

Independent Ethics Panel Exception Report

Exception Report	Report Author
Independent Ethics Panel	Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel
	Date of the Report
	05/01/21 (for PAB on 11/01/21)

Urgent:	No
Security Classification	Official

Exceptions

The Independent Ethics panel (IEP) assists the Commissioner in understanding the progress being made in delivering the 'Fair Treatment' strategic priority of his Police and Crime Plan. The Panel last met on 16 December 2020.

Reports to the Independent Ethics Panel – exceptions for noting

1. Hate Crime Update

- 1.1 Chief Superintendent S Poolman, SYP's Hate Crime Lead, presented a detailed hate crime update.
- 1.2 The Panel received information on the national increase in the number of hate crimes recorded in 2019/20 compared with 2018/19 – 8%. The majority of hate crimes were race hate crimes. Religious hate crimes fell by 5%. This was the first fall in religious hate crime since 2012/13. Sexual orientation hate crimes increased by 19%, disability hate crime by 9% and transgender identified hate crimes by 16%.
- 1.3 Over half of the hate crimes recorded by the police were public order offences and a further third were for violence against the person offences. The Panel noted that this correlated with SYP's findings.
- 1.4 The Panel noted that locally, between October 2019 and September 2020, the total volume of hate crimes and incidents in SYP has increased by 26% when compared to the previous 12 months. All districts have seen a rise in hate crime in the last 12 months. The Panel were pleased to hear that hate crime coordinators continue to

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engage with all communities and community support groups to raise awareness and to work with partners to prevent hate crime.

- 1.5 The Panel received information on the increase in race hate crime, whilst it is not the highest percentage increase, does represent the largest numerical increase. Analysis shows that 55% of this rise occurred in the last 3 months of this period (quarter 2) and directly correlates with the murder of George Floyd and the rise of the Black Lives Matter movement. Race hate crime rose from an average of 173 crimes per month to 260 in June, 234 in July, 264 in August and 210 in September. What is interesting is that the rise in race hate crime is attributable to an increase in reports from white victims as well as Asian and black victims.
- 1.6 The Panel welcomed the increase in hate crime victim satisfaction. Nationally, hate crime victim satisfaction sits approximately 15% below that of all crime victim satisfaction. SYP have undertaken a lot of work around this and since February, there has been consistent improvements. A year-on-year comparison shows a 13% improvement to 77%, which is only 4-5% below the all crime victim satisfaction rate.dat
- 1.7 The Panel welcomed the data provided on victims and suspects.

2 Diversity, Equality & Inclusion

- 2.1 The Panel received an update from A Macaskill, the IEP's interim lead member for Diversity, Equality & Inclusion.
- 2.2 An update was provided from the Force Diversity, Confidence and Equality Board. The Panel expressed concern around the increase in violence against officers. A 30% increase which equates to 16 officers being assaulted each week.

3 Stop and Search

- 3.1 The Panel received an update from M Lewis, the IEP's lead member for Stop and Search.
- 3.2 M Lewis had attended a meeting between representatives of the Black Community, the Commissioner, ACC Tim Forber (Local Policing) and staff of the OPCC. He highlighted to the Panel the perceptions of the needs of the African Caribbean and black communities who feel they are being neglected except for when they are being over policed. This links to the work of the Panel in relation to the number of BAME

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police officers in the Force and the current recruitment campaign to recruit more BAME officers.

4 Body Worn Video Footage

- 4.1 The Chair had attended Carbrook to view Body Worn Video footage and supporting documentation on behalf of the Panel following a request from the Deputy Chief Constable. This related to an allegation of racial profiling and a discharge of an attenuating energy projectile (AEP) round.
- 4.2 The Panel were able to provide assurance to the PCC on the professional, calm and controlled way officers had dealt with two difficult situations.

Recommendations

The Commissioner is recommended to consider the contents of the report and comment on any matters arising.

Report author details

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Signed:
 A Macaskill

Date:
 05/01/21