

## **OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER**

### **Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel Stop and Search Exercise – October 2019**

The Panel convened on the 26<sup>th</sup> October 2019 to examine Gwent Police stop and search activity undertaken during the six-month period 1<sup>st</sup> April to 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019. Members were provided with an update on Gwent Police's activities since the last scrutiny exercise in April 2019. Members raised the national concern of unconscious bias and its impact on successful stop-search engagement, as well as the persistent low numbers of stop-search complaints received by Gwent Police and the continued need to improve awareness of the public's rights to make a complaint.

We were advised that both of these matters were being reviewed internally to provide a consistent approach across the organisation that should demonstrate a positive impact over time. Progress would be monitored via the appropriate internal governance mechanisms and an update included within the next stop and search scrutiny exercise.

We were also advised that, following internal improvement work around Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) areas for improvement, a quarterly stop and search and use of force performance report had been implemented. The report would seek to address a number of HMICFRS and OPCC recommendations and provide greater understanding of the impact of the use of these powers in Gwent. Progress would be monitored and reviewed by the Assistant Chief Constable and shared with the OPCC.

**Recommendation: Gwent Police should utilise the outcomes of any unconscious bias testing to inform internal equality and diversity training. This would help ensure that stop and search powers are used correctly and effectively.**

#### **Data Overview**

We discussed the data report for stops encounters for the six-month period and agreed that overall numbers were largely as anticipated. Stop-search activity showed a small increase of around 4% compared to the last scrutiny period. The highest activity was recorded in May (315 person stops) and the lowest in September (137 person stops). Around 48.5% of those stopped and searched during the period were aged 25 or under, compared to 64.5% for the previous scrutiny exercise.

Operation Sceptre III took place from the 16<sup>th</sup> to 27<sup>th</sup> September 2019. 48 encounters in total were recorded during this period; however, at the time of the scrutiny exercise it was unknown how many of these were connected to the operational activity.

The majority of encounters were recorded for the East local policing area (LPA) due to the Newport Central, East and West Neighbourhood Policing Areas. No information was available for the number of repeat stop-searches occurring in the period. However, this is regularly scrutinised at the Operational Tactics Meeting.

## Dip Sample of Records

1408 records were available for the exercise, of which 191 related to individuals that had self-identified as having a black, Asian or ethnic minority (BAME) background. All BAME records were examined, along with 147 of the remaining records<sup>1</sup> randomly selected by members. This provided a 24% sample size congruent with previous exercises. Table 1 provides the analysis of the dip sampled records alongside the analysis for the total record set.

Table 1: Analysis of records		Dip sample (341 records)				Total (1408 records)			
Category		# White	# BAME	% White	% BAME	# White	# BAME	% White	% BAME
<b>Gender</b>	Male	123	183	36.0	53.7	901	183	64.0	13.0
	Female	22	7	6.5	2.0	121	7	8.6	0.5
	Other 'I' (Indeterminate)	0	0	0.0	0.0	3	0	0.2	0.0
	Unknown 'U'	2	1	0.5	0.3	3	1	0.2	<0.1
<b>Self-Defined Ethnicity</b>	Asian Indian	0	7	0.0	2.0	0	7	0.0	0.5
	Asian Pakistani	0	39	0.0	11.4	0	39	0.0	2.8
	Asian Bangladeshi	0	6	0.0	1.8	0	6	0.0	0.4
	Other Asian Background	0	33	0.0	9.7	0	33	0.0	2.3
	Black Caribbean	0	16	0.0	4.7	0	16	0.0	1.1
	Black African	0	15	0.0	4.4	0	15	0.0	1.0
	Other Black Background	0	23	0.0	6.8	0	23	0.0	1.6
	White/Black Caribbean	0	17	0.0	5.0	0	17	0.0	1.2
	White/Black African	0	3	0.0	0.9	0	3	0.0	0.2
	White/Asian	0	4	0.0	1.2	0	4	0.0	0.3
	Other Mixed Background	0	22	0.0	6.5	0	22	0.0	1.6
	Officer Called Away	0	0	0.0	0	0	0	0.0	0.0
	Any Other Ethnic Background	0	6	0.0	1.8	0	6	0.0	0.4
	White British	126	0	36.9	0	1001	0	71.1	0.0
	White Other Background	0	0	0.0	0.0	3	0	0.2	0.0
White Irish	4	0	1.2	0.0	24	0	1.7	0.0	
Not Stated		17		5.0		188		13.3	
<b>Age</b>	Under 17	33	56	9.7	4.7	229	56	16.3	4.0
	18 to 25	47	69	13.8	20.2	328	69	23.3	4.9
	26 to 35	34	36	10.0	10.5	235	36	16.7	2.5
	36 to 45	20	24	5.9	7.0	153	24	10.9	1.7
	46 to 55	8	5	2.3	1.5	74	5	5.2	0.3
	56 to 65	1	1	0.3	0.3	4	1	0.3	<0.1
	Not stated	0	0	0.0	0.0	3	0	0.2	0.0
<b>Purpose</b>	Articles for Use in Theft	11	5	3.2	1.5	87	5	6.2	0.3
	Articles to Cause Damage	4	5	1.3	0.3	17	5	1.2	0.3
	Bladed Article	10	14	2.9	4.1	80	14	5.7	1.0

