



Our Ref: 000874/21

Your Ref:

Address Correspondence to: Information Management

Date 20 April 2021

Freedom of Information Act 2000

I write further to your request for information received 15/03/2021.

I note you seek access to the following information:

1. *Does your police force, as of the current date, have an Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel?*
 - a. *If yes: How often do they meet?*
 - i. *What date (DD/MM/YYYY) was the panel first operational?*
 - ii. *How many of the people currently on the panel are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background? (Could you also tell me the total number of people on the panel as of the current date).*
 - b. *If your force does have such a panel, are panel members made to review a sample of stop and search records and related body-worn video footage at meetings? This can be a simple Yes or No answer.*
 - c. *If your force does have such a panel, what sort of mandatory training do panel members receive in order to perform their role?*
 - d. *If your force does not currently have an operational Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel, have official plans been drawn up that would see the implementation of one in the future? (If so, please specify when)*
2. *Does your force provide body-worn video cameras to your officers? If so, to which ones, and is its use mandatory for specific activities (for example, but not limited to: during stop and searches- please specify)?*
 - a. *If they are indeed provided to officers, between 1 March 2020 and 28 February 2021, how often did your police force review body-worn video footage as part of your internal monitoring and external scrutiny of stop and search and use of force?*

Following receipt of your request, searches were conducted within Leicestershire Police to locate information relevant to your request.

Your request for information has now been considered and the information asked for is as follows: -

1. Leicestershire Police currently have an independent Stop and Search scrutiny panel. This is currently chaired by the director of The Race Equality Centre. Other attendees are invited community members, the fire and Police advisory

group for equality, a representative from the OPCC, legal advocates and youth group representatives.

- a. They meet bi-monthly
 - i. The panel has been operational for around 15 years, it was originally called the Stop Search Reference Group but changed to become the Coercive Powers Scrutiny Group around 2.5 years ago.
 - ii. Currently there are 15 people on the panel and 11 are from a Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic background.
 - b. Yes, panel members are able to select BWV that they can review. In the spirit of transparency the selection is completely their choice. Leicestershire Police do not interfere with or sanitise the video in any way. Feedback is then provided to the Officers concerned, and also where applicable we take on any organisational learning.
 - c. They do not receive mandatory training as part of the panel.
 - d. N/A
2. All operational, front-line Officers (and PCSOs) in Leicestershire Police have personal issue BWV. As a Force we use cameras provided by Reveal Media. BWV is used in a number of different policing activities, including pre-planned policing operations. We take cognizance of the legal requirements around information recording, and retention. As such the use of BWV is contingent on the specific situation being dealt with. However its use is mandated in domestic incidents/crimes and all Stop and Search encounters.
- a. Our Force currently has a Stop and Search Tactical Group. They undertake internal dip sampling of BWV. They reviewed BWV on at least 45 Occasions between Jan 2020 and April 2021

Leicestershire Police provides you the right to ask for a re-examination of your request under its review procedure. Letters should be addressed to Information Manager, Corporate Services Department at the above address. If you decide to request such a review and having followed the Force's full process you are still dissatisfied, then you have the right to direct your comments to the Information Commissioner who will give it consideration.

Yours sincerely

Freedom of Information Officer
Leicestershire Police

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