

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 12 February 2024

Membership

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

Research Adviser

Professor Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing

Observers

Chief Inspector Ben Smith, MPS
James Bottomley, MOPAC
Tay Sarwar, MOPAC
Alf Harris, MOPAC

Minutes

1. The minutes of the January 2024 meeting of the Panel were approved.

Chair's Update

2. The Chair updated the Panel on the Home Office's development of a data ethics function under the Biometrics and Forensics Ethics Group (BFEG), which it had been consulting on.

Policing in Schools

3. The Chair advised that very useful feedback had been received from the MPS on the draft report. The Met had also provided the Panel with the latest versions of the safer school officers' handbook and protocol.
4. In light of this information, the Chair had made changes to the draft report. The Panel considered in detail those changes, the draft recommendations and the executive summary.
5. The Chair would be talking to MOPAC about the timing of when the Panel will publish the report, which may be impacted by the pre-election period. She would also be talking to the MPS about the Panel's expectation of a written reply to the report.

Disproportionality in Re-Vetting

6. The Panel noted that they had received a range of information from the MPS to inform their considerations of the ethical issues relating to disproportionality in the re-vetting process. It agreed that it would review this information and decide if there were areas that they needed additional information on.

7. The Panel reviewed the draft ethical questions they had developed to ensure that they accurately reflected the issues they had identified. The issues included:
 - The ethical implications for implementing a re-vetting policy predicted to result in disproportionality.
 - The appropriate balance between protecting the public interest and preserving the rights of the individual police officers and staff.
 - The fairness of using present-day standards when judging historic actions.
 - Ethical issues of re-investigating misconduct cases or complaints that had been dealt with or closed.

Data in the MPS

8. Bryan Edwards summarised to the Panel his meeting with the MPS's Director of Data. He outlined the work of the data team and its responsibilities. The Panel discussed whether there were ethical issues for the data team which they could advise on and a prioritisation for this work. The Panel agreed that this was not a project that they had the current capacity to begin, but would retain it as a possible future project.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 11 March 2024