<sup>1</sup> The remaining records include all white ethnicities, records where ethnicity has not been stated by the individual, and incidences where the officer has been called away, thereby not recording the ethnicity of the subject. These are referred to as 'white' for the purposes of this report.

	Criminal Damage	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
	Drugs	95	142	27.9	41.6	622	142	44.2	10.0
	Evidence of Offences Under the Act	4	1	1.2	0.3	27	1	1.9	<0.1
	Firearms	1	1	0.3	0.3	11	1	0.8	<0.1
	Fireworks	0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	<0.1	0.0
	Going Equipped	2	2	0.6	0.6	34	2	1.7	0.1
	Intoxicating Liquor	1	0	0.3	0.0	1	0	<0.1	0.0
	Not Purpose Recorded	2	2	0.6	0.6	3	2	0.2	0.1
	Offensive Weapons	2	6	0.6	1.8	30	6	2.1	0.4
	Other	3	0	0.9	0.0	21	0	1.5	0.0
	Public Order	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
	Seizure of Alcohol or Tobacco	1	0	0.3	0.0	7	0	0.5	0.0
	Stolen Property	8	6	0.6	0.3	49	6	3.5	0.4
	Suspect Crime/Disorder/ ASB	0	0	0.0	0.0	2	0	0.1	0.0
	Threat or Harm	3	7	0.9	2.0	30	7	2.1	0.5
	Traffic Violation	0	0	0.0	0.0	2	0	0.1	0.0
	Warrant Bail Check	0	0	0.0	0.0	1	0	<0.1	0.0
<b>Outcome</b>	Arrested	21	28	6.2	8	104	28	7.4	2.0
	Caution (Simple or Conditional)	0	0	0.0	0.0	0	0	0.0	0.0
	Community Resolution	1	0	0.3	0.0	2	0	0.1	0.0
	Drug Warning	14	5	4.1	1.5	60	5	4.3	0.3
	No Further Action (NFA)	88	132	25.9	38.7	718	132	50.1	9.3
	No Outcome Recorded	10	20	2.9	5.9	75	20	5.3	1.4
	Other	1	0	0.3	0.0	2	0	0.1	0.0
	Penalty Notice for Disorder	3	2	0.9	0.6	14	2	1.0	0.1
	Police Discretionary Resolution	1	1	0.3	0.3	12	1	0.8	<0.1
	Summoned	0	1	0.0	0.3	6	1	0.4	<0.1
	Voluntary Attendance	8	2	2.3	0.6	33	2	2.3	0.1

### Data Quality

Over the past 18 months Gwent Police has focused on improving the overall quality of stop and search data. However, in common with previous exercises, duplicate entries were noted during the dip sample; it is unknown how many duplicates were present within the overall data set. Gwent Police has acknowledged recurrent issues relating to records created multiple times for the same stop and search encounter due to user error. This has since been flagged with the Digital Services Division (DSD), and options to address the issue are being explored. Until a technological resolution is found, all entries identified as multiple stops will be manually examined to correct any errors in recording and reporting. This will be monitored via the Operational Tactics meeting and reviewed again in future scrutiny exercises. Failure to improve this issue will continue to provide inaccurate and inconsistent data.

