

SCOTTISH POLICE AUTHORITY

Some further information about the Authority's scrutiny, oversight and assurance approach in relation to stop and search can be found here:

<https://www.spa.police.uk/news/2016/spa-publish-stop-and-search-research/>

KEY HIGHLIGHTS AND DOCUMENTS

SPA's Initial Scrutiny Review 2013/14

In 2013/14 the Authority undertook a Scrutiny Review on Stop and Search in Scotland, analysing stop and search data and undertaking interviews with Police Officers and Staff to examine policy and practice. The Authority published its Scrutiny Review in 2014 and followed up the implementation of recommendations arising via the Authority's Audit and Risk Committee.

IAG Membership – Board Member

The Authority had membership of the Independent Advisory Group on Stop and Search via a Board Member, and contributed to the work of that Group in developing the Code of Practice.

Research Commissioned

The Authority commissioned several pieces of research in 2015 to take forward one of the recommendations arising from its 2014 Scrutiny Review.

Landscape Review on Stop and Search – the Authority commissioned Dr Kath Murray to provide a landscape evidence review on the subject of Stop and Search to inform its Scrutiny Review and approach.

Scottish Social Attitudes Survey 2015 – the Authority, jointly with Police Scotland, utilised the SSA to help determine the level of support for stop and search among the Scottish population in differing contexts. The Authority published its findings in the summer of 2016.

Blake Stevenson – the Authority commissioned Blake Stevenson to carry out fieldwork interviews and focus groups with people who had experience of being stopped and searched to find out more about their experiences and their views of the police service. The Authority published its findings in the Spring of 2016.

UPYC – the Authority commissioned the University of Edinburgh to produce a bespoke research paper on findings around Stop and Search arising from the major UPYC (Understanding and Preventing Youth Crime) study that the University was participating in collaboration with other international academic institutions. The findings were published in 2016.

NSSU Oversight – Dip Sampling

The Authority commenced a regime of stop and search oversight in 2016, working closely with Police Scotland's National Stop and Search Unit. The NSSU were carrying out compliance checks on all stop and search records to determine the degree of compliance and accuracy in relation to the carrying out of stop and searches and the recording of information on the national stop and search database.

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A staff member from the Authority would undertake dip-sampling of these records to check that Police Scotland's internal control mechanisms (the work of the NSSU) was working satisfactorily.

Assurance Reports (mainstreaming reports to Committee)

The Authority produced assurance reports in relation to stop and search during 2016-2018, examining trends and variations in relation to the use of the tactic and any disproportionate impact on different groups and communities, including areas of Scotland. This helped to assess the level of compliance with the newly introduced Code of Practice. These reports were published by the Authority and scrutinised by the Policing Committee.

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