

## **Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

**3 July 2015**

### **Complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner**

#### **Report by The Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

##### **Recommendations**

That the Panel considers the complaints against the Commissioner since the last meeting, and any action that the Panel might take in respect of these.

#### **1. Background**

- 1.1 In accordance with the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2011, the Sussex Police & Crime Panel (PCP) is responsible for the initial handling of complaints against Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC).
- 1.2 At its meeting of 26 November 2012 the Panel decided to delegate its initial handling duties to the Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel, and to consider a report of the complaints received, quarterly.
- 1.3 Serious complaints (those alleging criminal conduct) are referred automatically to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC). A sub-committee meets to consider complaints against the PCC requiring informal resolution (those considered "non-serious").

#### **2. Correspondence Received from 8 April 2015 to 17 June 2015**

- 2.1 The Panel takes the view that all correspondence raising issues with policing in Sussex should be recorded, whether or not the issues fall within the Panel's statutory remit.
- 2.2 During the subject period, four people contacted the Panel to raise issues, and all four pieces of correspondence were recorded. Of these, three people contacted the Panel directly and one copied the Panel into correspondence to others. The Clerk to the Panel considered all four pieces of correspondence to determine if any matters raised fell within the remit of the Panel.

##### **Complaints**

- 2.3 During the subject period no correspondent raised issues which constituted a serious complaint, as defined by the Regulations (see 1.3).
- 2.4 No correspondent raised issues which constituted a non-serious complaint, as defined by the Regulations (see 1.3).

**Correspondence Recorded, but not Considered by the Clerk to be a Complaint within the Panel's Remit:**

- 2.5 Concerning correspondence received and determined by the Clerk to the Panel not to be (within the terms of the Regulations) a complaint within the Panel's remit:
- Two of the individuals contacting the Panel raised issues about operational policing matters, which are the responsibility of the Chief Constable, and not the Commissioner. Of these, one correspondent did not provide any contact details, and one copied the Panel into correspondence addressed to others.
  - Two of the individuals raised issues about the Chief Constable, which are the responsibility of the Commissioner to investigate. One correspondent was already aware of this, and we were able to update them on the status of such a complaint, which had already been lodged with the Commissioner's office.
3. **Resource Implications and Value for Money**
- 3.1 The cost of handling complaints is met from the funds provided by the Home Office for the operation and administration of Sussex Police and Crime Panel.
4. **Risk Management Implications**
- 4.1 It is important that residents can have confidence in the integrity of the system for handling complaints against Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and her Deputy (where one has been appointed).
5. **Other Considerations – Equality – Crime Reduction – Human Rights**
- 5.1 Not applicable

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