



Minutes

Use of Force Scrutiny Panel – 4th December 2018

1. Welcome and introductions,

The Chair opened the meeting, introductions were made around the room and apologies noted.

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

It was agreed by the panel members that the minutes from the previous meeting held on 19st September 2018 were accurate, no changes were made.

3. Volunteer Expenses

It was advised that HR would issue a 'log in' number to the volunteers, this would enable them to record their hours, it was confirmed that retrospective hours could be claimed. The 'log in' number will also be used for the online NCALT (National Centre for Applied Learning Technologies) training that the volunteers are required to complete.

4. Training for Panel Members

The next personal safety training course to be held in January. One panel member commented on how worthwhile the training had been and how it had helped put the use of force discussed in the meeting into context and reinforce the thinking behind the officers' actions especially when viewing body worn camera footage.

5. Discussion Re quarter use of Force Figures

It was agreed by the panel members, that annual as well as quarterly figures were useful, this would allow them to identify any trends or spikes in crime across the CSPs (Community Safety Partnership).

Questions were raised around the reporting of the 'use of force in custody' it was asked if it this information could be taken out of the general figures to give a more accurate account as not all areas have custody suites.

It was agreed that the use of force figures would be sent out ahead of the next meeting, therefore giving the panel time to analyse the data and provide feedback. It was also agreed to break down the figures from the use of force monitoring group to look at comparisons between CSP's.

Further questions were asked

- a) Are there any arrests that do not have a use of force form attached? The general opinion was that use of force was used in the majority of arrests.

- b) In Athena (Police computer system) does the custody programme allow you to tick the use of force box? This is to be checked and reported on at the next meeting.



Use of Force 2nd
Quarter Report Herts.

6. Input from Professional Standards Department. Quarterly Use of Force Data

Substantive concerns were raised in relation to the reporting of complaints from the panel, at present there is no process in place. It was asked that if the panel had any concerns this would be recorded in the minutes and trigger a PSD (Professional Standards Department) Response).

In relation to the body worn camera footage it was suggested checking Storm logs which we could redact to provide headline information, this would be especially useful for footage viewed without a statement provided.

Public complaints have decreased, no identified themes were noted.

1 x Taser discharge is currently being looked at by the IOPC (Office for Police Conduct).

1 x case for excessive use of force, this has been under investigation for 6 months, the outcome is no case to answer.

7. Input from Personal Safety Training

A brief explanation was provided of the training given, it involves looking at the background, processes and thinking behind the use of force as well as tactical training and clearly justifying the use of force.

8. Review of Use of Force dip sampling focusing on, Handcuffs, Pava, Taser, Escalated force, Spit Guard

- **Handcuffs**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage, read the accompanying statement and discussed the outcome. It was agreed that the use of force applied was appropriate and necessary.

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken

- **Taser**

The panel watched the body worn camera footage, they agreed that this was an excellent example of the use of force and the statement was clear and concise.

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken and an excellent example of use of force

- **Pava**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage although the clip did not detail enough information to enable the panel to make an informed judgement, however they did not see any unnecessary use of force in the remaining footage – No statement was available.

Decision – The panel required more detailed footage and a statement to make an informed judgement.

- **Spit Guard**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage, a statement was available. It was agreed that the use of Force was appropriate

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken

- **Escalated Force**

The Panel watched the body worn camera footage however the statement was needed to clarify the reason the action had been taken...

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken

9. AOB

The idea of implementing short training questions was raised, such as first aid to keep skills current

The Panel was asked if they could review the name of the the meeting and if overview would be preferable to scrutiny.

The Chair asked the panel to review the Scrutiny panel Terms of Reference and feedback any comments at the next meeting.

It was asked if the Action Tracker could be included as Agenda item 3.



Use of Force
Scrutiny Panel Terms

Date of next meeting: January/February – to be confirmed
