

Sussex Police and Crime Panel

4 July 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 9 January 2016 to 20 June 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 five 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 one correspondent raised issues which constituted a serious complaint, as defined by the Regulations (see 1.3).
- 2.4 One correspondent raised an issue 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:

- The IPCC forwarded one complaint to the Panel which mentioned the Commissioner, but concerned operational policing matters, which are the responsibility of the Chief Constable and not the Commissioner.
- An individual copied the Panel into correspondence addressed to the Commissioner, asking a number of questions but raising no substantive issues.
- An individual contacted the Panel to complain about actions which were undertaken by the Commissioner's officers, and not by the Commissioner.

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:

- One individual alleged that the Commissioner had failed to become adequately involved in a complaint about Sussex Police. The Clerk to the Panel determined that the Commissioner had taken a greater interest in the case than her statutory duties called for, and had satisfied herself that Sussex Police had handled the case appropriately.
- One individual alleged that the Commissioner had breached the terms of the Police and Crime Commissioner Elections Order 2012. The Clerk to the Panel considered the allegation and determined that any breach, even if proven, was insufficiently significant to warrant further action.

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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