

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 13 March 2023

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
Tay Sarwar, MOPAC
A/Chief Inspector Ben Smith, MPS

Minutes

1. The minutes of the meeting on 13 February 2023 were approved.

Chair's Update

2. The Chair provided an update on her discussion with the Assistant Commissioner for Professionalism on the upcoming report by Baroness Louise Casey on her review of culture in the MPS. The Panel agreed that they should be cognisant of the issues and recommendations that might be contained in the report when deciding on their future projects.

Openness and Transparency in Policing Report

3. The Panel agreed the final version of their report "Openness and Transparency in the Metropolitan Police Service". The Chair had written a slide pack to summarise the report and signpost key issues within it. There was a discussion of the slide pack and agreement to its contents.
4. James Bottomley advised that a pre-publication copy of the report had been shared with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, the Commissioner's office and with the Assistant Commissioner for Professionalism and the Assistant Commissioner for Frontline Policing.
5. MOPAC was preparing the report for publication and would update the Panel on the timing of its publication.

Live Streaming Body Worn Video

6. The Chair advised that she had been approached by the MPS wishing to re-engage with the Panel on the topic of live streaming body worn video (BWV). She reminded the Panel that the MPS had, in October 2020, presented to the Panel their proposal to trial this technology. The trial was not progressed at that time, but the Met was now once again considering it. It was currently undertaking an

assessment of the potential benefits, and would seek the Panel's views on the ethical issues should a decision be taken to proceed to develop a proposal to trial.

7. It was noted that West Midlands Police began to live stream BWV in July 2022, and that there were likely to be lessons from their operational use that could inform the MPS, should they decide to trial the technology.

Police Officers in Schools

8. The Panel discussed the draft proposal for undertaking an investigation of the ethical issues arising from having police officers located within schools. It was agreed that:
 - There were important ethical issues that would be of interest to the public, the MPS and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime.
 - The issues to be explored included concerns about violence within and around schools, the potential criminalisation of young adults, the distribution of officers to schools, the impact on students, and the role of the officer.
 - A range of perspectives would be needed – importantly those of young people and people who have concerns.
 - The Panel should explore whether there is a difference between what happens on the ground versus the intended role of officers as envisaged in the safer schools programme.
 - There were underlying issues to be considered – for example, why were police officers imbedded within schools when they are not in other places such as place of work or bars and pubs.

Predictive Policing Technology and Algorithms

9. There was a discussion of what was known about any national programmes relating to the use of predictive policing technology and algorithms. The Panel noted that it had been unable to get much information on this, nor on projects at a local force level. It agreed that it would need more information in order to formulate what it would want to explore on this topic.
10. It was agreed that Panel members would further explore this issue, for discussion at the Panel's next meeting.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 17 April 2023