



Minutes

Use of Force Scrutiny Panel – 19th September 2018

1. Welcome and introductions,

The Crime Reduction Chief Inspector 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 21st June 2018 were accurate, no changes were made. It was decided that moving forward the actions would be recorded on an action tracker.

3. Volunteer Expenses

The volunteers advised that they were still awaiting clarification on how to claim their expenses. This would be resolved before the next meeting. This Action is recorded on the action tracker.

4. Discussion Re quarter Use of Force Figures

Discussions were held around the format and timeframe of the recorded use of Force figures. The panel decided that yearly figures would be the most beneficial, and possibly a bar chart, this would allow them to highlight any trends. It was noted that there could be some misrepresentation in the figures owing to the number of 'use of force' forms completed for one incident. It was confirmed that a use of force form should be completed by all officers attending an incident where use of force had been applied, this also included use of force applied in custody. Further discussions were held around the recording of use of force in custody, also if the forms were being used for every incident. A further discussion was held around reviewing the data figures recorded whilst Athena and TuServ were implemented.

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

Carried over to the next meeting.

6. Input from Personal Safety Training

A brief overview was given of the personal protection training given to Tri Force officers. The volunteer members of the panel were welcome to attend the 10 day course but it was felt that at this stage it would be more useful for them to attend the first day only, which covers the law, legislation and decision making.

7. 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. The Personal Safety Training representative commented that they would like to re develop the training to introduce new skills when offenders are on the ground. The training would have to be ratified with The College of Policing to be nationally approved.

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken

- **Spit Guard**

The panel watched the body worn camera footage, however the statement was unavailable the group agreed that they did require a statement to accompany the camera footage as it was difficult to make an informed judgement without it. With the information provided it was agreed that the use of Force was appropriate , including good thought processes and decision making were implemented especially as the offender was vulnerable and under 18 years old.

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken

- **Pava**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement. It was agreed that the use of Force was necessary, however the panel would like to have seen the thought process as to why the Pava was used and increased risk during the job verbalized in the statement.

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken

- **Taser**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage, no accompanying statement was available. It was agreed that the use of Force was appropriate, however without the statement the panel struggled to understand why the officers had entered the night club.

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken

- **Escalated Force**

The Panel watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement, it was agreed that this was a perfect example of use of force by a very experienced officer. The offender was detained and handcuffed quickly, this was important as a group of children were watching. The statement was well written.

Decision – Appropriate Action Taken

7. AOB

Date of next meeting: to be confirmed