

Independent Ethics Panel Exception Report

Exception Report	Report Author
Independent Ethics Panel	Chair of the Independent Ethics Panel
	Date of the Report
	24 May 2021 (for PAB on 10/06/21)

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 27 April 2021.

Reports to the Independent Ethics Panel – exceptions for noting

1. Use of Force

- 1.1 Superintendent K Bradley, Use of Force Lead, presented a report on the Use of Force within South Yorkshire Police for the period September 2020 until the end of March 2021 (Quarter 3 and 4).
- 1.2 Information was provided to the Panel on the number of Use of Force reports submitted which had broken down into district, gender, ethnicity and the tactics used.
- 1.3 Detailed information was also provided on two incidents where Use of Force had been used on two people under the age 11. The Panel was reassured that safeguarding arrangements are in place with partner agencies when incidents like these arise.
- 1.4 The Panel expressed their concern around the number of officers injured on duty and requested more information on this be included in the next update.

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- 1.5 The Panel were able to provide assurance to the PCC that figures relating to gender, ethnicity and tactics used were consistent and no disproportionality had been identified.

2 Stop and Search

- 2.1 M Lewis, the IEP's lead member for Stop and Search, provided an update.
- 2.2 Members of the Panel had met with Supt S Gilmour, SYP's Lead on Stop and Search to explore the future work of the Panel. A standardised process for the scrutiny of Stop and Search using Body Worn Video is being developed.
- 2.3 The Panel expressed concern around the level of scrutiny being undertaken in the interim period and offered to undertake some form of Stop and Search scrutiny until a process is in place. This is currently being considered.

3 Scrutiny of Fixed Penalty Notices issued for Covid-19 Breaches

- 3.1 A meeting with Inspector S Usher had taken place in relation to Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) issued for Covid-19 breaches.
- 3.2 A pro forma developed with members of the Panel had been used and Body Worn Video had been viewed.
- 3.3 Members of the Panel are working with officers from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and SYP to establish if further scrutiny is required.
- 3.3 The Panel were able to provide assurance to the PCC around the process put in place to scrutinise the FPNs.

4 Work with the Internal Ethics Committee

- 4.1 A review of SYP's Internal Ethics Committee has taken place and an independent chair has been appointed.
- 4.2 An introductory meeting with the Committee took place on 4 April 2021. This included a training session by the IEP Chair. A further training session for new members is scheduled to take place prior to the next meeting.
- 4.3 Further discussions are due to take place around how the IEP and SYP's Internal Ethics Committee work together.

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5 Work of the Panel

5.1 The following Panel members have been allocated to the below themes:

- Stop and Search – M Lewis and S Wright
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusion – M Hood and E Smart
- Hate Crime – S Wright and E Smart
- Digital Policing – A Raven and A Macaskill

5.2 It was also agreed that A Raven would become link member for Use of Force and M Hood would undertake work in relation to Wellbeing.

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:
 24.05.21