

Independent Panel/Police Executive Quarterly Wānanga

Summary Date Range 05/05/23 to 17/05/24

What have we spoken about?

- The Independent Panel and Executive Leadership Team (ELT) recognised the importance of these wānanga and emphasised that they are about building a greater understanding between the Panel and ELT, preparing the organisation for the research findings, and how they may be able to respond to the issues relevant to the programme but that fall outside of the focus of the research.
- Members of the Independent Panel and ELT focused strongly on how the community and iwi would want Police to respond to the research and Panel findings, especially in relation to the Photographing Rangatahi Joint Inquiry by the Independent Police Conduct Authority (IPCA) and Office of the Privacy Commissioner (OPC).
- The Independent Panel and ELT noted the range of initiatives Police are currently running, such as Operation Cobalt, ReFrame, Te Pae Oranga, and the ram raid responses, and the clear disparities between them. Panel members reiterated that it is imperative to ensure immediate response initiatives do not undermine the longer-term outcomes of fairness and equity.
- The progress, milestones and initial insights achieved by the Research Teams were considered by members. Issues that were identified by the Research Teams were oftentimes raised to ELT for awareness, such as the problems that emerged around data quality. The Independent Panel and ELT highlighted that whilst Police has a lot of data, it is not necessarily the correct data to answer the three UPD questions. Members discussed the need to improve the current operating data environment, and how this improvement can be used to implement the recommendations.
- During a quarterly wānanga, the Chair of the Independent Panel (Tā Kim Workman) provided copies of the Fairness and Equity Framework, which had been developed as part of the advice for Photographing Rangatahi. Members identified that whilst this framework was designed for this particular issue, it could be useful in other areas of Police.
- Members of the Independent Panel and ELT considered the connection and synergies between the UPD programme and the Waitangi Tribunal Inquiries, such as WAI3060, and how the research from UPD could be of use to their inquiries.
- The Independent Panel and ELT spoke to the replacement of the current Police TASER with the TASER10 and the implications that arose from this change, specifically that the TASER10 does not come with a camera. Members agreed that due to the Ihi Research focus on TASER data, their insights and findings could help inform further discussions around this issue.
- Members focused on topical challenges affecting Police, such as the policing of protests and responding to individuals experiencing mental distress. The use of the term “mental health” was queried, with the suggested replacement being “mental wellbeing”, as it is not necessarily the impairment that is influential, but rather the situation they are in.
- The Independent Panel and ELT considered the current operating environment for Police, which included the newly formed coalition government and their priorities, and the challenges in relation to the fiscal constraints applied to Police.

What have we done?

- Members of the Independent Panel and ELT had a strong focus on ensuring the safety of researchers and Operational Advisory Group (OAG) members when the consideration of site selection was being undertaken, with the decision that an evidence-based approach to inform the selection was appropriate.
- The Independent Panel and ELT recognised the need for other agencies to work alongside and in partnership with Police to provide better outcomes. This was particularly evident in the Cyclone Gabrielle response, but also when considering the ram raids, as it is unrealistic for Police to provide a positive outcome without the contribution of other organisations.
- The approach to preparing Police's response and implementation of the recommendations from the research findings was discussed by members of the Independent Panel and ELT. A draft implementation plan was agreed to be submitted to ELT with advice on what was to be considered, as well as accountability for the findings. The proposed model is made of three core components, which are community engagement and advice, governance, and delivery. Members reinforced that the Panel is committed to supporting Police with the work of the UPD programme, and their implementation of it.
- Members of the Independent Panel and ELT considered the Terms of Reference for the Use of Force Review, which has now begun under DC de Wattignar. The intent of this review will be to consider the settings around the use of force, with a particular focus on the decision-making process at the point of discharging a firearm.
- With the introduction of the Criminal Activity Intervention Legislation, the Panel provided feedback around the need to ensure the legislation is implemented compassionately, and the role of the community voice to support this. Members of the Independent Panel and ELT agreed that this legislation provides an opportunity to achieve UPD thinking in legislation.
- The Independent Panel and ELT were updated of the research progress at each quarterly wānanga, with members noting that the process to establish research delivery and oversight has been both intentional and considered, and Police can be assured that the process and findings are robust.

What will we do next?

- The Independent Panel and ELT will support Police in assessing and delivering the research recommendations and associated findings, to ensure the Policing system is supporting the delivery of the service that New Zealanders expect and deserve.