**Recommendation: Gwent Police should ensure that all data transfer processes are accurate, thereby providing more reliable and consistent data.**

### Grounds

All of the 341 records examined had completed grounds fields, consistent with the

previous exercise. One record showed 'Test' where the grounds should have been. A subsequent search across the entire record set revealed nine entries that recorded 'Test' as the grounds for the search. These records also provide other information such as ethnicity, purpose and outcome that would be included in any data returns for the period, consequently impacting on data quality.

For 81% of BAME and 90% of 'White' dip sampled records, members believed the stated grounds to be reasonable. This is an improvement on the previous exercise, which showed 45.5% of BAME and 37.8% of the non-BAME dip sampled records believed to have reasonable grounds. The remainder were queried due to either ambiguous or limited details. Member observations for these records (ranked in order of prevalence) included:

1. No indication of the original reason for the stop when the grounds state that the purpose of the search is not the same
2. Vagueness or a lack of sufficient detail for the grounds
3. Questionable description provided in identifying the individual searched
4. Smell of cannabis used with limited or no additional justifying information
5. No detail provided to link the grounds for the search to the operation named, just the name of the operation.

Panel members commented on a number of records that had comprehensive and thorough grounds including some that provided detail against each requirement of the 'GOWISELY'<sup>2</sup> process. As previously, some excellent examples of grounds were identified.

**Recommendation: Gwent Police should ensure that stop and search training provides a consistent and appropriate focus on what constitutes legitimate and justifiable grounds for encounters. This should further improve the quality of grounds being recorded and mitigate any risk of unjustifiable or questionable grounds being provided as the basis for stop-searches.**

### Ethnicity

All self-defined ethnicity (SDE) fields for both the BAME and the white dip-sampled records were completed. Of the records dip sampled, 36.9% of subjects identified as 'White British', with 1.2% identifying as 'White Irish'. 5% did not state any ethnicity (e.g. the subject declined to self-identify), an increase from 0.3% as compared to the previous exercise.

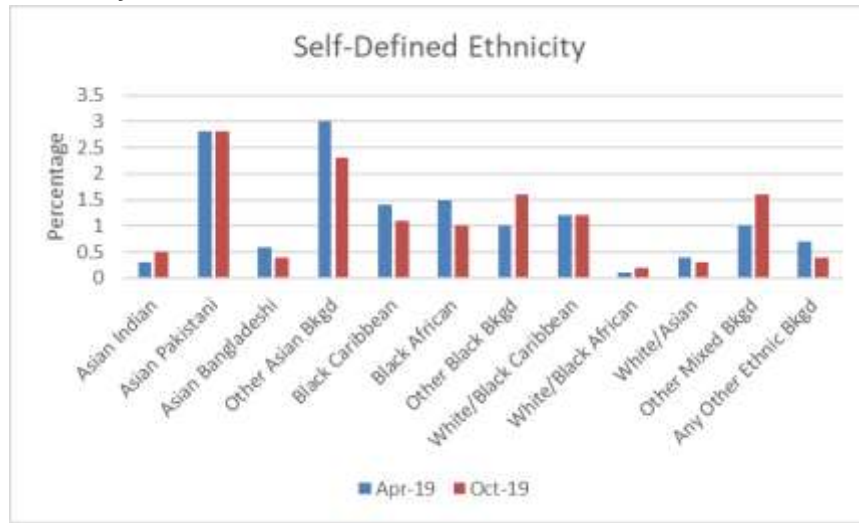
Table 2 provides a comparison of the total SDE data across BAME categories for the April and October 2019 exercises. Small increases were seen for Asian Indian, White/Black African, and Other Mixed Background. However, the number of entries with

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<sup>2</sup> GOWISELY – Grounds; Object; Warrant card; Identity; Station; Entitlement of the search record; Legal power; You are being detained for the purposes of a search. As long as this process is undertaken the order of delivery is not important.

no ethnicity stated had increased from 2.0% to 13% across the whole record set. This may be due a zero number of entries for 'Officer Called Away' - for the previous exercise 'Officer Called Away' and 'Not Stated' combined gave a total of 12.6% unknown ethnicity.

