

Report to the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel

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

Date: 4 September 2020

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 Chairman of the Sub-Committee is currently Councillor Bill Bendyshe-Brown.
3. It was agreed that the Sub-Committee should submit its report to the Panel on a quarterly basis, when complaints had been considered.

Complaints Received

4. Two complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner were considered at the Sub-Committee meeting on 14 February 2020.
5. With one of the complaints, Members agreed that due to the detailed submissions from both parties and the complexity of the case, that the new Members of the Sub-Committee had not had enough time to consider the detailed paperwork around the complaint. The Sub-Committee agreed that the complaint should be considered by the full Police and Crime Panel.
6. In relation to the second complaint, the Sub-Committee found that there was no firm evidence to substantiate the allegations made by the complainant. The Sub-Committee after considering the written submissions provided by the complainant and the Police and Crime Commissioner, decided that this complaint made against the Police and Crime Commissioner, did not have any merit.

7. A Complaints Sub-Committee took place on 8 June 2020. There was one complaint made against the Police and Crime Commissioner and four complaints made against the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner. For all five complaints, consideration was given to written representations from both parties. It was agreed that all five complaints did not have any merit.

8. A Complaints Sub-Committee took place on 21 August 2020 to consider a complaint made against the Police and Crime Commissioner. Consideration was given to written submissions from both parties. The Sub-Committee agreed to disapply the complaint against the PCC on the grounds that the complainant did not have the capacity to complain as per the requirements of the Police Reform Act 2002.

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Thames Valley Police & Crime Panel note the report of the Complaints Sub-Committee