

## **Sussex Police and Crime Panel**

**9 October 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 17 June to 29 September 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, two people contacted the Panel to raise issues, and both pieces of correspondence were recorded. The Clerk to the Panel considered both 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:
- One of the individuals contacting the Panel raised issues about operational policing matters, which are the responsibility of the Chief Constable, and not the Commissioner. The correspondent was informed of the Clerk's findings in writing.
  - The other individual purported to have a complaint about the Commissioner's conduct, and plans to set out the details in due course. The correspondent was advised of the process following receipt of their initial email. Any development will be reported to the next Panel meeting.
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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