

## REPORT TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1.	<b>Meeting:</b>	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2.	<b>Date:</b>	Thursday 9 June 2016
3.	<b>Title:</b>	The Commissioner's initial response to the Hillsborough Inquests verdicts
4.	<b>Organisation:</b>	Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for South Yorkshire

### 5. Summary

This report provides the Police and Crime Panel with the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) initial response to the Hillsborough Inquests verdicts.

### 6. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Police and Crime Panel note the contents of the report and comment on any matters arising.

### 7. Details

#### Background

On 15<sup>th</sup> April 1989, 96 Liverpool supporters died whilst attending the FA cup semi-final football match at the Hillsborough stadium in Sheffield. New Hillsborough Inquests were opened by HM Coroner (Lord Justice Goldring) in Warrington, on the 31 March 2014. The jury heard evidence over a period of 296 days.

On 26<sup>th</sup> April 2016, the jury returned verdicts of unlawful killing in respect of all 96 victims, and made a specific finding that the behaviour of football supporters did not cause or contribute to the dangerous situation at the Leppings Lane turnstiles at Hillsborough. South Yorkshire Police, who were in charge of policing the football match on the day of the Hillsborough disaster, were found to have caused or contributed to the deaths.

The verdicts have been the subject of significant media attention and political commentary.

#### Commissioner's response to the Hillsborough Inquests verdicts

The Chief Constable and Commissioner each released a statement to the media immediately after the Inquests verdicts. Copies of these media statements are at Appendix A.

*Commissioner's decision to suspend the Chief Constable*

The day after the verdicts (27 April 2016), the Chief Constable issued a further media release (copy at Appendix B). This concerned the approach that South Yorkshire Police had adopted during the course of the Inquests. The media release resulted in further criticism of the Force and its leadership.

The Commissioner decided to exercise his power under section 38 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to propose to call on the Chief Constable to resign or retire. Before reaching any final decision on whether or not to make such a call, the Commissioner must consider matters in accordance with the procedure set out at Schedule 8 to the 2011 Act. That process is now in progress. As part of that process the Commissioner will, in due course, report to and seek the views of the Panel.

The Commissioner suspended the Chief Constable pending completion of the Schedule 8 process. Since 3 May 2016, David Jones, Chief Constable of North Yorkshire Police Force has (by agreement with that force and the Commissioner for that area) been acting temporary Chief Constable for South Yorkshire.

The Commissioner will continue to work with the Force, the Home Secretary, Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and the College of Policing to rebuild the standing of the South Yorkshire Police force.

## **8. Contact**

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