

London Policing Ethics Panel Minutes of Meeting

Monday, 13 November 2017

Attendance

Dr Suzanne Shale (Chair)
Professor Deborah Bowman
Dr Priya Singh
Professor Leif Wenar

Also in attendance

Professor Ben Bradford, Institute of Global City Policing
Richard Martin, MPS
Martin Tunstall, MOPAC
Sarah Egan, Secretariat

Minutes of Last Meeting

1. The minutes of the meeting on 9 October 2017 were agreed.

The Logic Model and LPEP Intended Impact

2. There was a brief discussion of the logic model and how to measure the Panel's impact, including the short-comings of using surveys which have the problem of majority bias. It was acknowledged that the Panel would come back to the model as its work developed.

Developing a Work Plan

3. The majority of the meeting involved an in-depth discussion of the issues the Panel might want to initially focus on. The four topics discussed were:
 - Conceptualising ethical excellence in policing
 - Identifying ethical dilemmas in respect of police misconduct
 - Identifying ethical dilemmas in 'digital policing'
 - Ethical frameworks in respect of prioritisation
4. Each topic was assessed against a number of criteria, including:
 - Importance for providing guidance for the MPS and MOPAC
 - Importance to public trust/legitimacy for policing London
 - Importance to Panel credibility/authority/acceptance
 - The Panel's capacity to tackle the issue
5. There was a high degree of consensus that the most pressing issues were raised by digital policing and prioritisation. The Panel regarded both as matters that it should accord high priority. Moreover, it was thought that new surveillance technologies were likely to become a matter for press attention and public disquiet and that - given the work the last Panel had done on Body Worn Video - this topic was more immediately 'doable' than prioritisation.

6. The Panel agreed to recommend to the Mayor that it undertake as its first piece of work consideration of the ethical issues regarding digital policing; and a second area of investigation to look at prioritisation with the MPS.
7. It was also agreed that Leif Wenar would lead on the digital policing work.
8. It was further agreed that the Panel would be supportive of the work the MPS itself has underway to develop and share ethical expertise within the organisation, as well as providing an opportunity for ethical reflection with those making decisions about misconduct within the force.

The Panel's next meeting will be on 11 December at 14:00.