



Buckinghamshire

Community Scrutiny Panel

Reporting period: April 2025-March 2026





Leadership messages

A message from the chair Rachel Mozley

I am delighted to introduce this annual report from the Independent Community Scrutiny Panel on their work program with regards to Body Worn Video reviews over this last year 2025-2026.

I comment the dedication and integrity of the Panel members, who have consistently challenged processes, posed challenging questions, and provided invaluable feedback. I would like to thank each and everyone who has served on this panel for giving their time so freely.

Their work embodies the principle that effective policing must be not only by consent but with community involvement at its core.

Their independent oversight is essential in helping build trust between the police and the communities they serve – particularly among those who may feel disproportionately affected by such practices.



Leadership messages

A message from the chair Rachel Mozley

This report reflects the collective commitment to transparency, accountability, and community involvement that underpins effective policing in Buckinghamshire by Thames Valley Police. It sets out achievements, challenges, and areas for future development.

I encourage all readers to reflect on the insights shared within.



A message from Chief Superintendent Simon Mason

Buckinghamshire LCU has benefited from strong engagement with its Community Scrutiny Panel, whose members bring a breadth of professional experience and independent perspective.

The panel's constructive contribution has strengthened the quality and legitimacy of operational policing, generating clear, actionable learning to support officer development across the LCU.

Insights from Panel reviews have sharpened our focus on disproportionality and on the fair, effective and transparent use of Stop and Search powers. This remains a priority for Buckinghamshire LCU, with panel oversight providing internal challenge and strengthening public confidence in how Stop and Search is conducted.





A message from Chief Superintendent Simon Mason

Feedback from the panel is consistently shared with officers and supervisors, reinforcing accountability and reflective practice. As a result, oversight of Stop and Search encounters has improved, with clearer expectations and stronger supervision.

Independent community oversight, alongside strong internal governance is essential to ensuring Stop and Search is carried out appropriately, proportionately and in line with public expectations. It also supports the development of our frontline workforce and strengthens trust and confidence across Buckinghamshire.

I remain committed to maintaining high standards in the use of these powers and to ensuring they are exercised fairly, lawfully and proportionately. This is fundamental to operational legitimacy and will remain centra to our approach.





About the group

The Community Scrutiny Panel meet on a bi-monthly basis to scrutinise officers' use of Stop and Search and Use of Force from Body Worn Video footage. It is comprised of volunteer community members who live, work or study in Buckinghamshire and are diverse as to age, gender and ethnicity.

Facilitated by Inspector Harry Gehnich and Community & Diversity Officer, Karen Adamson, members are encouraged to speak freely and honestly to ensure the genuine view of the citizen is captured.

We scrutinise Police interaction with the public where officers have exercised Stop and Search and Use of Force powers. We help to ensure that these powers are being used appropriately and ethically. As a member of the Community Scrutiny Panel, we are trained to ensure we can play an active role in monitoring and ensuring these powers are exercised correctly, proportionately and professionally.



About the group

Collectively we have suggested and implemented many changes to help promote greater Community confidence and trust in our Police Force by providing external and unbiased scrutiny of Stop and Search and Use of Force powers.



Meetings & membership

- Number of meetings held: 4
- April 2025 – 3 people attending
- July 2025 – 5 people attending
- October 2025 – 5 people attending
- January 026 – 3 people attending
- Average attendance per meeting: 4
- Police representation: Inspector Gehnich & CADO Karen Adamson (where possible)





Meetings & membership

- **Member diversity summary:** In early 2025, the panel was diverse; Students, adults in work, retired, different ethnicities and situations of life. This delivered good feedback and interesting perspectives.
- **Identified gaps:** Although the group benefits from a number of consistent attendees and a wider cohort of 17 volunteers, continued recruitment is required to maintain resilience, broaden representation and ensure that those with the interest and availability to participate can do so.
- **Recruitment aims:** To continue to grow our group of volunteers and to continue to effectively represent our communities.





What we focused on



What we focused on

Date	BWV clips reviewed	Theme	Examples of good practice & discussion points
April 2025	3	Stop and Search & Section 60	Panel observations that they wanted to see officers more robust with subjects. This included taking better physical control of searches. Good GOWISELY delivered.
July 2025	3	Stop and Search & Section 23 misuse of drugs act	Panel observations reflected on a search where JOG principles were not adhered to, with multiple under layers being worn by the subject. Feedback was delivered to the searching officer, but also more broadly to all frontline officers in Buckinghamshire.



What we focused on

Date	BWV clips reviewed	Theme	Examples of good practice & discussion points
October 2025	3	Stop and Search & Section 1 PACE	Panel observations were wholly positive with no comments or learning.
January 2026	3	Stop check, Section 163 Road Traffic Act, Stop and Search & Section 23 misuse of drug act	S163 stops were assessed as appropriate. Officer communication adjustments suggested and feedback shared. The panel were pleased that during a search the officer asked about wearing another pair of trousers underneath – showing positive reflection on the previous scrutiny and learning shared.



Issues Raised – Actions Taken

You said (issue)	We did (action)
Better Physical control of subjects	Feedback shared with Officers in Buckinghamshire to inspire confidence when searching.
Searching officer praise and feedback	Bespoke feedback and praise were delivered to the officers. This covered from their approaches, empathy being shown, language used and officer safety considerations. These were positively received by the officers.



Reflections on How the Panel is Working

What worked well:

- The process of relaying feedback to the officers via their supervisors has worked well. Officers value the feedback.
- The reviews have also helped identify themes which have been fed back to the front line around particular working practices.

What we want to improve:

- Drawing on learning from other areas of Thames Valley Police, having a monthly meeting on a fixed day and time i.e. last Thursday of the month to build consistency and ease for volunteers.
- Further learning from other areas of Thames Valley Police, having a frontline officer as part of the review process to offer a practitioner's perspective.
- Continue to grow the panel.
- Maximise the different skills that the individual panel members possess in driving improvements for TVP.



Areas of Future Focus

Cycle	Proposed Areas of Focus
April 2026	Use of Force scrutiny – Unarmed skills
June 2026	Use of Force scrutiny – CAPTOR incapacitant spray and/or Baton (used or dram)
August 2026	Use of Force Scrutiny – Limb restraints and/or spit hood
November 2026	Stop and Search scrutiny – Stolen Property S.1.PACE
January 2027	Stop and Search Scrutiny – Offensive Weapon/bladed article – S.1 PACE



How to get involved

Have you noticed any changes in how Thames Valley Police use their powers?

Your views and experiences are important to us.

If you have any questions about the Community Scrutiny Panel, please contact:
scrutiny@thamesvalley.police.uk.

We are committed to supporting members' learning and development through training and informal learning sessions and seek your valuable input to help shape and improve what and how services are delivered to our communities.