

LEICESTER, LEICESTERSHIRE AND RUTLAND
POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – 2nd DECEMBER 2021

REPORT OF THE CITY BARRISTER – LEICESTER CITY COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT ON COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND
CRIME COMMISSIONER

Purpose of Report

1. The report is intended to provide the Police and Crime Panel with an update on complaints relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner over the last 12 months.

Policy Framework and Previous Decisions

2. At its meeting on 20th December 2012, the Panel delegated authority to the County Solicitor (now the City Barrister) to:-
 - a) act as the first point of contact for complaints.
 - b) make decisions in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel as to whether -
 - i. a complaint has been made which requires resolution under the complaint's procedure;
 - ii. that complaint should be referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission;
 - iii. the complaint should be subject to the informal resolution process.
 - c) make arrangements for the process of informal resolution
 - d) in consultation with the Chairman and Vice Chairman, to resolve complaints informally or to arrange for a meeting of the Sub-Committee of the Panel to resolve complaints informally.

3. The Panel reviewed and updated the complaints procedure as part of its review of the Constitution in December 2020 and the process referred to above remained unchanged.

Background

4. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 set out certain responsibilities on the Police and Crime Panel to deal with complaints against the PCC and conduct matters.
5. The Regulations require the Panel to make suitable arrangements for receiving and recording complaints, for the initial sorting of complaints to determine whether they appear to have criminal elements which would require referral to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (formerly the Independent Police Complaints Commission) and to informally resolve complaints that do not have a criminal element. Informal resolution is intended to represent a locally agreed process involving engagement with the complainant and the person complained against. It does not permit an investigation of the complaint and the Panel is prohibited from taking any action intended to gather further information other than inviting comments from the complainant and PCC.

Complaints against the PCC received in 2021

6. A standard report was published dated January 2021 listing complaints made against the former PCC Lord Bach in the twelve months to January 2021. No further complaints were received about him between January and May 2021.
7. The current PCC, Mr Rupert Matthews, was elected in May 2021. Two complaints have been referred to the City Barrister during Mr Matthews' tenure and have been progressed under the informal resolution procedure. Mr Matthews provided his response to the complainants, and the matters were subsequently closed.

Recommendations

8. The Panel is asked to note the contents of this report.

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