

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 12 September 2022

Membership

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

Research Adviser

Professor Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing

Observers

James Bottomley, MOPAC
Inspector Ben Smith, MPS

The Panel started the meeting with a minute silence to pay respect to The Queen following her death on 8 September, and to reflect on her unwavering public service.

Chair's Update

1. The Chair provided an update on the following issues:
 - A phone meeting with one of the leads in MPS Professional Standards, advising that the Professional Standards team found the Panel's report 'Review of Special Case Hearings' very useful for their work.
 - A meeting with Sal Naseem of the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) to discuss the Panel's work on More Thorough Searches Exposing Intimate Parts and strip searches.
 - An upcoming meeting with the Casey Review Team.
 - Change in leadership of the National Policing Ethics Committee.

Openness and Transparency in Policing Report - Update on Research

2. Dr Julia Yesberg attended the meeting to provide an update on the research interviews the Panel had engaged her to undertake for the openness and transparency project.
3. Dr Yesberg advised that she had undertaken a few interviews with officers in neighbourhood policing teams. She was organising interviews with officers who worked in custody and with borough council staff.
4. The Panel discussed the value in interviewing custody officers before and after the new training so that its impact could be assessed. They would consider a recommendation in the report that the MPS assess the impact of the training.
5. Dr Yesberg outlined the early findings from her interviews covering officers' understanding of openness and transparency and their views on why this was not

always achieved. A more detailed report would be provided to the Panel on completion of the interviews.

Interim Report – More Thorough Searches Exposing Intimate Parts (MTIP)

6. The Panel reviewed the final version of their report on searches exposing intimate parts.
7. They agreed to include in the report the case studies provided by the MPS of the reports written by officers following MTIP searches, redacted so that neither the officer nor the person searched could be identified. The case studies were important as they demonstrated the need for suitable grounds to justify the search and that the grounds be adequately recorded. The Panel was grateful to the MPS for providing the case studies.
8. The Panel reviewed each recommendation to ensure they accurately captured the issues identified in the report and were actions that would be achievable.
9. It was agreed that the report was ready for publication, subject to typographical review and typesetting which would be arranged by MOPAC. Copies would be made available to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and the MPS ahead of publication.

Reflection on Process

10. The Panel reflected on the process it had used to develop the report on MTIP searches in order to identify practices that they would wish to replicate for future reports. It was agreed that the starting point for reports should be identifying the ethical questions they wanted the report to address. The Panel would reflect on what constituted good recommendations in order to ensure that they were realistic and doable.

Openness and Transparency in Policing Report – Next Steps

11. The Panel discussed the next steps required to further develop the report. They agreed that at their next meeting they would identify the ethical issues they wanted the report to address.
12. The findings from Dr Yesberg's research would help to identify the challenges openness and transparency presented for policing and the dilemmas custody sergeants in particular have in respect of strip searches.
13. It was also agreed that there would be a section in the report on openness and transparency in relation to procedural justice.
14. The Panel agreed to aim to have the report finished in early 2023.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 10 October 2022.