



veto the appointment. A power of veto is exercisable if the “required majority” of votes are achieved. This is at least two-thirds of the persons who are members of the panel at the time when the decision is made vote in favour of making that decision (to veto).

### **Confirmation Hearing for the role of Chief Constable**

1.4 On 10<sup>th</sup> November 2022 the Panel received formal notification from the Police and Crime Commissioner (hereafter referred to as ‘the Commissioner’) of the proposed appointment to the role of Chief Constable. This appointment is a permanent appointment, and therefore it is subject to the public scrutiny that is required as part of a proposed senior appointment within the meaning of Schedule 1 and 8 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. In order to assist the Panel in reviewing the suitability of the preferred candidate, the Commissioner has provided the following documentation, which has been attached as an Appendix attached to this report:

- Name of the preferred candidate;
- The criteria used to assess their suitability (based on the candidate pack and the candidate’s redacted CV
- A verbal statement will be provided from the Police and Crime Commissioner at the meeting stating why the preferred candidate meets criteria of role;
- Terms and conditions of appointment (contained within the candidate pack.).

### **At the Hearing**

1.5 The first part of the meeting will be conducted in public and structured as follows:

- a. The candidate will be welcomed to the meeting.
- b. The Commissioner will have the opportunity to make any comments on the candidate and the proposed appointment.
- c. The candidate will have an opportunity to present to the Panel their understanding of the role.
- d. The Panel will have the opportunity to ask questions of the candidate.
- e. The candidate will be given opportunity to clarify any answers given during the hearing and ask questions of the Panel about the next stage of the process.

- 1.6 The Panel will ask questions of the candidate which relate to their professional competence and personal independence, the answers to which will enable the Members to evaluate their suitability for the role.
- 1.7 On the Close of the Hearing the Panel will hold a closed session in order to decide on its recommendations to the Commissioner regarding the appointment of the preferred candidate to the role.

At the end of the Confirmation Hearing session the Panel will discuss the following:

- Whether the candidate has the professional competence to exercise the role.
- Whether the Panel feels that the candidate has the personal independence to exercise the role.

Where a candidate does not meet the minimum standards in the areas set out above the Panel may choose to not recommend the candidate to the role of Chief Constable or, exceptionally, to veto the proposed appointment. Where a candidate meets the standards but there is still cause for concern about their suitability, it may be appropriate to outline those concerns in the Panel's response to the Commissioner. Where the candidate is deemed by the Panel to meet the minimum standards the Panel will recommend approval of the proposed appointment.

- 1.8 The recommendations relating to the outcomes of the Confirmation Hearing will be communicated to the Commissioner in writing by the next working day. The Panel's democratic support officer will, in consultation with the Chair of the Panel, send a report on the proposed appointment to the Commissioner confirming the Panel's recommendation as to whether or not the candidate should be appointed. Where the Panel is recommending refusal, a summary of the principal reasons will be included. The Panel will normally publish its decision and report five working days after the Confirmation Hearing has taken place. However, the Commissioner may request to the Chair that the Panel bring forward or delay publication of the decision.
- 1.9 In response to the Panel's report, the Commissioner must notify the Panel whether they will accept or reject the Panel's recommendation:

- Where Panel has recommended approval, they will write to the Commissioner accordingly who will respond in accordance with the statutory process.
- Where the Panel has recommended refusal and the PCC decides not to appoint, the Panel's report will normally be published alongside a statement by the PCC setting out a timetable and process to make a new appointment. Where the PCC continues with the appointment, they will normally make a response at the same time as the publication of the Panel's report, focusing on why they felt that the candidate did in fact meet the minimum standards for the post
- Where the Panel vetoes the proposed appointment, the PCC shall then propose a 'reserve candidate' for appointment as Chief Constable. When a reserve candidate has been proposed, the Panel is required to hold a confirmatory hearing within the period of three weeks from the day on which the Panel received notification from the PCC. Having considered the appointment the Panel will be asked to make a report to the PCC, which will include a recommendation as to whether or not the reserve candidate should be appointed. There is no further power of veto. [The Police and Crime Panels \(Precepts and Chief Constable Appointments\) Regulations 2012 \(legislation.gov.uk\)](https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2012/101/section/101)

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