**Table 2: Self-defined ethnicity, all records**



The majority of BAME activity was recorded in the Pillgwenlly and Stow Hill wards of Newport. In each instance, the greater number of searches were performed on Asian people, consistent with previous exercises. Initial results from Gwent Police’s work to better understand ethnicity and population demographics at a ward level, suggests that the stop-search activity recorded in these areas is not found to be disproportionately high due to the levels of BAME resident population and the highest proportion of organised crime and drug dealing occurring in these wards. Therefore, there is an assumption of the impact of operational activity linked to serious and organised crime and other targeted operations.

The race disproportionality ratio (RDR) helps indicate whether different groups of people are being stop and searched more disproportionately than others. Table 3 provides comparisons across the total stop and search data within the last three years.

**Table 3: Three year comparison**

Stop and Searches	# of Stops (Total)	# of Stops ('White')	# of Stops (BAME)	% of Stops ('White')	% of Stops (BAME)	RDR
2017/18	950	757	84	79.7%	8.8%	2.9
2018/19	2323	1811	338	78.0%	14.63%	4.7
2019 (to 30 <sup>th</sup> September)	1408	914	191	73.0%	13.6%	4.9

In line with national trends, Gwent has experienced an increase in the number of recorded stops encounters since 2017/18. The 2018/19 period showed a 41% increase in overall stop-searches compared to 2017/18, with a disproportionately large increase for BAME encounters. The data for the six months to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019 shows that

there is a further expected increase for stop and search activity across the remainder of the financial year as compared to the previous 12 months.

In calculating the RDR based on the current data, BAME people in Gwent are stop-searched just under five times more than white people. Compared to the national RDR of around 9, Gwent Police continues to operate below this threshold. However, it is important that the impact of Gwent Police’s targeted operational campaigns on stop and search usage is clearly understood, as most of the activity has taken place mainly within geographic areas of higher BAME populations.

Where appropriate and relevant, commentary regarding ethnicity proportionality will be included within the analysis of each of the following subject areas.

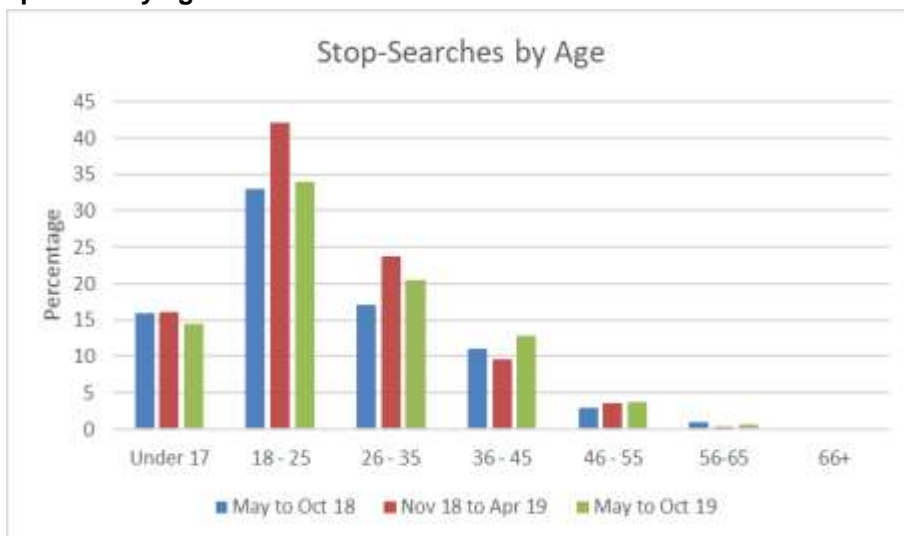
**Recommendation: Gwent Police should evidence the connections between operational activity on stop and search activity relating to age and ethnicity as a minimum. Comparing activity with demographic data will help to provide public reassurance that certain groups are not targeted for stop and search and that activity is supported by appropriate intelligence.**

