



Derbyshire Constabulary
Independent Advisory Group
Use of Force Scrutiny Meeting
Thursday 23rd July 2026

Attendance Police

Police Constable Luke Large – Police Presenter (LL)

Police Constable Chad Critchley – Operations Training Team Leader (CC)

Heather Cunningham – Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Compliance Officer (HC)

His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) representative observing (AS)

Independent members

LD - Independent member

SP - Independent member

MY - Independent member

Apologies

CH - Independent member

TC - Independent member

RG - Independent member

KH - Independent member

BC - Independent member

AT - Independent member

PD - Independent member

Welcome and Introductions

This meeting of the panel was held online via MS Teams. The chair reminded Independent Advisory Group (IAG) members that they had signed a confidentiality agreement, and invited all present at the meeting to introduce themselves. The chair informed members that the vice chair had selected the cases for the meeting. The force is currently undergoing a His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) Police

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Effectiveness, Efficiency and Legitimacy (PEEL) inspection and a representative from HMICFRS attended the meeting to observe. The representative explained this to the panel. More information about PEEL inspections can be found on the HMICFRS website: [What is PEEL? - His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services](#). Police Constable LL presented the cases and Body Worn Video (BWV), and Police Constable CC the force's operational training team leader provided insights and explanations around trained tactics and procedures.

These minutes contain numerous abbreviations. A description of them is explained below.

BWV – Body Worn Video

DP - Detained person

IAG – Independent Advisory Group

IM – Independent Members

PPST - Public and Personal Safety Training

1) **Feedback from previous meeting**

Opportunity to discuss the previous meeting's feedback. This can include actions taken by the Police to address any areas of concern or praise that have previously raised.

Actions from previous meeting:

- Feedback to be shared with officers and supervisors (actioned).

2) **Use of Police Powers Scrutiny – Use of force – general**

Case 1:

Date	21/06/2026
Time	12:45
Location	Ilkeston
Subject	Male White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British 45 years old
Type of force used	Handcuffing; compliant
Impact Factors (from Use of force form)	Possession of a weapon
Incident summary	Suspect was located during arrest attempts inside an address, with information that they may be in possession of a weapon. While sat on the sofa, the Male was compliantly handcuffed to effect arrest and for transportation.

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Outcome (i.e. arrested)	Arrested
Body Worn Video (BWV)	Yes
Panel Observations	Police Constable LL explained after presenting the Body Worn Video (BWV) clip that the detained person (DP) was searched following the use of force and taken to the police vehicle. An Independent Member (IM) noted that from viewing the BWV that in their opinion the DP was very compliant. An IM commented that the prior knowledge suggested it was necessary to use force. An IM commented from viewing the BWV that it was their opinion the officer was very respectful and kind. An IM commented that from viewing the BWV in their opinion there was no issue with the use of force. IMs commented from viewing the BWV and reading the summary that in their opinion that there was a legal basis for the use of force because of the prior knowledge. IM felt that the officer had a legal basis for the use of force. The IM commented from viewing the BWV in their opinion the officers were very human. An IM commented from viewing the BWV that the officer could be seen to be leading the DP outside by holding the middle bar of the handcuffs, and questioned whether this was appropriate. Police Constable CC raised a concern with use of front handcuffing as a tactic. Police Constable CC explained that during Public and Personal Safety Training (PPST) the training team promote rear palms out handcuffing for safety. Police Constable CC noted that because of the compliance of the DP the officers should have handcuffed the DP to the rear. Police Constable CC explained that the

