



**Derbyshire Constabulary Independent  
Advisory Group**

**Traffic Stops Scrutiny Meeting**

**Date: 8<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**Attendance Police**

*Superintendent Jim Thompson – Head of Operations (JT)*

*Sergeant Adam Titterton – Police Presenter, Roads Policing Sergeant (AD)*

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

**Independent members**

*TC – independent member*

*PD – independent member*

*GR – independent member*

*RT – independent member*

*JM – independent member*

*SP – independent member*

*DD – independent member*

**Welcome and Introductions**

This meeting of the panel was held in person at Wyatts Way Ripley Police Station. Superintendent JT welcomed all independent members to the meeting. As this was the first Traffic Stops Scrutiny panel the Independent Advisory Group (IAG) had attended Sergeant AT and Superintendent JT provided a bit of context around the Traffic Stops and policing practice. Cases were then presented to the panel by Sergeant AT, followed by Body Worn Video (BVW) of the Traffic Stop. Sergeant AT provided comments and context around the

techniques and if they were what had been trained. HC reminded panel members about the confidentiality agreement they had signed. The cases for this scrutiny panel meeting focused on Traffic Stops involving people who identified as male and black heritage.

### Traffic Stops

Section 163 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 gives powers to the police to stop vehicles.

(1) A person driving a motor vehicle on a road must stop the vehicle on being required to do so by a constable in uniform.

(2) A person riding a cycle on a road must stop the cycle on being required to do so by a constable in uniform.

(3) If a person fails to comply with this section he is guilty of an offence.

Police officers can stop any vehicle on the road with this power without requiring any specific grounds. Officers cannot search the vehicle or anyone in it under this power but may be able to do so under one of the stop and search powers. For example, the officers observations during the stop may provide reasonable grounds for suspicion to conduct a search (College of Policing, 2024).

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

ANPR - Automatic Number Plate Recognition

BWV - Body Worn Video

IAG – Independent Advisory Group

IM – Independent Member

NAS - National ANPR Service

NPCC - National Police Chiefs' Council

TOR - Traffic Offence Report

### **1) Feedback from previous meeting**

As this was the first Traffic Stops Scrutiny panel there were no actions.

## 2) Traffic Stops Scrutiny

### Case 1:

<b>Location</b>	Trowell
<b>Subject</b>	Male 33 years M2. White and Black African
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence - Traffic
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>The officer stops a vehicle after another officer has reported seeing the driver of the vehicle not wearing their seatbelt. The police officer drives alongside the vehicle to confirm they driver is not wearing their seatbelt and witnesses the driver using their phone whilst driving. The driver is pulled over.</p> <p>The officer asks the driver to present their licence and begins identity, licence and insurance checks. The driver presented an international licence.</p>
<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	Offence committed - Traffic
<b>Panel Observations</b>	<p>Sergeant AT explained that the quality of the sound on the Body Worn Video (BWV) is poor due to the officers' surroundings, next to a busy A road. Sergeant AT explained that because the driver presented an international licence, they have to also present their driving licence from their home country. The driver can only drive in the UK on an international licence for 12 months and has to complete and pass a UK driving test before the end of the 12 months.</p> <p>An IM asked how the driver knows to pullover when the officer is using a motorbike. Sergeant AT explained that the officer has a follow me sign on the back of his bike to direct the driver off the road.</p>

	<p>An IM raised a concern around the officer and driver safety on the hard shoulder and questioned whether both should be behind the barrier. Sergeant AT said that the officer should have approached the driver from the passenger side of the vehicle, but the hard shoulder is an appropriate place to conduct a traffic stop.</p> <p>Sergeant AT states that the officer doesn't explain the reason for the stop and deals with the driver for the offence he has seen. An IM felt that the officer was very polite.</p> <p>An IM asked how officers are trained to conduct traffic stops. Superintendent JT explained that officers participate in role play during initial training and gain on the job experience through a module on traffic.</p> <p>An IM asked where Derbyshire Constabulary sits in terms of performance on traffic stops. Superintendent JT explained that the force is performing well and was towards the top on the latest National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) report and that Derbyshire Constabulary has led of national campaigns.</p>
<b>Panel Decision</b>	<p>Good reason for the traffic stop. However, the officer did not explain the reason for the stop. Agreement from the panel that the attitude of the officer was good.</p>
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	<p>Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.</p>