Age

Within the dip sample, across all ethnicities, 48.4% of encounters were recorded for people aged 25 and under, 34% of encounters related to individuals aged between 18 and 25, and 14.4% to those aged 17 and under. 20.5% of stop-searches were recorded for those aged 26 to 35. Increases were seen by the 36 to 45 and 46 to 55 age groups.

Table 4 provides a comparison by age and percentage of the last three dip samples.

**Table 4: Stops comparison by age**



In terms of Gwent’s population (as per the 2011 Census), 54.6% of individuals were aged under 25. Of this, 18.5% were recorded as aged between 18 and 25. Therefore, those aged between 18 and 25 continue to be over-represented in stop-search activity in Gwent.

Further analysis regarding the location of stops across the whole data set for the top three age groups identified that:

- 15.8% of the 17 and under stop-searches were located within the Pillgwenlly ward, and 10.2% in the Stow Hill ward (compared to 7.0% and 12.9% respectively during the previous period)
- 7.5% of the 18 to 25 stop-searches were located within the Pillgwenlly ward, and 5.3% within Stow Hill (compared to 9.2% and 8.1% respectively during the previous period)
- 12.2% of the 26 to 35 stop-searches were located within the Pillgwenlly ward, and 12.5% within Stow Hill (compared to 11.7% and 5.9% respectively during the previous period).

Therefore, during the six-month reporting period, stop and search activity increased in Pillgwenlly for the 17 and under and the 26 to 35 age groups, across all ethnicities. Again, this may be the result of the organised crime and targeted operational work within the Newport area; however, this cannot be confirmed from the results of the scrutiny exercise.

### Gender

53.7% of BAME records and 36.0% of the white dip sample identified subjects as male (compared to 55.1% and 38.1% respectively for April). There was an increase in subjects identifying as female, with 2.0% BAME and 6.5% white encounters recorded (compared to 0.6% and 4.4% respectively).

In considering the overall data set, 13.0% BAME and 64.0% white identified as male (compared to 13.8% and 76.6% for April), and 0.5% BAME and 8.6% white as female (compared to 0.2% and 8.6% for April). This area does not currently present any challenges or concerns for Gwent Police.

### Purpose

Drugs remains the highest purpose for stop-searches in Gwent. The dip sample showed that 41.6% of BAME and 27.9% of white stop-searches were conducted on suspicion of drugs (compared to 44.3% and 22.9% respectively). When reviewing all records for the period, this reduces to 10.0% for BAME stop-searches and to 44.2% for white (compared to 11.1% and 58.2% respectively).

Searches for bladed articles provides the second highest recorded purpose in the dip sample. Bladed articles accounted for 4.1% (previously 4.7%) of BAME and 2.9% (previously 7.6%) of white activity, showing decreases compared to the previous exercise. Offensive weapons account for 1.8% (previously 2.9%) of BAME and 0.6% (previously 2.9%) for white activity, again providing decreases on both counts.

In terms of all records, 1.0% (previously 1.2%) of bladed article stop-searches relate to BAME encounters, a nominal reduction compared to the previous exercise, whereas this

accounts for 5.7% of white searches (previously 7.3%). 04% of BAME (previously 0.7%) and 2.1% of white searches (previously 3.4%) related to offensive weapons, once again showing small decreases for both BAME and white encounters.

It is worth noting that there was a significant increase in searched for 'Articles for use in theft' for white encounters, which rose from 2.9% in the April exercise, to 6.2%. Reasons for this change were not identified during the exercise.

*Ethnicity Proportionality - Purpose*

Table 5 provides the stop and search rates for BAME ethnicities in comparison to white ethnicities across the three main 'Purpose' categories. The figures in parentheses provide the disproportionality rates for the previous scrutiny exercise.

