

# London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 11 July 2022

## Membership

Professor Suzanne Shale (Chair)  
Dr Jyoti Belur  
Professor Jennifer Brown  
Abdul Hye Miah  
Professor Bryan Edwards (apologies)

## Research Adviser

Professor Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing

## Observer

James Bottomley, MOPAC  
Commander Jon Savell, MPS  
Inspector Ben Smith, MPS

## Interim Report – More Thorough Searches Exposing Intimate Parts

1. The Panel agreed that its interim report on the ethical considerations around conducting More Thorough Searches (MTIPS) would:
  - Identify what it is about MTIPS that raised concerns.
  - Consider how it could be conducted to minimise harm and intrusion.
  - Outline the data required to demonstrate publicly that MTIPS were undertaken in a fair and proportionate manner.
  
2. The Panel developed its views on the contents of the report. It:
  - Noted that further information was needed in order for it to recommend a minimum data set and that there was a cost to data collection.
  - Considered the value of including examples to help to bring the issues to life but recognised the risk of examples being used as precedents. A scenario approach may be useful.
  - Recognised that having the power to force people to undress is an extraordinary power and therefore extra protections were needed. Each case needed to be considered on its own merits.
  - Noted that as well as social mores relating to being naked, also to be considered by officers were potential religious sensitivities and past experiences of abuse and discrimination.
  - Discussed the negative impact carrying out MTIPS could have on officers. For an officer it could be unpleasant, impact on their religious sensitivities and involve a negative power imbalance. While there were published studies on the impact on medics of undertaking intimate searches, there did not appear to be similar studies on the impact on police officers.
  - Noted that strip searches (in custody) were not defined by law, but that MTIPS were.

- Discussed the important role of procedural justice.
- Noted the different impact MTIPS would have on children and adults.
- Discussed the role of public oversight, organisational learning, supervision and individual officer learning/reflective practice.

### **Panel Development**

3. The Chair advised that she would be having a one to one discussion with the Panel members, seeking their views on their contribution to the Panel's work.

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The Panel's next meeting will be on 8 August 2022.