

Panel Member's Role Profile for the Hertfordshire Independent Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel

The Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel

Independent scrutiny of the police's use of coercive powers sits at the heart of police legitimacy which is critical in maintaining the trust and confidence of the communities of Hertfordshire. The role of the independent Stop and Search Panel is to support the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to discharge their statutory duty and hold the Chief Constable to account. The Panel do this by providing independent scrutiny and feedback on the appropriate, proportionate, and ethical use of stop and search powers within national and local statutory frameworks (PACE Code A¹, College of Policing's Authorised Policing Practice²). The Panel also make sensible and proportionate recommendations on the Constabulary's procedures and practices. The Panel is made up of volunteers.

Role of Panel Member

Panel Members are responsible for scrutinising stop and search incidents (written records and Body Worn Video footage as appropriate) and ensuring that stop and search activities carried out by Hertfordshire Constabulary are conducted in a fair, lawful and non-discriminatory manner.

Members also play a crucial role in how the Panel operates effectively and transparently.

Appointment

Those who live, work or study in Hertfordshire can apply to be on the Panel and will be interviewed by the OPCC before being appointed.

Panel members can serve on the Stop and Search Panel for up to two terms of three years, with a third three-year term by exception.

¹ [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 \(PACE\) codes of practice - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/legislation/policies/2018/04/2018-04-18-policies)

² [Stop and search | College of Policing](https://www.collegeofpolicing.org.uk/stop-and-search)

Information Disclosure Agreement and Personal Liability

Panel members may view information of a personal nature whilst undertaking their panel work. This is shared on the mutual understanding that the personal details of those discussed will not, in any way, be disclosed or used outside of the meeting. This includes any work to promote the Panel including on social media or at community events.

All Panel members are therefore required to sign an annual Information Disclosure Agreement. This sets out their personal liability under the Data Protection Act 1998 for any wilful or reckless act regarding the misuse of information.

If Panel members have any concerns regarding information disclosure, they are encouraged to discuss this with the OPCC.

Key Attributes and Responsibilities

- To regularly attend panel meetings and contribute to discussion and decisions. There is a minimum requirement to attend half of the scheduled meetings each year (currently there are 12 monthly meetings a year).
- To complete any mandatory training to ensure Members have the knowledge base to enable effective scrutiny.
- To contribute to the development of the Panel through discussion at monthly meetings.
- Where capacity allows, to participate in some of the further or additional training offered by the OPCC and/or the Constabulary.
- Where capacity allows, be willing to be part of any subgroups, working groups or extraordinary meetings to further the work and development of the Panel
- Where capacity allows, be willing to be an ambassador for the Panel, raising awareness of the Panel's work and role.