



Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Notes and actions

Tuesday 29th November 2022

The Leadon, HQ

1. Welcome and Introductions.

Attendees – Paul Stickler, Amanda Dearlove, Chris Barnes, Andy Baldwin, Paul Lane, Paresh Bhadeshia, Jon Cann, Andy Kilmurray, Jane Harris, Atira Burton, James Gibson, Aatiqah Patel, Jenni Rawes, Adam Stevens.

Apologies – Becky Beard, Ben Rollins, Ben Smith, Alan Bartholomew, Carl Bourne. The Chair opened the meeting, introductions were made around the room and apologies noted.

2. Minutes and Actions from last meeting

These were sent out to all attendees and would be noted as correct unless anyone came back with any points to raise. Outstanding actions were discussed and also closed during the meeting.

Action 83 – Use of unique reference number for each submission. This is a work in progress and could go on for months. Action closed.

Action 86 – Use of Force submissions, under 11 years to be monitored and checked by Chris Barnes and Mandy Dearlove. Anything which brings cause for concern will be reported back to the chair. Action closed.

3. Quarterly Use of Force Figures and PowerPoint

The PowerPoint was discussed. It was asked that for the next meeting the 16+1 ethnicity breakdown was used for the figures rather than the six headings as shown today. This was marked as Action 89 and recorded in the action log.

Action 89 Update – Nationally 16+1 is no longer used. The correct classification is now 18+1 for all self-defined ethnicity data. The Home Office guides that only ethnicity of subject (officer perceived) has to be recorded on UoF forms. This is a far smaller list of options to choose. The National options are White, Black (or Black British), Asian (or Asian British), Mixed, Other.

Therefore Gloucestershire Constabulary cannot change the National recording standards.

It was commented by the Chair that the report was very useful in its current contexts rather than working through the Dashboard, but it would be very beneficial for members of the

panel to have access to the dashboard and all requests to go through Carl Bourne for access to the system.

4. Professional Standards Department

Jane Harris reported to the panel that the most common complaints are coming from use of handcuffs and numbers of officers attending incidents.

Aug 2022 – 13 allegations made. Four are still live cases, six were found to be acceptable levels of service, one complaint withdrawn.

Sept 2022 – 10 allegations, three are still live cases. Oct 2022 – Six allegations, four are still live cases These are all in relation to complaints of Use of Force.

Body Worn Video (BWV) is still proving to be the best form of evidence for staff and needs to be promoted constantly.

5. Learning and Development (Training and Taser) Update

The force currently has 326 Taser trained and deployable police officers, with 13 currently restricted or awaiting further training. In Jan 2023 we have another Taser course starting to include members of the Special Constabulary.

Since July 2022 there have been 108 Taser usages, which include all seven usages. This includes four fired (full debrief conducted after each one).

Jon commented that it was evident that BWV isn't being used as often as it should be, and he has sent an email to all Taser and firearms officers reminding them of its importance and the repercussions of not using it.

6. Terms of Reference Review

The panel had been sent a copy of the terms prior to the meeting, and only one amendment was noted. Can we include the Better Together Team as a Core attendee? This was noted as Action 93 and recorded on the log.

Action 93 Update – ToR changed to reflect recommendation

7. Review of Use of Force incidents

All of the cases will be categorised as either: BLACK – Failed to agree

RED – Inappropriate

AMBER – Appropriate with comments

GREEN – Appropriate

The panel reviewed 6 cases, all of which involved PCSO's submitting the forms.

Case 1 –

Summary:

999 call made to police from a resident of Cheltenham reporting another resident was riding a go kart in the road dangerously and their partner was looking into people's houses with binoculars. Police had attended that address earlier in the day with a warrant (breach of injunction) for the male, therefore both officers and PCSO's returned to ascertain what was going on.

Male was arrested outside the address but became volatile with staff and was restrained.

Use of Force submitted for restraining the male physically.

Panel Decision: GREEN

Case 2 –

Summary

999 call made to police from First Great Western Trains reporting a female was trying to jump onto the train tracks.

Two PCSOs were first on the scene and detained the female straight away, and were shortly after joined by a crew from the ARV (Armed Response Vehicle).

The female was being very volatile and aggressive towards the police officers and she was detained by police under the Mental Health Act and taken to The Maxwell Suite and left in the care of the mental health specialists.

Use of Force submitted for restraining the female.

Panel Decision: GREEN

Case 3 –

Duplicate of case 2, both officers submitted Use of Force forms – which was noted by the panel as excellent work.

Summary

999 call made to police from First Great Western Trains reporting a female was trying to jump onto the train tracks.

Two PCSOs were first on the scene and detained the female straight away, and were shortly after joined by a crew from the ARV (Armed Response Vehicle).

The female was being very volatile and aggressive towards the police officers and she was detained by police under the Mental Health Act and taken to The Maxwell Suite and left in the care of the mental health specialists.

Panel Decision: GREEN

Case 4 –

Summary

Request on the police radio from a PCSO reporting a wanted male had been sighted walking through Gloucester town.

The male was stopped by the officer as he left McDonald's and detained physically as he has previously run from police. Police officers arrived and the male was arrested.

Use of Force submitted for detaining the male.

Panel Decision: GREEN

Case 5 –

Summary

Request on the police radio from PCSO Walton reporting a male had been found who had fallen off his bike and was out cold.

He was encouraged onto his feet but was drunk and aggressive and trying to ride his broken bike and walking in a bus lane.

The male was only a minute from his house and was seen home by officers. Use of Force submitted for getting hands on with the male.

Panel Decision: GREEN

Case 6 –

Summary

Request on the police radio from a PCSO regarding a wanted male in Gloucester town.

He was detained by two PCSOs and a police officer assisted them shortly after. Male was arrested for outstanding offences.

Use of Force submitted for detaining the male.

Panel Decision: GREEN

8. AOB

None

9. Date of next meeting – TBC