

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

Title: Report of the Thames Valley
Police & Crime Panel
Complaints Sub-Committee

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Author: Khalid Ahmed, Scrutiny
Officer, Thames Valley Police
& Crime Panel



Background

1. As set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility (PRSR) Act 2011, and further explained in the Policing Protocol Order 2011, Police and Crime Panels (PCPs) perform a scrutiny function for PCCs, providing challenge and support, and acting as a critical friend. PCPs are currently responsible for handling non-serious complaints made about a PCC and a Deputy PCC and resolving these through the process for “informal resolution”, as set out in the PRSR Act 2011 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012.

2. A Sub-Committee of the Panel discharges this duty on its behalf. The Chair of the Sub-Committee for 2023/24 is Councillor Emily Culverhouse with Councillor Richard Webber as Vice-Chair.

3. The complaints considered since the last meeting of the Panel (10 November 2023) are detailed.

4. It should be noted that the proceedings of Complaints Sub-Committees are confidential, and no details can be discussed in the public domain of a Panel meeting.

Complaints Considered

5. A complaint against the Police and Crime Commissioner was considered at a meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee on 10 November 2023. The proceedings of the Complaints Sub-Committee are confidential and cannot be discussed in the Panel meeting.

6. After careful consideration of the complaint based on the submissions of the complainants and the PCC it was agreed that the complaint did not have any merit and the Sub-Committee dis-applied the requirements of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 (Part 4).

It was agreed that the complaint should not be subject to resolution under Part 4 of the Regulations and that no action should be taken in relation to it at all, as the complaint is an abuse of procedures, in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the 2012 Regulations.

7. A complaint against the Police and Crime Commissioner was considered at a meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee on 8 December 2023. The proceedings of the Complaints Sub-Committee are confidential and cannot be discussed in the Panel meeting.

8. After careful consideration of the complaint based on the submissions of the complainant and the PCC it was agreed that the complaint did not have any merit and the Sub-Committee dis-applied the requirements of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 (Part 4).

It was agreed that the complaint should not be subject to resolution under Part 4 of the Regulations and that no action should be taken in relation to it at all, as the complaint is an abuse of procedures, in accordance with Regulation 15(2) of the 2012 Regulations.

However, the PCC was requested to write to the complainant providing an update on the reasoning why the PCC should not be involved in such allegations and that details be given on how the complainant could make a complaint against the Chief Constable if they wished to. Also, the complainant be informed (if not already done so), of the details of the peer review which has been requested on the allegations made.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Thames Valley Police and Crime Panel note the report.