

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 14 November 2022

Membership

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

Research Adviser

Professor Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing

Observers

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

Report on More Thorough Searches Exposing Intimate Parts

1. James Bottomley advised the Panel that their report on More Thorough Searches Exposing Intimate Parts would be published on the Panel's website on 18 November 2022.

Openness and Transparency in Policing Report

2. Dr Julia Yesberg attended the meeting to provide the Panel with an overview of the qualitative research she was undertaking on the Panel's behalf. The research involved interviewing Met officers working in frontline policing and custody suites, and interviewing local authority partners.
3. Dr Yesberg had interviewed police officers and partners across two Basic Command Units and six Local Authorities. The interviews lasted between 25 and 50 minutes. They covered roles and responsibilities, understanding of openness and transparency, barriers to – and values of – having greater openness and transparency, examples of working practice, and what should change to achieve greater openness and transparency.
4. Dr Yesberg outlined her preliminary findings from the interviews she had conducted to date. These included:
 - Common themes emerging across police and local authority partners on what openness and transparency meant, such as honesty, visibility and receptiveness to feedback.
 - Views on how open and transparent the Met was internally, with partner agencies and with the public.
 - Views on barriers, such as legal and operational reasons, financial implications, pace of work, and lack of knowledge of procedures around data sharing.

- Views on the value of greater openness and transparency, such as public trust and confidence, more respect and understanding, organisational learning, opportunities for collaboration and partnership working.
5. Issues the Panel noted and discussed were:
 - The difference between data sharing and messaging.
 - Positivity about individual working relationships, but some difficulties at the organisational level.
 - Transparency as a mediator of trust.
 6. The Panel discussed the issues that they may want to cover in their report, including:
 - Micro – engaging with a member of a public on a specific issue.
 - Macro – questions that related to concerns local authorities have about their understanding of building openness and transparency with the Met.
 - Accountability – to whom and for what reasons
 - The value of teachable moments.
 - The role of openness and transparency in policing by consent.
 7. The Panel agreed the further work they would each do to advance the development of the report ahead of their next meeting.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 12 December 2022.