

Police Powers External Advisory Panel

Terms of Reference

Aims

- To act as a critical friend to the Police and Crime Commissioner and to Northumbria Police by providing feedback on reviewed Police Powers records and video footage, including stop and search and use of force.
- To improve and maintain public trust and confidence in Northumbria Police by supporting the openness and transparency of the force in delivering responsive and high-quality services to its communities.

Objectives

- To identify issues, common themes, and trends in the use of force and stop and search, focusing in particular at the impact of police decision-making on diverse and vulnerable communities.
- To ensure the force's use of Police Powers is effective in line with Approved Professional Practice and any concerns are reviewed and lessons are learnt where appropriate.
- To identify best practice in the use of Police Powers, thereby improving the quality of policing provided to members of the public.

Methodology

- The panel will review records and body worn video footage and provide feedback on each case, focusing on a particular category of Police Power deployed.
- Meetings could include small group discussions, site visits and discussions with police officers/staff and others where appropriate.

Confidentiality

- Panel members must maintain confidentiality and not reveal any information about police records and information and personal data of police officers and members of the public.
- The requirements of the General Data Protection Regulation will apply to all work undertaken by Panel Members.

Selection of Panel Members

- Members of the Panel will be appointed by the OPCC, comprising of people with lived experience and members from key diverse communities across Northumbria, including those representing people who are neurodivergent or may have poor mental health.
- Members are expected to disclose to the OPCC any changes in their circumstances which may have a bearing on their membership, which will be for an initial 3 years.

- Panel members are expected to act within these Terms of Reference and are expected to commit and attend meetings regularly.

Chairing and frequency of meetings

- The Panel meetings will be chaired by the OPCC, which will also provide administrative support and writing reports of meeting findings and the circulation of relevant papers prior to meetings.
- The Panel will meet quarterly to view video footage of use of force and stop and search and six monthly to review performance reports, and the frequency of meetings could increase, in response to any emerging issues.
- The agenda and relevant papers will be generated by the OPCC and circulated at least seven days prior to the meeting.

Reporting

- The minutes after each Panel meeting will be available to the public in a format agreed by the OPCC, and Northumbria Police will produce a written response to the Panel's feedback.
- Reports from Panel meetings will feed into Northumbria Police's Confidence and Standards Board, via the Stop and Search and Use of Force leads.

Training

- Panel members will receive training from the OPCC and Northumbria Police to assist them in developing their knowledge and any ongoing learning.

Rights and Responsibilities

- Panel members are expected to abide by these Terms of Reference, respect other members and any conflicts will be resolved with dignity and professionalism.
- Panel members will undergo a vetting process and refer any personal issues, such as any conflict of interest which could interfere with their membership, to the OPCC.

Review of Terms of Reference

- These Terms of Reference will be reviewed annually and amended as necessary.