

## Sussex Police and Crime Panel

19 January 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 28 September 2017 to 8 January 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, three people contacted the Panel to raise issues, and three 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 alleging that Sussex Police officers were allowed continue in their role after being convicted of crimes, and also questioning Sussex Police's policy towards those suffering from mental health issues. Despite pertaining to operational policing matters (and therefore not within the PCC's remit) the Clerk established that the Commissioner's officers had nonetheless corresponded with the individual to a significant degree to explain the statutory basis for the matters raised and processes followed.

**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 (none received).

**Serious Complaints**

- 1.6.4 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

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