

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S OFFICE

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

27 JUNE 2017

REPORT OF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel with oversight of all complaints made against Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, for scrutiny of the initial handling by the Chief Executive of Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

BACKGROUND

2. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) is the Appropriate Authority to handle complaints against the conduct of 'Relevant Office Holders', being Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Deputy PCC if one is appointed, according to statutory regulations of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 and as referred to in the Police Reform and Social Responsibilities Act 2011, section 31 and schedule 7.
3. However, the initial handling, which includes categorisation, recording decision-making, referral of criminal allegations to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC), disapplication decision-making, and responding to the complainant in the first instance, has been delegated by the Panel to the Chief Executive in the Office of Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, with scrutiny and oversight of all complaints and any escalation for informal resolution, remaining with the Panel.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

4. There has been one new complaint since the last Police and Crime Panel meeting report against the *conduct* of the Police and Crime Commissioner ('conduct' including acts, omissions, statements and decisions (whether actual, alleged or inferred)). The complainant alleges that the PCC breached confidentiality and disclosed the complainant's concerns within a reply to the complainant's MP after the MP wrote to the PCC again on behalf of his constituent (the complainant) about another matter of concern.
5. One other complaint remains open, as noted in the last report. This relates to the PCC's response email to the complainant who subsequently complained that the PCC had interfered with the matter, which should have been dealt with by the Police and Crime Panel. This was escalated to the Panel on 24 January 2017.

6. All complaints to date have had Panel oversight, including those solely handled by the Panel.
7. Please refer to the summary table in Annex 1.
8. All complaint files are available at the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for viewing by the Panel, if requested. Live complaint files are available at the Police and Crime Panel meeting. The document retention period is in accordance with the published Record Retention Policy and this is currently eight years.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no equality implications arising from the handling of complaints against Avon and Somerset PCC. The protected characteristics of complainants are not necessarily known, and all complaints are logged and published in an open and transparent manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. Members are asked to review and comment on this complaints report and to advise of any recommendations or requests for informal resolution through the statutory process of escalating complaints against the PCC to the Panel.

JOHN SMITH
CHIEF EXECUTIVE