



Expressions of Interest: Independent Scrutiny Panels (ISPs) – Stop & Search and Use of Force

Background

Warwickshire Police is committed to protecting our communities from harm. To achieve this it is sometimes necessary for officers to:

- conduct intelligence-led Stop and Searches amongst the communities we serve;
- use force in the course of their duties to uphold the law and keep the public and themselves safe from harm.

It remains an essential piece of legislation to allow officers to conduct searches where they have reasonable and objective grounds for believing an individual may be in possession of drugs, knives and other weapons, stolen items and any other prohibited articles that may be used to commit harm against our public. Whilst important, the use of Stop and Search has always been contentious, and Warwickshire Police are committed to ensuring that the searches we conduct are lawful, justified, and conducted courteously and professionally as should be expected.

Aims / Objectives

To continue to improve transparency and accountability, we are looking to establish dedicated Independent Scrutiny Panels (ISPs). Our objective is to establish a panel that is:

- made up of, and led by, community members who represent their districts and act as critical friends, providing constructive challenge and influencing change;
- reflective of the communities most affected by use of police powers (stop & search and use of force).

The panel will meet for two hours, every three months, on police premises within Warwickshire, and have effective and transparent access to a range of data and records on stop and search and use of force, including officers' body worn video footage. The panel will highlight examples of good practice and also examples where there is scope for improvement and reflective learning.

Following each ISP meeting, a summary report is published on the force's internet pages. Panel members are expected to engage with their communities, promoting the work of the panel.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

Details

The panel is open to everyone with a constructive and critical view of use of police powers, especially those from communities and age groups most likely to experience use of police powers. No prior knowledge or understanding of law relating to use of police powers is necessary, just a willingness to participate and discuss.

Please note, some restrictions apply:

- Applicants who are under 18 will not be considered
- Participants will be asked to provide some basic details and give consent to internal background checks being completed (applicants must have no serious or recent convictions that may be considered to pose a security risk, and the decision to accept applicants will be at the discretion of Warwickshire Police).
- Applicants must reside, work in or regularly travel into the Warwickshire area
- Applicants must not already be members of Warwickshire Police, including police volunteers, special constables or staff.
- Applicants will be asked to complete an application form, and if accepted onto the panel will be asked to sign:
 - a memorandum of understanding and declaration;
 - a confidentiality agreement.

Thank you for your interest in the Warwickshire Police Independent Scrutiny Panels (ISPs).