas Case 18 (above) is a good example of listening to audio at a Strip Search.

English is not the first language of the male so the Officers need to have clear communications, asking one simple question at a time and speaking slowly.

Organisational learning:

Inadequate BWV Sec 23 MDA re mobile phone. No BWV of strip search. BWV switched on late.

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

We agree with the panel's comments that as the BWV is turned on late, whether GOWISELY has been given or not, cannot be established. The same is true of the justification of the handcuffs. If the male driver was initially obstructive or non-compliant, then handcuffing may have been reasonable and justified, whereas the BWV evidence does not show this. The search of the mobile phone is a matter under further enquiry by the Force Lead for Stop Search and comment is made elsewhere in this document to this matter. With regards to the search of the vehicle, as a specialist drugs dog is requested, removing the vehicle from the busy location to a more sterile and controlled location is reasonable and lawful under s23. With regards to the audio recording of the strip search, this is again a matter being addressed by the Force Lead for Stop Search.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes. (Switching on of their BWV earlier to ensure GOWISELY is captured as well as the justification for handcuffing).

Any Organisational learning? Yes (Mobile phone interrogation and audio recording of strip searches).

Case 56: 22/11/2021. Complaint regarding Use of Force.

Background: Allegation of officers' unnecessary and excessive force; have attended his home address and asked him to come to the station to answer some questions. He has said that he was going to come quietly, but he wanted to get a t-shirt, socks and shoes.

Outcome: The service provided was acceptable.

Member concerns:

BWV ended early.

Female officer was a bit abrupt at going straight to arrest, when initially the man did not act aggressively and this led to a quick escalation of the situation, with threats and aggressive behaviour from the 2 members of the public.

Operational policing questions:

If the Officers had allowed the male to get a T shirt he might not have returned?

Organisational learning:

BWV switched off early.

1. What lessons/learning has been identified by Avon and Somerset Police?
2. What are the actions?
3. What has been the impact of those actions?

Constabulary response to members' feedback:

We agree with the observations of the panel in this incident that it may have escalated due to the decision by the arresting officer to communicate in the manner that they did with the subject.

In the circumstances, we support the officer's decision not to allow the subject to re-enter the property without an officer due to the risk of the subject escaping, destroying evidence or otherwise escalating the situation. However, we do feel that a different method and style of communication would likely have reduced the probability of the subject becoming aggressive and agitated as quickly as he did. Communication style and de-escalation techniques form a significant part of the latest personal safety training and we hope to see a reduction in this type of situation in the future.

Is there from this case any Officer learning? Yes, as above Any Organisational learning? No