

SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1.	Meeting:	Police and Crime Panel
2.	Date:	24 February 2017
3.	Title:	Proposed Amendment to the Rules of Procedure
4.	Directorate:	Assistant Chief Executive's Office, Rotherham MBC

5. Summary

- 5.1 This report seeks to amend the Panel's Rules of Procedure to include provision for the recent legislative changes regarding the filming and recording of Panel meetings by the press or public

6. Recommendations

- 6.1 That the report be noted.
- 6.2 That the Panel's Rules of Procedure be amended to incorporate a Protocol as an appendix to make provision for the filming and recording of Panel meetings by the press or public.

7. Recording of Meetings

- 7.1 The Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 came into force on 6 August 2014. These regulations amend in part the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Local Government Act 1972 and the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements)(Meetings and Access to Information)(England) Regulations 2012.
- 7.2 The regulations allow entry to meetings of specified local government bodies for the purposes of reporting and to allow the results of reporting to be published or disseminated. The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is a joint committee of the constituent local authorities established under section 28 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and is therefore covered by the regulations.
- 7.3 Reporting includes filming and providing commentary on proceedings and the regulations allow for the reporting of meetings via social media of any kind. Therefore, bloggers, users of Facebook, Periscope, Twitter, YouTube and individuals with their own website should be able to report on meetings.
- 7.4 As a result of the regulations, councils and other local government bodies are required to allow any member of the public to take photographs, film and audio record proceedings and report on all public meetings. Although Panel meetings are webcast, members of the public and press are still entitled to film Panel meetings.

- 7.5 Whilst no prior permission is required to carry out this activity, it is advisable that any person wishing to film or audio record a Panel meeting let the secretariat of the host authority to the Panel know so that any necessary arrangements can be made. It is recommended that a protocol be adopted to give clear advice as to how filming practices which can be construed as disruptive to the purposes of the meeting (e.g. audible commentary, moving around causing general disturbance and other potential intrusive behaviour) can be avoided. It is also recommended that advice should be provided to avoid the subsequent editing of privately filmed meetings to portray an inaccurate or misleading account of the proceedings of the meeting.
- 7.6 It should be noted that the regulations only apply to meetings which are open to the public. The Panel may not allow filming or audio recording in private meetings or during consideration of exempt or confidential items.
- 7.7 If the Panel were to adopt the protocol at Appendix 1 would ensure that meetings were compliant with the requirements arising from the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. Failure to adopt a protocol would result in the Panel continuing to have little or no control over what can or cannot be recorded at its meetings.

8. Financial and Resource Implications

- 8.1 There are no financial implications associated with this proposal.
- 8.2 There are no resource implications arising from the implementation of the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2015 and the introduction of the protocol shown at Appendix 1.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

- 9.1 If the Panel were to adopt the protocol at Appendix 1 would ensure that meetings were compliant with the requirements arising from the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014. Failure to adopt a protocol would result in the Panel continuing to have little or no control over what can or cannot be recorded at its meetings.

10. Background Papers

N/A

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PROTOCOL FOR FILMING, AUDIO RECORDING AND REPORTING SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL MEETINGS

The South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel supports the principle of transparency and encourages the filming, audio recording and reporting by social media of its meetings that are open to the public. This includes full Panel meetings and its sub committees

To facilitate these arrangements and to ensure that everyone has an equal opportunity the following arrangements will apply -

1. The filming and audio recording and reporting by internet and social media, of all public meetings whilst those meetings are open to the public is permitted in line with the Openness of Local Government Bodies Regulations 2014 and accompanying Government guidance
2. Those wishing to film or audio record proceedings should, out of courtesy, inform the chairman (or Secretary to the Panel) of the meeting of their intentions to record prior to the start of the meeting
3. Film or audio recordings by members of the public (including press) may only be taken overtly from the area(s) designated for the public and:
 - i) Recording devices must be in silent mode;
 - ii) No flash or additional lighting is permitted; and
 - iii) Recordings must be taken from a position so as not to obstruct others from observing proceedings and focus on those participating in the meeting.
4. Members participating in the meeting are entitled to record proceedings from their seats, subject to the same requirements at 3 (i) to 3 (iii) above.
5. All those attending a meeting open to the public are entitled to report on the meeting whilst it is taking place using any communication method, save oral reporting or commentary during the meeting, including the internet and social media by blogging and tweeting.
6. The chairman has the authority to instruct that recording and reporting be stopped (recording or reporting equipment must be switched off) where:
 - i) The press and public have been excluded from the meeting because exempt or confidential business is being discussed;
 - ii) There is public disturbance or a suspension/adjournment of a meeting;
 - iii) The recording or reporting has become disruptive or distracting to the good order and conduct of the meeting or contrary to paragraph 3 above; and

Continued film recording is against the expressed wishes of a member of the public or deemed inappropriate to ensure the protection of children or vulnerable adults (however continued audio recording will be permitted where the contributions are material to the decisions to be made).

Whilst the Panel is keen to work within the spirit of the Regulations and encourages transparency, it does however ask that those recording proceedings act reasonably and

responsibly in so doing by not editing any film or audio record in such a way that could lead to misinterpretation of the proceedings. This includes refraining from editing an image or views expressed in a way that may ridicule, or show a lack of respect towards those being filmed and recorded

At the beginning of each meeting, the chairman will make an announcement that the meeting may be recorded and reported. A copy of the Protocol will be included in the SYPCP Website. Meeting agendas will also carry this message as will notices displayed in prominent positions at the meeting venue. All those attending meetings will be deemed through their attendance to consent to being recorded and reported