

## **Durham Police and Crime Panel**

**19 September 2024**

**Complaints Update**

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### **Report of Helen Bradley, Clerk and Monitoring Officer to the Police and Crime Panel.**

#### **Electoral division(s) affected:**

None

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To update members on the number of formal complaints received since the last meeting.

#### **Executive summary**

2. On 23 June 2022, the Police and Crime Panel approved an update to the procedure for handling complaints relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) or the Deputy PCC.
3. In addition to this, the Police and Crime Panel agreed to receive at each regular meeting an update on the number of formal complaints received including those which may have been rejected without consideration by the Panel in accordance with the procedure.

#### **Recommendation**

4. The Police and Crime Panel is asked to note the report.

## **Background**

5. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 sets out the role and responsibility of Panels, which includes handling complaints relating to the Police and Crime Commissioner and their Deputy where appointed.
6. On 23 June 2022, the Panel approved an updated procedure for dealing with complaints and conduct matters about the PCC and their Deputy. The Procedure reflects the Local Government Association's best practice guidance for complaints handling.
7. All complaints received after 23 June 2022 are dealt with in accordance with the updated procedure.
8. Responsibility for the initial receipt of complaints and referral to the Panel is delegated to the Clerk to the Panel. There may be instances where a complaint is not presented to the Panel where they fall outside the procedure or are withdrawn by the Complainant.
9. In order to promote transparency and ensure effective scrutiny, the Panel receives a report at each regular meeting on the number of complaints received including those which have not been/will not be presented to the Panel.

## **Complaints Update**

10. The last report the Panel received in relation to complaints was at its meeting on 27 June 2024. There were no outstanding complaints at that point.
11. Since the last meeting, the Monitoring Officer has received three complaints against the Police and Crime Panel.
12. The first complaint related to a matter which had previously been considered by the Panel in October 2023 and sought to appeal the outcome of a complaint to Durham Constabulary, which is not within the remit of the Panel. The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, determined that no further action should be taken in respect of the complaint.

13. The second complaint related to the logo for the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner. The complaint falls outside the remit of the Panel because the use of the logo is governed by the College of Arms rather than the PCC or the Panel. The Clerk, following consultation with the Chair and Vice Chair, advised the complainant that no further action could be taken in relation to the complaint.
14. The third complaint is currently being considered in accordance with the procedure and an update will be presented to the Panel in due course.

### **Background papers**

- None

### **Other useful documents**

- None

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## **Appendix 1: Implications**

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### **Legal Implications**

The Police and Crime Panel must have arrangements in place for dealing with complaints in accordance with the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012.

It is good practice for Panels to maintain oversight of the number of complaints and how they are dealt with in accordance with the agreed arrangements.

### **Finance**

None.

### **Consultation**

None.

### **Equality and Diversity / Public Sector Equality Duty**

None.

### **Climate Change**

None.

### **Human Rights**

None.

### **Crime and Disorder**

This is a key focus of the role of the Police and Crime Commissioner and Police and Crime Panel.

### **Staffing**

None.

### **Accommodation**

None.

### **Risk**

None.

### **Procurement**

None.