**Table 5: Rate of white stop-searches compared to other ethnic groupings (all records)**

<b>Rate of stop-searches compared to white ethnicities</b>			
<b>Ethnicity</b>	<b>Drugs</b>	<b>Bladed Articles</b>	<b>Offensive Weapons</b>
<b>Asian</b>	2.6 (2.8)	0.9 (1.6)	2.4 (1.2)
<b>Black</b>	1.4 (1.5)	2.2 (1.6)	1.6 (2.4)
<b>Mixed</b>	1.2 (1.0)	0.3 (1.0)	0.8 (2.4)

In considering drug-related stop-searches for the period, Asian people remained most likely to be stopped and searched. This is consistent with the previous scrutiny exercise. For bladed articles, black people were most likely to be stopped and searched, whilst Asian people were less likely, in comparison to the previous exercise. This rate has also decreased for mixed ethnicities.

In considering offensive weapons, Asian people are now more likely to be stopped and searched for this reason, whereas previously, both black and mixed ethnicities were more likely to be subject to this purpose. These changes may be linked to the focus of operational activity.

Outcomes

No Further Action (NFA) remained the most common outcome within the dip sample, accounting for 38.7% (previously 39%) of BAME and 25.9% (previously 21.1%) of white encounters. This provided a noticeable increase for white encounters compared to the previous period. In terms of arrests, the dip sample showed that 8.0% (previously 4.4%) of BAME encounters and 6.2% (previously 9.0%) of white encounters were associated with this outcome. Drug warnings were issued in 1.5% (previously 1.2%) BAME and 4.1% (previously 4.2%) of white stop-searches. 'No Outcome Recorded' was shown for 5.9% (previously 8.2%) and 2.9% (previously 2.6%) of records respectively.

Across all records, NFA accounted for 9.3% (previously 9.7%) BAME and 50.1% (previously 55.7%) white outcomes, a reduction in either case compared to the previous exercise. Arrests accounted for 2.0% (previously 1.1%) BAME and 7.4% (previously



9.4%) of white outcomes. Drug warnings were issued in 0.3% (previously 0.6%) of BAME and 4.3% (previously 5.2%) of white encounters, reductions compared to the previous exercise, which could have been affected by the use of other disposals for the scrutiny period.

'No Outcome Recorded' was shown for 1.4% (previously 2.0%) of BAME and 5.3% (previously 9.1%) of white outcomes, reductions for both ethnic groupings compared to the previous exercise. These reductions may relate to work undertaken by the QlikView team to improve the way data is drawn into QlikView from Niche. However, it remains unclear whether the 'No Outcome Recorded' result is due to a genuine lack of outcome recording by officers, which in some cases may have been due to the individual being arrested, or is still a result of data transfer processes.

### *Ethnicity Proportionality - Outcomes*

Table 6 shows the proportion of BAME outcomes compared to white across outcomes; previous percentages are shown in parentheses. There was a positive outcome rate of 19.1% for the current scrutiny period, which breaks down to 2.7% for BAME ethnicities and 16.4% white. This continues to suggest that stop-searches for white subjects yield a greater number of positive results than with BAME ethnicities.

For drug-related offences, black people were arrested at 4.2 times the rate of white people (compared to 0.9 times the rate for the previous period), Asian people arrested at 3.7 times the rate (compared to 2.4 times for the previous period), and mixed race people at 2.3 times the rate (compared to 1.4 times for the previous period). This shows a significant increase in the number of positive outcomes for drug-related offences across BAME ethnicities, reflected in the reduction of NFA outcomes recorded for the period.