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	officers should not have been holding on to the middle bar of the handcuffs to guide the DP outside. Police Constable CC noted that on the BWV the handcuff could be seen to be moving around when the officer was holding the middle bar of the handcuffs. Police Constable CC explained that the taught technique is to cup the DP under the bicep to move the DP around. Moreover, Police Constable CC explained that the DP should not have been with one handcuff on whilst the DP was putting on the T Shirt. The officer should have fully removed the handcuffs and then reapplied the handcuffs once the DP had put a T shirt on. Police Constable CC noted there is a significant safety risk by not searching a DP before putting the DP in the police vehicle. Police Constable CC referred to a section of the BWV footage where the officer could be heard to suggest searching the DP at the custody suite. Police Constable CC noted that with the information linking the DP to possession of a weapon and prior knowledge the DP should be thoroughly searched before being put in to a policing vehicle and transported to custody. Police Constable LL confirmed that the second officer at the incident was a staff investigator, and therefore this was an incident with a lone working police officer which further highlights the risks around front handcuffing as a tactic, and the importance of conducting a thorough search prior to transportation. An IM asked if the officers used front handcuffing because of the concrete stairs; and there could have been a risk to the DP if they had fallen or tripped and not been able to put their hands out of rear handcuffed. Police Constable CC explained that it is the officers decision as to which handcuffing technique to use and that they have to justify their use of force in the use of force form they complete. Police Constable CC explained he couldn't
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	say why the officer used this tactic but there have been cases where front handcuffing has been used initially because the DP was being compliant. Police Constable CC highlighted that this is not a justified reason for using a handcuffing technique. AS asked if the DP should be put into a vehicle rear handcuffed, and asked if this technique was standard taught practice. Police Constable CC explained that officers are taught how to angle a person in a vehicle where they can be transported with the rear handcuffing technique. There is a challenge around transportation with this technique when transporting a DP a long distance.
Panel Decision	Consensus from IMs that there was a clear legal basis for the use of force. IMs commented on the respectful and kind approach of the officer. Concern raised by IMs that the officer held the middle bar of the handcuffs and their chosen handcuffing technique. Feedback from PPST on the use of front handcuffing, holding the middle bar of the handcuffs to lead the DP outside, and the safety risk to not searching a DP before they are put into a policing vehicle.
Actions taken by Police / feedback provided	Feedback to be shared with the officer, their supervisor and use of force leads. Feedback to be presented at the next Policing Powers meeting.

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Case 2:

Date	24/06/2026
Time	12:00
Location	Long Eaton
Subject	Female White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British 49 years old
Type of force used	Handcuffing; non-compliant
Impact Factors (from Use of force form)	Other
Incident summary	Safer Neighbourhood officers on mobile patrol spot a wanted regular nominal for a court warrant, the officers exit their vehicle an arrest her, initially aggravated behaviour and attempts to drink a can of alcohol to drink, this is removed from her hand, and she is then placed in front stack handcuffs.
Outcome (i.e. arrested)	Arrested
Body Worn Video (BWV)	Yes
Panel Observations	After presenting the BWV clip to the panel Police Constable LL explained that the DP is transported to custody. An IM commented that they felt from viewing the BWV that the use of force was necessary. The IM commented from viewing the BWV they felt there was a friendly interaction between the officers and the DP and that the officers did a good job not to escalate the situation. They also commented that the officers in their opinion kept the language informal and this was appropriate. An IM commented from viewing the BWV that the officers could be heard talking the DP through the process and stated that in their opinion they felt that this would have been reassuring for the DP. An IM commented from viewing the BWV that the officers may have thought the DP

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	may have tried to escape and the officers may have had prior knowledge. However, from the BWV there wasn't anything specific they had seen on the BWV that meant they felt the officers had a need to use handcuffs. The IM also noted that the officers could be heard on the BWV to referring to a previous interaction where they did not need to use handcuffs. An IM noted that the DP did not appear to be phased by the interaction. The IM noted from viewing the BWV that in their opinion there was a respectful and kind approach from the officers. The IM noted on the BWV the officers could be seen handcuffing the DP to the front. An IM commented from viewing the BWV that they were happy with the use of force, and that something had happened before the officer arrived. An IM commented that in their opinion from viewing the BWV that the DP should have been handcuffed to the rear because of the behaviour of the DP and how the DP presented on the BWV. An IM commented on the loose handcuffs as seen on the BWV. Police Constable CC explained that from listening to the audio of the BWV the handcuffs had been fully applied. An IM noted that because an officer was sat in the vehicle with the DP that the use of front handcuffing as a tactic may have been more appropriate because the officer would have been able to monitor whether the DP was trying to remove the cuffs which would have been more difficult to monitor had they been applied to the rear. Police Constable CC explained that the officers were arresting the DP for failing to appear at court, and the handcuffs had been used in this case for fleeing. An IM noted they were satisfied that the use
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	of force had a legal basis, was reasonable, proportionate and justified.
Panel Decision	Consensus from the IMs that the use of force had a legal basis. Comments from the IMs highlight a kind and friendly approach from the officers, with a clear explanation as to what was happening and why.
Actions taken by Police / feedback provided	Feedback to be shared with the officer and their supervisor. Feedback to be shared with the use of force leads and presented at the next policing powers meeting.

