

## **Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

**24 April 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 2012, 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 13 January 2015 to 8 April 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, five people contacted the Panel to raise issues, and all five were recorded. Of these, two people contacted the Panel directly and three copied the Panel into correspondence to others. The Clerk to the Panel considered all five pieces of correspondence to determine if any matters raised fell within the remit of the Panel.
- 2.3 In each case the decision was notified to the correspondent in writing, via email where no postal address was provided.

##### **Complaints**

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

- 2.5 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:**

- 2.6 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:
- Four of the individuals contacting the Panel raised issues about operational policing matters, which are the responsibility of the Chief Constable, and not the Commissioner. In three of these cases the correspondent was aware of this, and had already pursued their complaints through the correct channels. In one case the correspondent was not aware, and was provided with the necessary contact details to take their complaint forward.
  - One individual raised issues about officers of the Office of Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner (OSPCC). Complaints against officers of the OSPCC fall to the OSPCC's Chief Executive to consider, and complaints against the Chief Executive fall to the OSPCC's solicitor to consider. The correspondent was aware of this, and had already pursued complaints through the correct channels.
- 2.7 One correspondent raised issues in relation to operational policing matters at Hastings Police Station, the second person to raise allegations concerning this location since the Panel's inception. The Panel has been advised that, in both cases, the allegations have been investigated by Sussex Police, and by the IPCC, and were not upheld.

**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

**Tony Kershaw**

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

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**Background Papers**

None