



Minutes
Use of Force Scrutiny Panel – Thursday 24th October 2019

1. Welcome and introductions

The Chair opened the meeting and apologies were noted. A panel member confirmed that he would be resigning from the Scrutiny Panel owing to other commitments, he said “I have thoroughly enjoyed the work we do on the panel and I feel it is making a difference to the public perception of the use of force.”

2. Minutes and actions from last meeting

The minutes were agreed as a true and accurate record of the meeting held on Tuesday 16th July 2019. The actions were updated as detailed below.

ACTION

To look at figures and possible explanation for the spike recorded in June and report back to the panel members. - **24:10:19 Carried forward to the next meeting.**

ACTION

PSD to discuss the complaints examples to be brought to the next meeting. **24:10:19 – Moving Forward PSD will give examples during the meeting. Action Completed**

ACTION

Clarification was sought around Taser use near petrol stations. – **24; 10:19 There is no specific rule around using Taser near a petrol station- justification is taken at the time. Action Completed**

ACTION

Concerns were raised with Senior Officers about handcuffing to the front. **It was advised that on occasion there were medical implications that required handcuffing to the front. Action Completed however subject not closed.**

3. Expenses

No concerns regarding expenses claims.

4. Training for Panel Members

Future training dates to be forwarded.

5. Discuss Re quarter Use of Force Figures

Discussions were held around the additional use of force in custody, questions were asked regarding the recording of the use of force, is this done in the custody suite or elsewhere? Although the use of force form does ask the question, is it being answered correctly?

ACTION

Are the use of force forms being filled out correctly and being used in custody? **24:10:19 - ongoing**

Spikes were noted in the Data , for example Dacorums figures were down and Hertsmere's were up , the panel would like to review the data more closely if possible to establish why this is happening.

ACTION

To look at the data more closely and establish effectiveness by each CSP.

6. Input from Professional Standards Department

In February 2020 a change is being made to how public complaints and conduct are dealt with. There will be collaboration with the BCH PCCs,

- Model 1- The Force will examine and deal with complaints.
- Model 2- The PCC office will examine and deal with complaints.

Herts will continue to use Model 1 with the Force reviewing and dealing with complaints. Professional Standards read out the complaints received, the investigations were concluded and none upheld.

7. Input from Team Leader, Personal Safety Training

The panel discussed the use of Taser and discussions continued around handcuffing to the front.

8. Review of Use of force dip sampling focusing on:

- **Handcuffs**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage, read the accompanying statement and discussed the outcome. It was agreed that without the statement it would not be possible to make an accurate assessment. With the statement it was agreed that the use of force was appropriate.

Decision – Appropriate Use of Force

- **Taser**

The panel members watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement. Discussions were held around the rationalization of the thought process before using a Taser. It was explained to the panel that often the Taser was pointed at the suspect but not used as the threat of the Taser was enough to achieve a positive outcome.

Decision – Appropriate Use of Force.

- **Spit Guard** The panel watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement, then discussed the decision to get the suspect out of the car for his own safety. It was agreed that the level of force used was appropriate and the statement was very detailed, well written and an excellent example of how it should be done.

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 use of force was taken. However discussions were held around the use of PAVA and the decision in some Forces not to get new recruits to try it on themselves. Concerns were raised as the panel felt it would be beneficial to understand what it feels like, so as not to be alarmed if they were in a situation where they accidentally got sprayed with it.

Decision – Appropriate Use of Force

- **Escalated Force**

The panel watched the body worn camera footage and read the accompanying statement, it was agreed that the statement did not include enough detail, for example the leg restraints used in the body worn footage were not mentioned. Discussions were also held around the decision to go to custody or seek medical advice and go straight to the hospital.

Decision – Appropriate Use of Force

ACTION

To discuss decision making around suspects being taken to custody or hospital.

9 Any Other Business

It was suggested by the Chair that the panel meet six times a year (every other month) to provide a deeper look at each “Use of Force”. For example one month look at only Taser and Pava dip samples , then the next month look at all samples (as we currently do).The

following month take another deeper look into only use two “Use of Force” such as Handcuffs and Escalated.

The Panel agreed to this, work commitments permitting, however the Chair advised he would consult for final approval.

Date of next meeting: 24th January 2019