

ROTHERHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	Police and Crime Panel
2.	Date:	29th June 2015
3.	Title:	Report of the Legal Adviser – Update on the Operation the Complaints Procedure
4.	Directorate:	Resources

5. Summary

To update the panel on the number of complaints received and the handling of complaints since the last report.

6. Recommendations

That the panel notes the actions that have been taken in respect of complaints

7. Proposals and Details

Since the last meeting of the Panel, three relevant complaints have been received:

1. A complaint about the way the Police Commissioner had dealt with racist and homophobic complaints.
2. Complaints from one complainant in relation to a possible conflict of interest of the Police Commissioner and also a complaint about how the Police Commissioner completed his register of interests. A further complaint related to expenditure on security for the former Police Commissioner's house.
3. A complaint that the Police Commissioner did not reply to the complainant for 80 days.

These complaints have been referred to the Office of the Police Commissioner who has provided responses.

The legislation provides that complaints be dealt with by way of informal resolution. Accordingly, the legal adviser will now consider the replies and attempt an informal resolution of the matters.

The legal adviser will also consult with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Panel to consider whether any further action is necessary. A report will be submitted to the next meeting of the panel on the progress of the complaints.

The legal adviser also received six further complaints in relation to routine policing issues which have been referred to the Police as appropriate.

As the Legal Adviser has previously informed the panel, three complaints were referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC) in relation to the former Police Commissioner. The Commissioner of the IPCC has recently written to the Legal Advisor to the effect that the IPCC does not intend to investigate the complaints further as the letters of complaint did not provide any actual evidence to support the claim that the previous Police and Crime Commissioner committed a criminal offence.

The IPCC's decision is therefore that there is insufficient information to suggest that Mr Wright may have committed a criminal act and hence there is no requirement for an IPCC investigation. The IPCC further stated that if concerns arise later that might merit this decision being reconsidered the matter should be referred back to them.

8. Finance

None

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None

10. Background Papers and Consultation

Files and correspondence held by Legal Adviser.

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