

**Report of the Secretary to the
Staffordshire Police and Crime Panel
Monday 3 July 2018**

**Annual Report on the Management of Complaints, Purported Complaints
or Conduct Matters against the Police and Crime Commissioner and
Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner**

1. Recommendation:

1.1 That the Panel note the information contained in this report.

2. Background

2.1 Under the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 this Panel has statutory responsibility for handling and recording complaints, purported complaints and conduct matters about the Police and Crime Commissioner for Staffordshire and his Deputy. NB complaints alleging criminal misconduct are dealt with by the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC).

2.2 In May 2013 this Panel approved a procedure for the handling of complaints which aims to maintain the Panels role of overseeing complaints whilst ensuring that complaints are dealt with swiftly. That procedure requires me, as Monitoring Officer for the Panel, to obtain from the Commissioners office any information relevant to the complaint, to form a view and draft a report and make recommendations on action. Panel members' views on that report and recommendations are then sought prior to reaching a final decision. The stages of the process are recorded in accordance with established guidelines.

2.3 In approving this procedure the Panel requested that I submit regular reports on complaints handled. In accordance with that requirement I can report that since my last update to Panel in July 2017 there have been 2 complaints received neither of which were processed through the system described above as they were not deemed to relate to the personal conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner or his Deputy.

2.4. In administering the complaints process on behalf of the Panel I have applied a strict interpretation of the requirement to consider complaints about the conduct of the Commissioner and/or his Deputy, resisting attempts to use the process as another route by which complaints about the Force can be a pursued. From discussions with Panel Support Officers at national level a less rigorous approach has led to considerable resource being utilised in dealing with complex and in many cases, historic complaints about the Police.

2.5. The Policing and Crime Act 2017 extends the existing provisions for the handling of complaints about the Commissioner and his Deputy to cover actions in their capacity as the Fire and Rescue Authority (Part 10 of Schedule 1 of the Act).

Appendix 1

1.0. Equalities Implications

1.1 None

2.0. Legal Implications

2.1 The Panel is required to have a formal complaints procedure for the handling of complaints, purported complaints and conduct matters about the PCC and/or his Deputy.

3.0 Resource and Value for Money Implications

3.1. There are no significant resource or value for money implications from this report.

4.0 Risk Implications

4.1. Compliance with Regulations on the handling of complaints, purported complaints or conduct matters about the PCC/Deputy PCC addresses the risk of challenge to the governance arrangements of the Panel.

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