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Case 3:

Date	27/06/2026
Time	17:10
Location	Derby
Subject	Male White English/Welsh/Scottish/Northern Irish/British 14 years old
Type of force used	Handcuffing; compliant
Impact Factors (from Use of force form)	Other
Incident summary	Officers are called to a local Asda whereby a 14-Year-old has been spotted with a knife by security. They are detained in the shop holding area, officers arrive and stop and search the teenager to then locate a weapon, upon finding the weapon subject is arrested and handcuffed to the rear.
Outcome (i.e. arrested)	Arrested
Body Worn Video (BWV)	Yes
Panel Observations	An IM commented from viewing the BWV that in their opinion the parent appeared to be nonresponsive and withdrawn. An IM commented from viewing the BWV that they were impressed with how calm the officers were and how the officers did not assert their power of authority. An IM commented that the use of force was in their opinion proportionate, lawful and reasonable. The IM noted the allegation of indecent exposure and the weapon found on the DP were justified reasons in their opinion for a use of force. The IM noted that they were satisfied that there was a risk of harm to others. The IM commented from viewing the BWV that the interaction between the officers and individuals was fine in their opinion.

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	An IM commented from viewing the BWV that the officer could be seen and heard reassuring the DP for the use of handcuffing and adjusting the handcuffs to try and make them more comfortable for the DP. The IM commented that they felt the officer demonstrated awareness of sensory issues. An IM asked if the other officer was wearing the BWV and asked why the officer was moving around to capture the use of force on the BWV. An IM asked if it was normal for an officer to pass a weapon to a civilian to hold during a stop search. Police Constable CC noted that there was an issue around continuation of evidence by handing the weapon to another party. Police Constable CC explained that the knife should have been seized by the searching officer and ideally put into a knife tube. Police Constable CC noted that when there are two officers, one should conduct the searches, complete the forms and seize any items found and the other officer is there for safety. An IM asked if the female officer was new because the female officer seemed to be mimicking the other attending officer. The IM noted on the BWV that the officer was removing the handcuffs, even though a weapon was found on the DP, and that the other officer reapplied handcuffs when arresting the DP. Police Constable CC highlighted that the officer's technique on handcuffing the first DP was wrong. Police Constable CC explained that the way the officer initially applied the handcuffs meant that it could have only been a stacked handcuffing technique. Police Constable CC explained that the easiest way to apply handcuffs to the rear with palms out is to get the DP put their hands in the position and then put the handcuffs on.
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Panel Decision	Consensus from the panel that the use of force had a legal basis. Acknowledgement from the IMs that the officers were patient and remained calm when dealing with the DP. One IM noted the officer's awareness of sensory differences. Feedback on the technique when handcuffing the DP. Feedback to the searching officer who found a weapon that this should have been put in a knife tube and remained in police possession for continuity of evidence. Feedback around the removal of handcuffs following the search when a weapon was found on the DP.
Actions taken by Police / feedback provided	Feedback to be shared with the officer and their supervisor. Feedback to be shared with the use of force leads and presented at the next policing powers meeting.

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Case 4:

Date	28/06/2026
Time	02:30
Location	Derby
Subject	Male Not stated 39 years old
Type of force used	Taser; red dot
Impact Factors (from Use of force form)	Possession of a weapon, Alcohol, Drugs, Mental health
Incident summary	Officers go to an address to effect an arrest for a domestic incident, the subject refused to exit, barricaded themselves inside the address and threatened to harm themselves with a knife, resulting in a police support unit forcing entry to the address, where the subject has a taser pointed towards them, subject is then compliantly handcuffed to the rear and arrested.
Outcome (i.e. arrested)	Arrested
Body Worn Video (BWV)	Yes
Panel Observations	After viewing the BWV an IM asked if the DP had walked over broken glass with bear feet. An IM noted that the officers went in through the back door after breaking the glass pane and the DP was escorted out of the front door. An IM asked if the officer needed to break the glass to access the property. Police Constable CC commented that from viewing the BWV that the officers made a mess breaking the door. Police Constable CC explained that the officers have gone for the hinge of the door, then used a saw and finally gone for the glass and used to the key to open the door. Police Constable CC noted he wasn't sure of the circumstances, and from viewing the BWV it was difficult to