**Table 6: Outcome by ethnicity (all records)**

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>White %</b>	<b>BAME %</b>
<b>Arrested</b>	7.4 (9.4)	2.0 (1.1)
<b>Community Resolution</b>	0.1 (0.4)	0.0 (0.0)
<b>Drug Warning</b>	4.3 (5.2)	0.3 (0.6)
<b>NFA</b>	50.1 (55.7)	9.3 (9.7)
<b>Other</b>	0.1 (0.0)	0.0 (0.0)
<b>Penalty Notice for Disorder</b>	1.0 (1.1)	0.1 (0.2)
<b>Police Discretionary Resolution</b>	0.8 (0.7)	<0.1 (0.0)
<b>Summonsed</b>	0.4 (0.5)	<0.1 (<0.1)
<b>Voluntary Attendance</b>	2.3 (2.8)	0.1 (0.2)

Further analysis shows that Asian people were 2.4 times more likely to receive an NFA outcome (compared to 2.6 times for the previous period), black people 1.3 times more likely (compared to 1.4 times for the previous period), and people of mixed race 1.1 times more likely to receive an NFA outcome (compared to 0.9 times for the previous period).

However, these figures have been based on known ethnicity as recorded; therefore, a percentage of error should be recognised within the data where this has not been

successfully recorded.

**Recommendation: Gwent Police should demonstrate an understanding of the causes of any significant changes in outcomes for BAME groups. This will help to provide reassurance regarding the accuracy of data and the reasons for any notable fluctuations in outcomes.**

#### Copies Provided

Following a stop and search encounter, PACE Code A (section 3.8 (e)(i)) requires that a copy of the stop and search record or a receipt is provided to anyone requesting it. Work was previously undertaken with the DSD to implement an electronic version that could be sent to individuals via e-mail; however, at the time of the scrutiny exercise it was unknown whether this had been successfully implemented.

In addition, officers are required to advise individuals that they are entitled to a copy of the search record and that this can be obtained on request at a police station. Members raised concerns that this could present issues for people that may not be aware of where their nearest front counter provision is located or know public opening times for their nearest provision.

**Recommendation: Gwent Police should work with the community to build confidence and trust in the way police powers are used in Gwent, raising awareness of how to obtain copies (including accessing police stations or provisions) and how to make a complaint regarding their stop and search experience, if dissatisfied.**

#### Body Worn Video

The following section provides a summary of evidence of the body worn video section of the exercise, including member feedback and other observations.

Video 1: A young male was stopped by the officer, having been seen to run away from the officer's car multiple times within a short space of time. Due to his initial behaviour and uncooperative nature when spoken to, the officer suspected the individual to be in possession of controlled drugs. Following intervention by family members, the officer was unable to conduct a full search, therefore resulting in an NFA outcome.

Panel members were in general agreement that most of the PACE requirements had been fulfilled. However, observations were made that the officer could have made the purpose of the search clearer, particularly due to the individual's age. This was linked to the importance of speaking to the individual in a manner appropriate to his age, which members felt had not taken place as well as it could. It was also noted that intelligence existed regarding the supply of drugs to school-aged children within the area of the stop, which was not mentioned when providing the grounds for the encounter. In addition, the officer had not been able to search the individual's bag, which may have had an impact

on the outcome of the search. However, positive comments were made regarding how the officer dealt with the family members, in preventing the situation from escalating.

The stops form for the encounter was reviewed and found to be completed correctly, with the grounds matching the footage observed.

Video 2: The officer conducted a vehicle stop due to the manner of driving. In conducting the search, a small amount of cannabis was located within the vehicle, which the male subject admitted to possessing. The male was subsequently reported for possession of a controlled drug.

Panel members were satisfied that the encounter had been conducted according to PACE requirements and that the officer involved had treated the individual professionally, fairly and with respect. It was noted that the camera was only switched on after the encounter had started; however, members felt that this was a good example of engagement.

Video 3: A vehicle stop was executed due to intelligence linking the vehicle to the supply of drugs. Warning markers were also in place for the driver of the vehicle. A screwdriver was located in the vehicle that could be used as an offensive weapon. The driver was subsequently arrested for possession of an offensive weapon, while the passenger was arrested for obstruction.

Panel members were satisfied that the encounter had been conducted according to PACE requirements. Comments were made that the officer communicated well throughout the encounter, and remained calm and professional when one of the subjects attempted to escape. Members acknowledged the difficulties of trying to ensure that procedures are followed correctly whilst engaging with individuals in challenging circumstances.