**Case 2:**

<b>Location</b>	Chesterfield
<b>Subject</b>	Male 25 years B2. Black African
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	Yes - breathalysed
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence - Traffic
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>Contact management received reports of a vehicle on the road with a person acting suspiciously, and driving like they are under the influence of alcohol. The officer stops a vehicle matching the description, and asks the driver to sit in the police car. The officer asks the driver for their licence and begins identity, licence and insurance checks.</p> <p>The driver asks for confirmation several times on what they had done.</p>
<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	Offence committed - Traffic
<b>Panel Observations</b>	<p>IM asked whether the officer had responded to the report of a person under the influence driving. Sergeant AT explained that the driver was breathalysed and the reading came back as 0.</p> <p>IMs felt that the officer takes too long in explaining the reason for the traffic stop.</p> <p>An IM felt that the officer should have let the driver speak and then explained the reason for initially stopping him. Moreover, the IM felt that the officer could have explained why he was not responding to the driver's questions because he was carrying out checks over the radio.</p> <p>An IM pointed out that three officers were present at this stop and questioned whether this was a good use of resource.</p>

	<p>Superintendent JT stated that in this instance the stop may not have required three officers to be present and altering policing training to make officer aware of how they can respond to traffic stops could improve the deployment of officers.</p> <p>IMs felt the officer did a good job actively stopping the vehicle. However, the officer should have explained the reason for the stop at the start and then carried out the checks.</p>
<b>Panel Decision</b>	Good reason for the traffic stop. The officer took too long to explain the reason for the traffic stop and could have communicated better with the driver.
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.

**Case 3:**

<b>Location</b>	Derbyshire
<b>Subject</b>	Male 39 years B2. Black African
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Routine Check
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>The officer was carrying out roadside vehicle checks and pulled over a vehicle. The officer explains the reason for the stop and asks the driver for the licence. The officer carries out the identity, insurance and licence check and the checks the exterior of the vehicle.</p> <p>The officer is happy with the roadworthy check and thanks the driver.</p>

<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	No further action
<b>Panel Observations</b>	<p>An IM asked whether there are any signs warning drivers that checks are happening in the area. Sergeant AT explains that there would not be warning in place and that under section 163 officers can stop any vehicle.</p> <p>An IM commented on the polite attitude the officer had and that him humming/singing kept the atmosphere calm.</p> <p>An IM noted that this incident was a textbook stop.</p>
<b>Panel Decision</b>	Good reason for the traffic stop. Good example of a traffic stop could be used as a training example. Officer provided a clear explanation for the reason for the stop and was polite.
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.

#### Case 4:

<b>Location</b>	Derby
<b>Subject</b>	Male 33 years B2. Black African
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None.
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence - Traffic
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>The officer on foot stops a vehicle on a main road and asks the driver to pull into a car park nearby. The officer asks the driver for their licence, and on the driver producing their international licence asks for their residence card.</p> <p>The officer asks the driver to turn off the</p>

	<p>vehicle and hand over the car keys whilst the officer carries our identity, licence, insurance and immigration checks.</p> <p>After completing the checks the driver is legal to drive.</p>
<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	Offence committed - Traffic
<b>Panel Observations</b>	<p>IMs observe that the officer did not carry out any vehicle checks.</p> <p>An IM commented that the officer did not explain why he stopped the driver. IMs agreed that the explanation did not need to happen at the time of the stop because this was on a busy main road but the officer should have explained the reason in the car park.</p> <p>An IM felt that the officer used their initiative to take the car keys from the driver whilst carrying out checks to prevent the driver from fleeing.</p>
<b>Panel Decision</b>	Not clear on the reason for the traffic stop. The officer did not provide an explanation for the initial traffic stop. The officer provided a clear explanation around driving in the UK on an international licence.
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.