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	comment on other tactics due to limited information. Police Constable LL explained that a negotiator was called out prior to the forced entry into the property; and that this incident had been taking place for quite some time. An IM commented from viewing the BWV that the use of force used, in their opinion had a legal basis and the officers did not mess around. An IM noticed from viewing the BWV that the officers turned the DP around and stood the DP up carefully. An IM asked if it was usual to ask a DP to slide themselves backwards into a police vehicle. Police Constable CC explained that in the police vehicle that there are wheel arches which can be mistaken for seats. Officers always direct DPs to sit on the floor for transportation to custody. Police Constable CC explained that at the back of the cage there is a sliding door, and an officer should have opened this to help pull the DP into the cage. Police Constable CC explained that a DP is always put into the vehicle backward to prevent injury.
Panel Decision	Consensus from the panel that the officer had a legal basis for the use of force. Feedback in relation to the DP being put into the back of the vehicle.
Actions taken by Police / feedback provided	Feedback to be shared with the officer and their supervisor. Feedback to be shared with the use of force leads and presented at the next policing powers meeting.

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Case 5:

Date	25/06/2026
Time	04:07
Location	Derby
Subject	Male Not stated 32 years old
Type of force used	Handcuffing; compliant
Impact Factors (from Use of force form)	Size/Gender/Build
Incident summary	Officers conduct arrest attempts for wanted male who presents at their front door, subject is arrested compliantly to the rear with their palms facing outwards and escorted to a police vehicle.
Outcome (i.e. arrested)	Arrested
Body Worn Video (BWV)	Yes
Panel Observations	After presenting the BWV, Police Constable LL explained that the DP gets put in the police vehicle following the search after the arrest. An IM commented from the BWV that the DP was a big guy and muscley and understood why the officer used handcuffs. An IM commented that in their opinion there was a risk with the DP coming to the door with a glass. An IM commented that the arrest for breach of court bail that the DP was at risk of fleeing, which in their opinion was a clear legal basis for the use of force. An IM commented that in their opinion the officers were professional and respectful, and highlighted that the BWV captured the officers asking the DP to put his hands behind is back to be handcuffed with rear

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	palms out. An IM commented that they liked the male officer conducting the search had a no-nonsense approach when the DP asked to change clothes and the officer declined. Police Constable CC noted that the BWV captured the officer standing right in front of the DP whilst conducting a search and highlighted this a potential safety risk to the officer because he was in the DPs fighting arc. An IM stated that from viewing the BWV the DP appeared in their opinion to not like being gently parented by the officer around the 'not changing clothes.' Police Constable CC noted that the handcuffing technique was spot on.
Panel Decision	Consensus from the panel that there was a legal basis for the use of force. Feedback from IMs on the good use of tactical comms including that the officers were respectful and professional.
Actions taken by Police / feedback provided	Feedback to be shared with the officer and their supervisor. Feedback to be shared with the use of force leads and presented at the next policing powers meeting. To highlight this as a case with a good example of the rear palms out handcuffing techniques; but to note that male subject does initially move his arm).

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Case 6:

Date	29/06/2026
Time	21:33
Location	Derby
Subject	Male Not Stated 21 years old
Type of force used	Handcuffing; compliant
Impact Factors (from Use of force form)	Possession of a weapon
Incident summary	Armed Officers located a subject vehicle involved in a stabbing, suspect opens door and is arrested on suspicion of grievous bodily harm. Subject is handcuffed to the front for transportation.
Outcome (i.e. arrested)	Arrested
Body Worn Video (BWV)	Yes
Panel Observations	An IM noted from viewing the BWV that the officers were holding the DP with the middle bar during a search. An IM noted that the handcuffs to the front were appropriate based on the prior knowledge and suspicion of carrying a bladed weapon. Police Constable CC agreed that this was the appropriate technique to detain the DP. Police Constable CC explained in the circumstances the officer holding the middle bar of the handcuffs could be justified because the DP was suspected of being involved in a stabbing. Until officers had identified any weapon; and conducted an effective search this could be justified as an appropriate tactic.

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Panel Decision	Consensus from the panel that there was a legal basis for the use of force. No specific comments around the interaction between the officers and the DP.
Actions taken by Police / feedback provided	Feedback to be shared with the officer and their supervisor. Feedback to be shared with the use of force leads and presented at the next policing powers meeting.

Further actions:

Feedback from the panel to be shared with officers, supervisors, use of force leads and during the next Policing Powers meeting (actioned 06/08/2026).

Date of next meeting:

Tuesday 24th November 2026, 10am – 12pm, MS Teams.

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