

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 8 January 2024

Membership

Dr Suzanne Shale (Chair)
Professor Jyoti Belur
Professor Jennifer Brown
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
Mike Wadham, MOPAC

Minutes

1. The minutes of the November and December 2023 meetings of the Panel were approved.

Policing in Schools

2. The Chair advised the Panel that she had discussed the draft report with the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime. The conversation had highlighted the need for clearer links to be made between the findings in the report and the recommendations, and to emphasise the need for the MPS to provide evidence to support its approach to having police officers working in schools.
3. The Panel was of the understanding that the Youth Endowment Fund had been commissioned to undertake an evaluation of policing in schools, and it was agreed that they would contact the Fund to find out more about the evaluation and assess if it could be used to inform the Panel's report.
4. The Panel further discussed the lack of UK research and evaluation of the benefits and harms from policing in schools and the importance of this to inform policing's approach to it.
5. The Panel agreed to review the draft report to ensure that it clearly articulated the evidence used to support the conclusions and where evidence was lacking, and to strengthen the links between the findings and recommendations.
6. It was agreed that a well written Executive Summary would help with guiding readers through the evidence and conclusions in the report.

Disproportionality in Re-Vetting

7. The Panel reviewed its draft terms of reference for its project to look at the ethical issues associated with any disproportionality in the MPS's re-vetting process.
8. To build on the information the Panel received at its December meeting from the MPS, Raj Johal, Director for Reference and Vetting in the MPS, joined the meeting to outline the vetting and re-vetting processes. There were particular discussions about:
 - The work of the disproportionality team, the data it collects to inform its work, and its understanding of what might be causing disproportionality.
 - The process for an officer or member of staff if their vetting is withdrawn.
 - The paths for officers and members of staff to enter the re-vetting process.
 - The involvement of line managers in the re-vetting process.
 - The processes in place to ensure that discretion in the vetting and re-vetting process is exercised consistently across the decision makers.
9. The Panel discussed its next steps for progressing the project, which included finalising the terms of reference and identifying what data it needed from the MPS.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 12 February 2024