**Case 5:**

<b>Location</b>	Derby
<b>Subject</b>	Male 30 years B1. Black Caribbean
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None.
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence – Traffic
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>The officer stops a driver on the hard shoulder of the A38 and explains to the driver this is because he was staying in lane 2 for some distance. The officer explains why this is dangerous and that on this occasion would use the stop to educate the driver and not issue a ticket. The officer carries out identity, licence and insurance checks.</p> <p>The officer then carries out a roadworthy check and finds cord exposed on a front tyre. The officer deals with the driver for this offence and gives the driver an option to replace the tyre with a spare and issued the driver with a fine.</p>
<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	Offence committed - Traffic
<b>Panel Observations</b>	<p>An IM noted that the officer explains the reason for the traffic stop straight away to the driver, and uses the stop to educate the driver on driving practice on A roads.</p> <p>An IM felt that the BWV showed the police officer with a good attitude building a rapport with the driver.</p> <p>An IM noted that the officer didn't ask the driver to turn the vehicle off and take the keys, and therefore did leave the risk open for the driver to have taken off. The IM also highlighted that the officer dealt with the stop on the drivers side of the vehicle which could have been a health and safety risk to</p>

	the officer next to a busy A road.
<b>Panel Decision</b>	Good reason for the traffic stop. Agreed that the officer had clearly explained the reason for the traffic stop and the officer had a good attitude when speaking to the driver.
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.

**Case 6:**

<b>Location</b>	Coalville
<b>Subject</b>	Male 40 years B2. Black African
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None.
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence - Traffic
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>Traffic and armed response officers stop a vehicle suspected as participating in a criminal gang who target lorries on the motorway. This was due to National ANPR Service (NAS) movements and because the car was registered elsewhere in the country.</p> <p>The officer explained the reason for the stop and carried out identity, licence and insurance checks. The officer asked the driver to define their ethnicity and explained this is for monitoring purposes when recording traffic stops.</p> <p>Once the checks had been complete, the driver was able to continue on their journey.</p>

<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	No further action.
<b>Panel Observations</b>	<p>An IM felt that the officer was very informative and clearly explained the reason for the traffic stop.</p> <p>An IM asked why the driver had been stopped because their vehicle was registered in another part of the country. Sergeant AT explained that there is a national operation to tackle criminal gangs who often use vehicles registered in other areas and clone number plates.</p> <p>An IM felt that the officer provided a good explanation and warning around cloning of number plates. IMs agreed that it was good practice to ask the driver to self-identify their ethnicity.</p>
<b>Panel Decision</b>	Good reason for the traffic stop. Agreed that the officer provided a clear explanation for the traffic stop.
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.

**Case 7:**

<b>Location</b>	Derby
<b>Subject</b>	Male 40 years B1. Black Caribbean
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None.
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence - Traffic

<p><b>Incident summary</b></p>	<p>The officer is filtering on his motorcycle through traffic in the city centre checking drivers for traffic offences. The officer stops a vehicle and asks the driver to pull over on the left side of the road. The officer explains the reason for the stop, and explains that because he is wearing earplug he may be loud and that his camera is recording.</p> <p>The driver explains that he was using his phone for navigation purposes. The officer explains that it is a traffic offence to be on the phone whilst driving and advises the driver to use a stand that the driver can attach their phone to for navigation purposes and remain hands free whilst driving in the future.</p> <p>The officer carries out identity, insurance and licence checks. The officer issues the driver with a ticket and asks the driver to self-identify their ethnicity, explaining this is for monitoring purposes as part of recording the traffic stop.</p>
<p><b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b></p>	<p>Offence committed - Traffic</p>
<p><b>Panel Observations</b></p>	<p>An IM asked whether it was safe for the officer to speak to the driver from the drivers side on a busy road. Sergeant AT explained that it was a safe place for the officer to stop the vehicle because it took place on a 30mph road and that there officer on a motorcycle present supporting with the stop.</p> <p>An IM felt that the officer was very polite and noted that during the conversation with the driver referred to him as sir. An IM felt that this was a good example of the police as professionals.</p> <p>An IM felt that the BWV demonstrated the officer humanizing himself to the driver and that this looked like it had put the driver at ease. The IM liked that the officer explained</p>

	that he himself has made mistakes in the past and had to take a speed awareness course. It was a good example of a stop educating a driver.
<b>Panel Decision</b>	Good reason for the traffic stop. Agreed that the officer provided a clear explanation for the traffic stop as soon as he spoke to the driver. Officer was very polite and handled the stop well.
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.

