

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

22 January 2016

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 30 September 2015 to 8 January 2016

- 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, four people contacted the Panel to raise issues, and all 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 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 individual copied the Panel into a complaint addressed to Sussex Police, relating to operational issues. The Clerk confirmed that Sussex Police had received and recorded the complaint, and were following their internal procedures.
- One individual contacted the Panel to raise issues about operational policing matters, which are the responsibility of the Chief Constable, and not the Commissioner. The Clerk wrote to the correspondent, setting out this determination, and signposting Sussex Police's complaints channels.
- One individual contacted the Panel in relation to the theft of a charity collection box. The Clerk was able to signpost them to Sussex Police's non-emergency reporting system.
- One individual contacted the Panel to make complaints about operational policing issues and the Police and Crime Commissioner, in Hertfordshire. The Clerk signposted the correspondent to the appropriate channels within Hertfordshire Constabulary and Hertfordshire Police and Crime Panel.

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

Contact:

Ninesh Edwards

(T) 0330 222 2542

(E) ninesh.edwards@westsussex.gov.uk