

REPORT TO SOUTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

1. Meeting:	South Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel
2. Date:	2 December 2013
3. Title:	Police and Crime Commissioners: Register of Interests Update
4. Organisation:	Police and Crime Commissioner

5. Summary

This report provides members of the Panel with a progress update by the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to the Report of the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee on Police and Crime Commissioners: Register of Interests.

6. Recommendations

That the Panel note the contents of the report and comment on any matters arising.

7. Proposals and details

On 23 May 2013 the House of Commons Home Affairs Committee published Police and Crime Commissioners: Register of Interests, First Report of Session 2013-14.

The aim of the report was to show that regular, national comparisons are important for public confidence and draw together the first register of PCCs interests.

The report considered the following areas:

- The Scrutiny of Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs)
- Who are the Police and Crime Commissioners
- Salaries and Offices
- Police and Crime Commissioners profile

Set out below is a progress report by the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to the points raised relating to South Yorkshire.

Police and Crime Commissioners are required to publish the information that they consider necessary to enable the local public to assess their performance and that of the Chief Constable. In addition they are required to publish particular information specified by the Home Secretary in regulations issued under section 11 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The current regulations are the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specific Information) Order 2011.

The report identified that on 19 April 2013 only 10 PCCs had met their statutory obligations and published the full financial data required (South Yorkshire was not included in this list). However the report goes on to acknowledge that this was rectified before 3 May 2013.

The full financial data was published on the Police and Crime Commissioner's website on 26 April 2013. The Commissioner is also compliant with the requirements of the Specified Information Order.

The report identified the staff in the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) along with the salaries of their deputies and senior staff members.

It identified that the overall force budget for South Yorkshire was (£m) 252,728,773 with the budget for 2013/14 for the South Yorkshire OPCC being (£m) 3,144,717. The percentage of the budget utilised by the OPCC in South Yorkshire was 1.24%.

The House of Commons Committee also identified the force areas where the OPCC budget was more than the Police Authority budget 2012/13 and South Yorkshire was included in this list.

On 22 May 2013 the Commissioner wrote to the Home Affairs Committee clarifying the OPCC budget for 2013/14 as being £2.035m, which is marginally below the equivalent budget for the former Police Authority.. The figure contained within the Report had included other costs which were not valid for comparison purposes, including the capital financing (borrowing) costs of previous year's Capital projects.

Also included was funding which passes through the PCC budget from Central Government and other sources and is ultimately used to commission additional services from South Yorkshire Police and other agencies. In previous years much of this was passed directly to the Chief Constable.

On the day the report was published the Commissioner also issued a press release which stated that the report was incorrect and that his office was not given the opportunity to validate the figures prior to the report being published.

A detailed analysis of the errors in the Report was sent to appropriate officials by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner and subsequently published on the Select Committee's website.

On 6 November 2013 the Home Affairs Committee launching an inquiry on police and crime commissioners – progress to date.

The inquiry will examine the work and effectiveness of police and crime commissioners to date, including:

- The effectiveness of commissioners in reducing crime and delivering an effective police service within their police force area;
- The role of commissioners in holding their chief constables to account;
- The role of police and crime panels in holding their commissioners to account;
- The division of functions and staff between commissioners and chief constables following the Stage 2 transfers under the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011;
- The role of commissioners in budget and precept setting;
- The effectiveness of commissioners in promoting local policing priorities;
- Progress on establishing collaboration agreements with other commissioners, policing organisations and partners; and
- Transparency of and reporting by commissioners to date.

The Committee invites written submissions on these issues by noon on Wednesday 11 December 2013.

8. Finance

As per the information in the report.

9. Risks and Uncertainties

Possible reputational risk to the Commissioner if information provided to the Home Affairs Committee is significantly different to responses of other Police and Crime Commissioners.

10. Background Papers and Consultation

House of Commons Home Affairs Committee – Police and Crime Commissioners: Register of Interest, First Report of Session 2013-14

Select Committee Announcement – New Inquiry: Police and Crime Commissioners –
Progress to Date

11. Contact

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