

## Sussex Police and Crime Panel

27 April 2018

### 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.

No complaints within the statutory remit of the Panel were received during the stated time period.

#### 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 9 January 2018 to 3 April 2018

1.4 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.

1.5 During the subject period, four people contacted the Panel (either directly, or via the IPCC) to raise issues, and four were recorded. The Clerk to the Panel considered this correspondence to determine if any matters raised fell within the remit of the Panel.

#### Complaints

1.6 During the subject period no correspondents raised issues which constituted a 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:**

- 1.6.1 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:
- 1.6.2 An individual contacted the Panel concerning the effectiveness and adequacy of speed monitoring measures put in place in the vicinity of the Rolls Royce factory in Westhampnett, West Sussex. This is an operational policing issue in which the Commissioner has no role, and the complainant was referred to the appropriate team within Sussex Police.

### **Correspondence Recorded, and Considered by the Clerk to be a Complaint within the Panel's Remit:**

- 1.6.3 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 (three received).
- 1.6.4 An individual contacted the Panel regarding allegations which were investigated in 2016/17 via the statutory/independent process. No new evidence was presented to merit a fresh enquiry.
- 1.6.5 Correspondence originally sent to the IPCC was referred to the Panel. The correspondent alleged that the PCC had failed to acknowledge, or reply to, a letter sent previously. Enquiries with the Office of Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner revealed this to be the case, due to an administrative oversight. The preparation of a response was prioritised, and then dispatched.
- 1.6.6 An individual contacted the Panel, to complain about the PCC's actions in respect of a Sussex Police investigation into an operational policing complaint. Although having no legal role in such complaints, the PCC has a duty to "monitor all complaints made against (Sussex Police) officers and staff". The Panel has no investigatory powers, but basic enquiries can be made when a complaint about the PCC is received, to help determine how it should be handled, and the Clerk contacted the Commissioner's office to establish how her responsibilities were discharged in relation to the operational policing complaint. The Clerk was satisfied by the level of monitoring undertaken by the Commissioner and could establish no grounds for pursuing the complaint about the Commissioner further.

### **Serious Complaints**

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

## **2 Resource Implications and Value for Money**

- 2.1 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.

### **3 Risk Management Implications**

- 3.1 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).

### **4 Other Considerations – Equality – Crime Reduction – Human Rights**

- 4.1 Not applicable

**Tony Kershaw**

Clerk to Sussex Police and Crime Panel

**Contact:**

Ninesh Edwards

(T) 0330 222 2542

(E) [ninesh.edwards@westsussex.gov.uk](mailto:ninesh.edwards@westsussex.gov.uk)