



**Minutes**  
**Use of Force Scrutiny Panel – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2019**

**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**

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2019.9

**3. Expenses**

Expenses will be signed off by the Community Safety Manager or the Crime Reduction Chief Inspector.

**4, Training for Panel Members**

The volunteers who attended the training confirmed that it was intense, however extremely useful, especially having been a panel member. Some concerns were raised over new panel members attending without any prior knowledge of the Scrutiny panel. The training held was around the \*National Decision Making Model” and it was agreed by those who attended that the training was excellent.

It was confirmed that the training was “Module 1\* and was given to all new police recruits.

**ACTION**

Personal Safety Training to advise the scrutiny panel of further training dates.

**.5. Discuss Re quarter Use of Force Figures**

The Chair asked if it would be helpful to add Stevenage and Hatfield custody suites and also raised a question around the use of force graphs. Is the information detailed based on where the officers are stationed or where the incident happened? It was suggested that the raw data lines up with the officers place of work.

Questions were also asked around the level of use of force in custody suites and was it being recorded properly?

The panel were advised that the Chief Inspector CJ & Custody Command would be undertaking work to address this issue. It was noted that there had been a new computer system installed and further training may be required to get the officers to fill out the use of force forms correctly.

A large spike was noted in the data provided for Hertsmere 70 recorded last month and 103 this month.

## **ACTION**

To look at figures and possible explanation for the spike recorded in June and report back to the panel members.

### **6. Input from Professional Standards Department**

The new Head PSD Business Management attended. This was her first scrutiny panel meeting. Discussions were held between the volunteer members around the information required at the next meeting.

It was agreed that at the next meeting 2 or 3 examples of public complaints would be looked at by the panel.

## **ACTION**

Examples to be brought to the next meeting.

### **7. Input from Team Leader, Personal Safety Training**

#### **Spit Guard**

The panel were informed that Hertfordshire were now introducing new spit guards, she brought the old one and new one for the panel members to see, the new one provides far more visibility. Each spit guard is only used once and disposed of in the hazards bin in custody,

#### **Pava**

It was confirmed that new Beds, Cams & Herts recruits are no longer required to undergo Pava exposure. There are concerns amongst Herts officers that this will not prepare the new officers when they are required to use it. There have been reports of new officers testing it on themselves in an uncontrolled environment.

### **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. Unfortunately there was no sound available and it was agreed that without the statement it would not be possible to comment. However with the statement the use of force applied was found to be appropriate..

#### **Decision – Appropriate Use of Force**

- **Spit Guard**

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

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force**

- **Pava**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement, it was agreed that the appropriate action was taken.

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force**

- **Taser**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement. With the statement it was clear why the car had been stopped and that the officers had prior knowledge of the offender.

Questions were raised about the safety issues of using a Taser so near to a petrol station.

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force.**

Clarification to be sought around Taser use near petrol stations.
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- **Escalated Force**

The panel watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement, it was agreed that appropriate use of force was taken.

Concerns were raised amongst the serving police officers at the meeting around the practise of handcuffing to the front rather than behind, this was deemed to be dangerous and put the officers at risk.'

**Decision – Appropriate Use of Force**

<b>ACTION</b>
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Handcuffing to the front to be raised as a potential risk.
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**9 Any Other Business**

No other business.

**Date of next meeting:** To be confirmed