

Cleveland Police and Crime Panel Complaints Sub Committee

A meeting of Cleveland Police and Crime Panel Complaints Sub Committee was held on Thursday 16 October 2014 (adjourned and reconvened 25 November)

Present: Cllr Norma Stephenson (Chairman) , Cllr George Dunning , Gwen Duncan (16 October only) (Non-Political Independent Member)

Officers: David Bond, Michael Henderson (16 October only) Sarah Whaley (25 November only) (Stockton on Tees Borough Council)

Also in attendance: Barry Coppinger (Commissioner) John Bage, Simon Dennis (Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner); Mr D (Complainant) .

Apologies:

PCPC Declarations of Interest 5/14

There were no declarations of interest.

PCPC Exclusion of the Public 6/14

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 the public be excluded from the meeting for the whole of the item of business on the grounds that it involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 1 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

PCPC Complaint 4/14

Members considered a report that provided details of a complaint received regarding the alleged conduct of the Cleveland Police and Crime Commissioner ("the Commissioner"). The complaint was previously reported to the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel on 26 June 2014. The Panel agreed to refer it to the newly established Complaints Sub-Committee. The Sub-Committee met on the 13 August to consider the complaint, but the Commissioner was unable to be in attendance. The matter had therefore been deferred to this meeting of the Sub Committee.

Details of the complaint and related documents provided by the Complainant were presented to Members as was a response to the complainant from the Commissioner.

The Sub-Committee heard from the Complainant and the Commissioner and Sub-Committee Members asked questions of both parties.

Due to the Complainant having another unavoidable appointment it was suggested that the meeting be adjourned.

RESOLVED that the meeting be adjourned with a view to it being re-convened as soon as reasonably practicable, at a future convenient date.

The meeting reconvened on Tuesday 25 November 2014 at 11.00am. Gwen Duncan submitted her apologies.

The Sub Committee was supplied with a supplementary statement, from the Commissioner.

The Sub-Committee heard further comments from the Complainant and the Commissioner and Sub-Committee Members asked questions of both parties.

The Complainant, the Commissioner, Mr Dennis and Mr Bage left the meeting room while the Sub Committee considered the information it had received.

RESOLVED that

1. the matters the subject of the complaint were complaints for the purposes of the relevant legislation;
2. the Cleveland Police and Crime Panel (in the form of the Sub-Committee) was the relevant police and crime panel to consider the complaint;
3. the Complaint be recorded and a full copy of the record be provided to the Complainant and to the Commissioner.
4. neither of the matters were serious complaints regarding automatic referral to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, or such that voluntary referral was appropriate.
5. the Sub Committee noted the Police and Crime Commissioner's acknowledgement that it took from his election in November 2012 until July 2013 to meet the complainant, and his apology to the complainant for not having met him as quickly as he had understandably wished that he had.
6. the Sub Committee noted that the complainant's case was being re-examined by Cleveland Police and that this work was ongoing and also that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner had indicated that it would undertake groundwork in relation to the handling of the complaint, pursuant to the Commissioner's powers of scrutiny regarding such matters.
7. the Police and Crime Commissioner be requested to take steps to ensure that Cleveland Police provide regular written updates to the complainant regarding the re-examination of his case.
8. the work of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, in relation to the handling of the complaints be carried out expeditiously, and whether or not the complaints about the Commissioner have been resolved/determined by the Sub Committee; and that the complainant is kept regularly informed, in writing, regarding the work.
9. that, on the basis of the above, no further action be taken by the Sub-Committee regarding the complaints that the Police and Crime Commissioner took 10 months to meet with the complainant to discuss his case, and that the Commissioner has not held an Inquiry into Cleveland Police regarding the matter.