**Case 8:**

<b>Location</b>	Derby
<b>Subject</b>	Male 29 years B2. Black African
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None.
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence - Traffic
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>The officer stops a vehicle in the early hours of the morning and explains to the driver this is because the car registration has been flagged as having no insurance under a marker on the ANPR. The driver admits they have no insurance. The driver explains that he has been using temporary insurance.</p> <p>The officer asks the driver to sit in the back of the police vehicle whilst the officer carries out identity, insurance and licence checks. This reveals that the driver had their licence revoked under a 6-month disqualification.</p> <p>The officer explains that the vehicle will be seized and gives the driver an opportunity to</p>

	collect any items of the vehicle.
<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	Offence committed - Traffic
<b>Panel Observations</b>	<p>An IM asked whether it was safe to have the driver sat in the back of the police vehicle with just the one officer present. Sergeant AT explained that it is a more controlled environment for the officer and that the child locks are on.</p> <p>An IM commented on the clear explanation that the officer provided for the reason behind the stop.</p> <p>An IM commented on the polite attitude of the officer, and pointed out that it is not often the panel see an officer putting their hand out to shake a member of the public's hand. IMs felt this demonstrated the good rapport the officer had with the driver.</p>
<b>Panel Decision</b>	Good reason for the traffic stop. Agreed that a good explanation was provided at the start of the conversation with the driver. Good attitude of the officer during the stop.
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.

**Case 9:**

<b>Location</b>	Derby
<b>Subject</b>	Male 39 years B2. Black African
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None.
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence - Traffic
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>The officer stops a vehicle at a petrol station after witnessing the vehicle travelling at night with no working lights on the front of the car.</p> <p>The officer issues a Traffic Offence Report (TOR) for failing to maintain lights.</p>
<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	Offence committed - Traffic
<b>Panel Observations</b>	<p>An IM felt that the officer provided a clear explanation for the traffic stop.</p> <p>An IM felt that the officer came across as very friendly and highlighted the danger of driving in the dark with no working front lights.</p>
<b>Panel Decision</b>	Good reason for the traffic stop. Agreed that the officer provided a clear explanation for the traffic stop as soon as he spoke to the driver.
<b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b>	Sergeant AT to provide feedback to officer who conducted the stop.

**Case 10:**

<b>Location</b>	Ashbourne
<b>Subject</b>	Male 23 years B2. Black African
<b>Breathalysed? Drug Wiped? Force Used?</b>	None.
<b>Reason for Stop</b>	Offence - Traffic
<b>Incident summary</b>	<p>A plain clothed officer reports a vehicle to two uniformed officers where the driver and passenger are not wearing their seatbelts.</p> <p>Two officers at a vehicle check site explain to the driver and passenger the reason for the traffic stop. One officer speaks with the driver whilst the second officer speaks with the passenger. The IAG view the BWV for the second officer.</p> <p>The driver and passenger of the vehicle explain to the officers that they are exempt in law from wearing seatbelts under the multidrop exemption for good vehicles on delivery rounds. The officers explain that this does not apply in this instance because the vehicle has been witnessed travelling 8 miles, which exceeds the 50 meters between stops the exception in law allows.</p> <p>The passenger asks how they were spotted without seatbelts and about the ticket. The officer explains both to the passenger.</p> <p>The licence, insurance and identity checks that the officer carry out reveal that the driver has a provisional licence and is being supervised by the passenger and therefore the vehicle should have L plates displayed on the van.</p>
<b>Outcome (i.e. arrested/ Detained)</b>	Offence committed - Traffic



<p><b>Panel Observations</b></p>	<p>An IM commented on the calm nature of the stop and the rapport between the passenger and the officer.</p> <p>An IM commented that the officer provided a good explanation for the stop, and answered the passengers questions.</p> <p>An IM commented on the polite attitude of the officers who carried out the traffic stop and that the explanation for the stop was very clear.</p> <p>An IM asked whether motorcycles are included in traffic stops. Sergeant AT explained that motorcycles can be stopped and that officers do.</p>
<p><b>Panel Decision</b></p>	<p>Good reason for the traffic stop. Agreed that there was a clear explanation at the start of the traffic stop and that the officer involved were very polite.</p>
<p><b>Actions taken by Police/ feedback</b></p>	<p>Sergeant AT to provide feedback to both officers who conducted the stop.</p>

**Further actions**

No actions.

**Date of next meeting:**

**TBC – November 2024**