

## Volunteer Role Description



<b>Role title:</b>	<b>Stop and Search Reasonable Grounds Panel Co Chair</b>
<b>Purpose of role:</b>	<p>To co-chair The Reasonable Grounds Panel. This is an innovative police and community co-production approach to allow BTP to further embed transparency and community voices within their stop and search powers oversight. This will allow BTP to capture an additional layer of insights with particular interest from seldom heard communities. The Panel engages members of the public directly in determining whether individual officers have met the legal requirements for 'reasonable grounds' when using their powers and provides the basis for follow-up action where it is deemed that this requirement has not been met.</p> <p>The Panel consists of both police officers and community members who assess the grounds or reasons given by officers for stopping and searching a member of the public. When the Panel decides that officers have not met the legal standard of conduct during stop and searches, officers are subject to an escalating scale of corrective actions, including training, coaching, and professional development. The corrective action is focused on lessons learnt and practice requiring improvement where possible.</p> <p>Good practice will be celebrated and positive feedback will be passed to officers as well.</p>
<b>Key tasks / role description:</b>	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Reasonable Grounds Panel (RSG) Community Co- Chair</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• To chair meetings of the Reasonable Grounds panel including agreeing with the Police Chair, panel cases items and any other relevant issue to facilitate this meeting</li> <li>• To represent the Reasonable Grounds Panel both internally and externally</li> <li>• In support of the aims of the group to liaise with the media alongside the Police Chair</li> <li>• To discuss, agree with members of the Reasonable Grounds panel any reasonable grounds issues in relation to stop and search and refer</li></ul>

## Volunteer Role Description



them to the Stop and Search Working group for consideration

- Community Co-chair to assist the Police chair in accessing our most affected communities to ensure that the RGP gives them an active part to play in the ethical, effective and open to scrutiny approach to stop and search
- Support the police chair in the collation of evidence for all HMIC visits and inspections regimes supported by BTP Corporate services
- Chairs to attend regular meetings with the UoP tactical deliver chair that relate to issues of concern about either use of powers or any issues raised from the Panel and produce a quarterly update report for the force
- Assist in the planning and delivery of both written/verbal annual feedback events across the whole county as to the working partnership between the Police and these two strategic/operational structures
- To agree with Police Chair any trends or bespoke RGP activity to better understand disproportionality or other Stop and Search related issues

This is a voluntary role with no financial recompense. Funding for group activity or action will be considered by BTP on a case by case basis.

This role description has been produced as a result of the recommendations of the Open Society Foundation to involve joint chair/coordinator roles ...

“The Panel should appoint a coordinator from the local community to share all aspects of the role with the police coordinator. This would address concerns about the potential for bias in the design of the Panel and promote greater understanding of the process”

### Scope of Divisional Group

- Identify issues, common themes and trends in the information and decision-making process, looking at the impact of police decision-

## Volunteer Role Description



making on diverse and vulnerable communities.

- Ensure the role of the BTP is more widely understood and that public confidence is increased by providing feedback to communities about the work of the Group.
- Work according to the BTP assurance and scrutiny requirements.
- Respect the operational independence of the Chief Constable.
- Report their scrutiny findings back to the Trust, Legitimacy and Community Policing Lead
- As a good choose themes such as child / vulnerable people searches, weapon enabled searches or controlled substance searches
- At all times consider ethical issues.

### Scope of the Strategic Group

#### Purpose

There are three main reasons for setting up a Strategic Stop and Search Scrutiny Panel in British Transport Police (BTP).

- (i) To work alongside divisional scrutiny structures in developing an understanding on how BTP use their pre-arrest Stop and Search (SnS) powers at strategic level,
- (ii) To assist analysing SnS performance data and identify areas for improvement,
- (iii) To discuss and share best practice by drawing on the SnS Strategic Scrutiny Group's credentials to widen BTP's organisational perspective.

