

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – REPORT TO MEMBERS

1.	Meeting:	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2.	Date:	27th November 2015
3.	Title:	Update on the handling of complaints
4.	Officer and Organisation:	Legal Adviser, Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council – Host Authority

5. Summary

To update the Panel in respect of complaints made against the Commissioner.

6. Recommendations

That the Panel notes the complaints and the way they have been resolved.

7. Information and Analysis

The following complaints have been resolved:

1. A complaint was received that the Police and Crime Commissioner had used his official tax payers funded office to promote his own Religious activities and his book, by means of issuing a press release.

In response a statement from the Police and Crime Commissioner was received as follows:

"I am asked by many groups to speak about matters touching on law and order, policing, crime and the ethical use of force. I am always pleased to do so since this is one way in which I can discover the views of the public. However, on this occasion, on reflection, I believe that asking the comms team at the OPCC to release a press notice I had written to publicise a seminar I was leading on my book about the ethical use of force was not directly related to my work as PCC and inappropriate. I apologise for it."

This was an acceptable outcome to the complainant and therefore the complaint is considered resolved.

2. A complaint was received that in relation his declaration of interest form, it appeared that the Commissioner did not live anywhere in South Yorkshire or he was not declaring it.

A statement from the Police and Crime Commissioner was received as follows:

"I did not interpret the guidance notes for the Notification of Disclosable Interests in the way being suggested. However, to remove any doubt, I have made it clear on the form – to be posted on the OPCC website - that I own a flat in Sheffield jointly with my wife, and I have asked for the guidance notes to be amended to ensure clarity in future."

This was an acceptable outcome to the complainant and therefore the complaint is considered resolved.

3. Panel member, Cllr Vines has raised an issue in respect of the previous Crime Commissioner's security costs being paid for by the tax payer, which to date have not been recovered. Cllr. Vines has requested that this matter be considered by the Panel.

The Office of the PCC confirmed that information relating to the home security of the previous Police and Crime Commissioner has been published on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website in response to a number of FOI requests.

The information as stated in response to the FOI requests is as follows:

1. The total cost of installing the security measures at the home address of Mr Wright

Response - £12, 819.70 (equipment & installation)

2. The cost of the enhanced security measures

Response - As question 1

3. The amount paid back for the installation of security measures at his home address by Mr Wright on leaving the PCC role.

Response - Equipment removed to the value of £6,172.00. Items remain, because it would have caused further damage to remove, therefore, not cost effective. No monies recovered.

As such the Office of the PCC confirmed that any equipment that would not cause damage to the property, if removed, was recovered on 22nd October 2014. This work has been completed at no cost to the taxpayer. The following equipment remains: component parts of the alarm system, fencing, door panel, wall mounted letter box and window locks.

There are three other complaints which are the subject of ongoing informal resolution, the conclusion of which will be reported to a subsequent meeting of the Panel.

8. Finance

None

9. Risks and Uncertainties

None

10. Background Papers and Consultation

Files held by the Legal Adviser.

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