

Ethics and Transparency Panel
19 September 2023, Main Conference FHQ

Present

Mr Vipal Karavadra (CHAIR)

Dr Louise Bradley

Mr Matthew Youngs

Mr Kieran Breen

Ms Kathleen Harris-Leighton

Also in attendance

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

Mrs R Mahal, (Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner)

Mrs C Trewartha, (Chief Executive, OPCC)

Mrs S Pattani, (Evaluation and Scrutiny Officer, OPCC)

Ms A Dearden (Business Staff Officer)

Office of the Chief Constable (OCC)

Mr D Sandall, (Deputy Chief Constable)

Mrs A Tompkins, (Head of Professional Standards)

Mr J Thompson, (Inspector, Body Worn Videos)

Apologies

Apologies were noted for: Ms S Blair, (Communications and PR, OPCC); Mr R Randall (Head of Custody), Mr C Baker (Strategic Lead for Tackling VAWG), Ms Lisa Vine (Panel member) and Mr C Kealey (Head of Communications and Engagement).

Urgent Business/Chair's Updates

The Chair introduced two new panel members to the meeting, Mr Kieran Breen and Ms Kathleen Harris-Leighton.

Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest raised.

Minutes of meetings of the Ethics and Transparency Panel held on 28 June 2023

It was agreed that the minutes are a true and accurate record of the meeting held.

Emerging National and Local Issues

Strip Search of Females in Police Custody

DCC Sandall explained to members that the report is a follow-on from the previous report tabled at the last meeting. It was agreed the report in June did not contain enough details and further information/details are included in the report now.

The panel were invited to ask questions and the following were raised:

- How do the force deal with complexities such as religious clothing
 - o DCC Sandall discussed that Officers are proportionate on what they search. They will always try to do things the right way and seek guidance where required. They would carry out searches in the most dignified way.
- How a search is carried out on a female whom is on her menstrual cycle
 - o Ms Tompkins explained there would always be two females completing the search. A question would be asked if they are on their cycle. If it was suspected something may be hidden, a doctor would always be involved with the removal. Each case is individually risk assessed.
 - o If the individual is known to be a drug user or suspected drug user, they individual would be asked to remove any needles under supervision. If nothing is then declared but Officers still suspect something may be hidden internally, Doctors can request an x-ray/CT scan.
 - o Ms Harris-Leighton questioned what is covered by the term "miscellaneous".
Action: DCC Sandall explained he will find out what crimes this relates to.

Death in Police Custody

DCC Sandall highlighted to members that this matter has been referred to the IOPC who will take over the investigation.

It was noted that there has been an impact on the broader policing team, and that welfare support is ongoing.

Dip-Sampling

Complaints Dip-Sampling

The Chair and Dr Bradley discussed that they completed a session a couple of ago.

Ms Tompkins explained to all members the usual process which will be followed going forward (handwritten notes, typed up by OPCC staff, sent to PSD for comment, shared with the panel).

It was highlighted that if an Officer receives 3 or more public complaints in 12 months, the Officer will be highlighted to PSD as it may imply that some Officer may need retraining in certain areas.

Action: *it was agreed to bring back statistics on how many officers have had 3 or more complaints in a 12-month period.*

Ethical Dilemma for Discussion

Pride Parade and Stonewall

It was agreed to carry forward this agenda item to the next meeting taking place in December.

Forward Plan

Nothing raised.

Any Other Business

It was noted that Ms Dearden is in the process of setting future meeting dates, and confirmed dates will be shared at the next meeting.

It was proposed that the next dip-sampling session should take place late October – early November.

The Panel thanked Ms Jawaahir Daahir for her contribution to the panel as she has now resigned due to personal circumstances.

Action: to organise new member visits to PSD (Ms Tompkins)

Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday 19 December 2023