

## Sussex Police and Crime Panel

7 April 2017

### 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, 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 10 January 2017 to 30 March 2017

- 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, 2 people contacted the Panel to raise issues, and both were recorded. The Clerk to the Panel considered this correspondence to determine if any matters raised fell within the remit of the Panel.

##### Complaints

- 2.3 During the subject period no correspondents raised issues which constituted a serious complaint, as defined by the Regulations (see 1.3).
- 2.4 One correspondent contacted the Panel with non-specific allegations about the conduct of the PCC. The correspondent has been invited to provide more details in respect of the allegations.

### **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:
  - 2.5.1 One individual contacted the Panel with allegations concerning operational Metropolitan Police matters. These are the responsibility of the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, not the PCC, and therefore not within the remit of the Panel. The OSPCC provided the complainant with the appropriate contact details.

### **Correspondence Recorded, and 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 to be (within the terms of the Regulations) a complaint within the Panel's remit:
  - 2.6.1 See 2.4 above.

### **Serious Complaints**

- 2.7 A serious complaint about the Commissioner was referred to the IPCC in August 2016 for investigation.
- 2.8 The allegations were referred by the IPCC to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) in January 2017. Based on the test set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors, the CPS has decided not to bring charges in respect of the allegations.
- 2.9 The IPCC's report of the investigation will be published in due course.

### **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 the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner and their Deputy (where one has been appointed).

### **5. Other Considerations – Equality – Crime Reduction – Human Rights**

- 5.1 Not applicable

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