Video 4: Officers undertook a vehicle stop due to information linking it to the supply of drugs. Following the search and the conditions in the vehicle, the driver was subsequently arrested for driving under the influence and suspected of being without insurance

Panel members were satisfied that the encounter had been conducted according to PACE requirements. However, as the camera was activated after the encounter had begun, some of the elements were missing from the footage; therefore, members were unable to confirm that the officer had provided all the required information to the individual.

Video 5: Officers attended a report of a males suspected of exchanging something between them, which the caller believed to be drugs. The incident was captured on CCTV. The search was negative resulting in an outcome of NFA.

Members were satisfied that the encounter had been conducted according to PACE requirements, with the exception of the officer not providing their collar number during the encounter. Members agreed that this was an excellent example of positive engagement,

with the officer remaining friendly but professional throughout.

The stops form for the encounter was reviewed and found to be completed correctly, with the grounds matching the footage observed.

Video 6: Officers responded to a call from a member of the public stating that a male on a scooter had completed a drug deal with an individual in a vehicle. On attending, the officers located the scooter and searched the male, locating a quantity of cannabis and cash. The subject was subsequently arrested for 'possession with the intent to supply' (PWITS).

Members were generally satisfied that the encounter had been conducted according to PACE requirements. They acknowledged that the search took place in close proximity to a number of other individuals of a similar age, which may have contributed to the individual's reaction to the encounter. Comment was also made on the way the officer engaged with the individual, which they felt was necessary in the circumstances; however, it was noted that the officer did not attempt to move the individual away from the group, possibly due to minimising any additional risks of flight by the individual, and to protect the evidence located.

The stops form for the encounter was reviewed and found to be completed correctly, with the grounds matching the footage observed.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

Overall, Gwent Police continues to demonstrate improvement in the recording of stop and search encounters during the scrutiny period. The review of BWV footage also provided generally positive feedback and members remain impressed with the way officers are seen to engage with subjects during encounters. Comments regarding any areas of concern have been provided to Gwent Police for follow-up and feedback to the Scrutiny Panel as appropriate.

The recommendations aim to support Gwent Police's transparency around use of stop and search, improve public confidence in its use, and promote a better understanding by the organisation of the causes of any apparent disproportionality for BAME encounters.

- 1. Gwent Police should utilise the outcomes of any unconscious bias testing to inform internal equality and diversity training. This would help ensure that stop and search powers are used correctly and effectively.**
- 2. Gwent Police should ensure that all data transfer processes are accurate, thereby providing more reliable and consistent data.**
- 3. Gwent Police should ensure that stop and search training provides a consistent and appropriate focus on what constitutes legitimate and justifiable grounds for encounters. This should further improve the quality of grounds being recorded and mitigate any risk of unjustifiable or questionable grounds being provided as the basis for stop-searches.**

- 4. Gwent Police should evidence the connections between operational activity and stop and search activity relating to age and ethnicity as a minimum. Comparing activity with demographic data will help to provide public reassurance that certain groups are not targeted for stop and search and that activity is supported by appropriate intelligence.**
- 5. Gwent Police should demonstrate an understanding of the causes of any significant changes in outcomes for BAME groups. This will help to provide reassurance regarding the accuracy of data and the reasons for any notable fluctuations in outcomes.**
- 6. Gwent Police should work with the community to build confidence and trust in the way police powers are used in Gwent, raising awareness of how to obtain copies (including accessing police stations or provisions) and how to make a complaint regarding their stop and search experience, if dissatisfied.**

The new quarterly performance reports will provide a more detailed focus on areas of concern related to continuous improvement. Recommendations and observations from the Legitimacy Scrutiny Panel reports will continue to be provided to Gwent Police for follow-up as applicable. Progress will be monitored via the Operational Tactics and Equality Meetings as appropriate.

In addition, the OPCC is undertaking an 'areas for improvement' audit to measure progress against the recommendations from previous scrutiny panel exercises. The results will be shared with the OPCC and Gwent Police in due course.

**CONTACT OFFICER**

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