

## STAFFORDSHIRE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME PANEL – 25 October 2021

### QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC TO THE POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

#### Report of the Secretary

The Panel's Constitution provides for questions to the Commissioner from members of the public. Questioners can choose to either attend the meeting and ask the question themselves or have the question dealt with in written form and the reply forwarded to them.

The following question has been received (questions are listed in order of receipt):

Mr N Dodd – questions received 20 September

#### **1. How does the panel scrutinise the decisions of the PFCC exactly, and how have they brought him, and therefore Staffordshire Police, to account for their poor behaviour, morals and ethics?**

*Panels response:*

- *The Panels remit is not to scrutinise the day to day running of the Commissioner's Office.*
- *At each Panel meeting there is an item on the agenda which gives the Panel an opportunity to scrutinise the decisions of the Commissioner. These decisions are found on the Commissioners web site [Decisions - Staffordshire Commissioner \(staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk\)](http://Decisions - Staffordshire Commissioner (staffordshire-pfcc.gov.uk))*
- *At each panel meeting there is also an opportunity for Members to ask the Commissioner questions on any aspect relating to the discharge of his function.*
- *An Annual Police complaints report is considered by the Panel which again gives an opportunity for the Panel to raise questions on the number of complaints received and themes.*
- *The Panel is also required to scrutinise the Police and Crime Plan, the Annual report, the Precept, and Senior appointments (through confirmation hearings). This gives the Panel opportunity to ask questions and challenge the Commissioner on any part of his function.*
- *For information, complaints raised against the Commissioner or his Deputy are, in the first instance considered by the Host Authority's (Staffs County Council) Monitoring Officer who will, under delegated authority, consider the allegation and decide if it is a legitimate complaint against the 'personal conduct' of the Commissioner. This*

*activity is reported to the Panel on an annual basis, normally at the June meeting.*

**2. Are budgets and numbers of officers really more important than the morals and ethics of those in charge of them?**

*Panels response:*

*The Panel appreciate that these questions follow a number of complaints raised by Mr Dodd against individual officers of the force over a significant period of time. Both budgets, number of officers and morals and ethical standards are important to the Panel. However, the Panel has a specific role in monitoring the performance of the Commissioner and his role of setting and shaping the strategic objectives of the Police and Fire and Rescue Services.*

**3. Why are the evidenced opinions, actions and inactions of 5 Senior Officers, particularly around disability, vulnerability, and total ignorance of their 'duty of care', not important to the panel in terms of their responsibility to 'scrutinise' the PFCC's decisions in his role of bringing the police to account?**

*Panels response:*

*The Panel is not a complaints body for Police Force Complaints. The complaints raised have been considered by the Police Standards Unit, have been through the appeal process and have been considered by the Independent Office of Police Complaints. The Panel has no remit or power to consider complaints against the force or staff members.*

**4. How does the panel protect us from harm from our police, and if they don't who do they think does exactly?**

*Panels response:*

*It is appreciated that Mr Dodd may be frustrated with the complaints process but that does not mean that the process or his complaints should then be taken up by the Panel. As stated in previous correspondence between Mr Dodd and Mr Tradewell the Panels legal advisor, these are not issues for the Panel to investigate and they go beyond the Panels remit.*

**5. We also asked for confirmation from the panel as to why exactly they feel none of the above is even worthy of being 'recorded' by the PFCC?**

*Panels response:*

*The Panel cannot force the Commissioner to record a complaint. The Panel has received information from the PFCC which shows that the complaints have been investigated and have been reviewed through the appeals process. It appears that he has followed due process in line with IOPC and complaint guidance. The issues Mr Dodd raises are policing issues that are an internal matter for the Police.*

A copy of the reply will be forwarded to any questioner not in attendance at the meeting.

J Tradewell  
Secretary to the Panel

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