#### Primary Functions

- The primary function is to maximise an openness and a transparency in the use of SnS through implementing and maintaining an effective internal and external scrutiny process.
- It further aims to build public trust, confidence and faith in police legitimacy. By this action, it will ensure that the SnS powers are used in a proportionate, necessary and fair way by showcasing BTPs processes.
- The narrative that feeds into these topics will be in BTP's unique operating context, namely, a national force policing a transient network, with no residential base and how to relay this complexity to those who seek to draw narratives from BTP data.

## Volunteer Role Description



	<p>Commitment from BTP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• BTP will support Scrutiny Volunteers in their role as community representatives, to scrutinise and challenge when necessary, in order to effect positive change. Together they will ensure oversight of policing powers and work with BTP to continue to maintain fair and proportionate policing of all communities.</li><li>• BTP will provide documents in plain language that are accessible to Scrutiny Volunteers and keep paperwork to a minimum.</li></ul>
<b>Requirements:</b>	<p>Co Chair Volunteers must have the following skills and expertise:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Willingness to work constructively with others, respecting differing values and diverse backgrounds in a co-chair capacity</li><li>• Knowledge and/or interest in the criminal justice system.</li><li>• Inquisitive mind with the ability to analyse information, identify key issues of concern and report back as necessary.</li><li>• Commitment to equality and diversity and an understanding of the effects of discrimination.</li><li>• Reach and ability to showcase the work of the panel within their community network</li><li>• Experience is an advantage, but not required as full support will be given</li></ul> <p><b>Hours:</b> Scrutiny meetings shall be held every three months</p> <p><b>Tenure:</b> Scrutiny Volunteers will be expected to commit for an initial period of two years subject to a review after 12 months.</p> <p><b>Payment:</b> Reasonable travel expenses will be paid</p> <p>The Stop and Search Reasonable Grounds panel assumes that all people coming to group events agree by their presence that they will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Observe the authority of the co-chairs at all times if one is present, raising points and matters for discussion only through the chair at formal meetings;</li><li>• Listen quietly to and respect the views and experiences of other people contributing;</li><li>• Agree to and follow the standard of behaviour expected at each event,</li></ul>

## Volunteer Role Description



	<p>according to what is happening at that event. For example, arriving in good time; not interrupting; not shouting etc</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agree that any decision reached by a majority of the group, once made, must be accepted as the groups opinion, although a formal request to the chair can be made to record a differing opinion;</li> <li>• Add to the discussion at an appropriate point to do so and then only in a way that is relevant to the matter under discussion via the Chairperson;</li> <li>• Allow others to have equal opportunity and time to share their opinions when contributions are asked for;</li> <li>• Challenge ideas not individuals or their opinions;</li> <li>• Not use inflammatory language or behaviour of any kind;</li> <li>• Report any health and safety issues which could affect the safe running of the event to the event chairperson</li> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>Location:</b> Remote and in person, depending on division and function performing</p> <p><b>Eligibility Criteria:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Must be 18</li> <li>• You must be willing to serve for a minimum of two years</li> <li>• You must be willing to attend regular meetings throughout each year (usually between 3 to 4 meetings) be willing to undertake induction and other continuous professional development as required, be involved in the creation of agendas, read information ahead of meetings and be prepared to challenge and make decisions as required.</li> <li>• You must not be a current member of the Force/Local Independent Advisory Groups (IAG), a serving British Transport Police Authority, a current police officer/member of police staff. This is not an exhaustive list and is to avoid any conflict of interest.</li> <li>• Other restrictions could apply depending on circumstances.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Training:</b></p>	<p>One training and induction session shall be held upon recruitment and additional optional ad hoc meetings, guest speaker, continuing professional development events may be held throughout the year.</p>
<p><b>Equipment Access</b></p>	<p>You will need your own device which as access to Microsoft Teams</p> <p>More information can be found here <a href="https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software">https://www.microsoft.com/en-gb/microsoft-teams/group-chat-software</a></p>
<p><b>I confirm that using a volunteer in the role outlined above will complement and support staff roles. It will not replace officers or staff or prevent the employment of a new staff member</b></p>	

## Volunteer Role Description



**Signed:**

**Date:**

If you need any assistance to complete this form or have any queries, please contact the Community Volunteer Team at Force Headquarters.