

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

30 June 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 31 March 2017 to 23 June 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.

During the subject period, two people contacted the Panel to raise issues, and both were recorded. One piece of correspondence was forwarded to the Panel by the IPCC. The Clerk to the Panel considered this correspondence to determine if any matters raised fell within the remit of the Panel.

Complaints

- 2.2 During the subject period no correspondents raised issues which constituted a serious complaint, as defined by the Regulations (see 1.3).
- 2.3 One correspondent contacted the Panel (via the IPCC) with non-specific allegations about the conduct of the PCC, which relate to events in the early nineties, pre-dating the PCC's first term of office by more than 20 years.

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

- 2.4 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:
 - 2.4.1 One individual contacted the Panel with allegations concerning operational policing matters. These are the responsibility of the Chief Constable and not the PCC. The complainant was provided with the appropriate contact details.

Correspondence Recorded, and 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 to be (within the terms of the Regulations) a complaint within the Panel's remit:
 - 2.5.1 One person contacted the Panel raising questions concerning the accuracy of the consultation document used by the PCC to inform the public consultation on the proposed precept increase for 2017/18. Dialogue has been initiated between the correspondent and staff of the Office of Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, and is ongoing. Progress will be reported at future PCP meetings.

Serious Complaints

- 2.6 None have been received, or are in process.

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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