

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report of	OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
Subject	COSTS RELATED TO THE INDEPENDENT INQUIRY INTO CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE (IICSA)
Date	TUESDAY 28 JULY 2020 – 1:00 p.m.
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1. Purpose

- 1.1. This document focusses on the financial liability arising to Leicestershire OPCC as a result of The Independent Inquiry into Child Sexual Abuse (IICSA). It makes no comment about other risks associated with IICSA.

2. Issue

- 2.1. IICSA is due to sit in October 2020 to hear evidence about historic allegations concerning the late MP Greville Janner and the local police's management of them. The allegations concern the alleged abuse of children in local children's homes.
- 2.2. Leicestershire Police is a core participant at IICSA as are a number of former police officers. The former police officers are separately represented as they face challenge regarding their individual conduct during the investigations into Mr Janner.
- 2.3. The cost of Leicestershire Police's preparations have been anticipated and are built into the budget for 2020/21.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- 2.4. However, the OPCC is also responsible for meeting the legal costs of the core participant officers, in accordance with the provisions of Home Office Circular 010/2017 (previously 43/2001). These costs have not been budgeted for as, until recently, it was uncertain: whether IICSA will go ahead; whether these individuals will be called as witnesses; and even whether the OPCC is responsible for meeting their costs. On top of that we have only recently been able to estimate the likely overall costs of IICSA to the OPCC. We still do not have complete clarity regarding these costs, because of the uncertainty about whether other former officers will be given Core Participant status. For all these reasons IICSA costs were not included in the budget that was approved by the Police and Crime Panel in February 2020.
- 2.5. Over recent months we have fully investigated the extent of our liability to meet these costs. We appointed a QC well-versed in such enquiries, with a brief to advise us regarding the full extent of OPCC liability. His response was that we were indeed liable for all of the costs incurred by the individual respondents.
- 2.6. Bearing that in mind we have estimated the likely total sum of meeting the legal costs of former employees of Leicestershire Police covering the duration of the investigation. The worst case scenario is that these costs could total up to £1.2m plus VAT.
- 2.7. We are confident that we have sufficient arrangements in place to control our liability. Every single claim for legal costs is scrutinised by the lead person in Legal Services and advises on our liability, often challenging the initial claims made by relevant legal representatives. The costs are likely to increase in the coming months as we approach the date of the hearing and our best assumption is that our maximum liability remains around £1.2m plus VAT.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1. Leicestershire Police and Leicestershire OPCC have acted entirely appropriately in response to this issue, but they have no control over the total liability that the OPCC is likely to incur. As this cost now seems to have crystallised we propose the following actions:
 - 3.1.1. To alert the Police and Crime Panel of this liability and its impact on the budget approved in February 2020.
 - 3.1.2. To request support from the Home Office/central government by writing separately to the Home Secretary for financial assistance to meet the anticipated liability.