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Mr Ron Hogg
Durham Police and Crime Commissioner
County Hall
Durham
DH1 5UL

5th December 2013

Dear Mr Hogg,

Police and Crime Panel Response to proposed appointment of Chief Finance Officer

On behalf of the Durham Police and Crime Panel, I would like to thank you and Mr Ridley for attending the Panel's Confirmation hearing on the 5th December 2013. The purpose of the meeting was to enable the panel to consider your proposal to appoint Mr Gary Ridley as your Chief Finance Officer.

In accordance with Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 the Police and Crime Panel is required to provide a response following consideration of your report and responses to questions from Members of the Police and Crime Panel.

Whilst it was clear to the panel that Mr Ridley is professionally competent to fill the role of Chief Finance Officer it was mindful of the reservations expressed by the Joint Audit Committee on your proposal and therefore wished to explore in some depth the question of whether Mr Ridley taking on a joint role would result in his independence being compromised. For that reason members of the panel questioned yourself and Mr Ridley on this issue.

The panel was reassured by the following points:

- The additional information provided by you through an addendum report within the Panel's papers that identifies a Dispute Resolution Process;
- Your advice to the Panel that the Joint Audit Committee will oversee governance of the two roles;
- Your confirmation that this arrangement will be reviewed after a 6 months, and

Members

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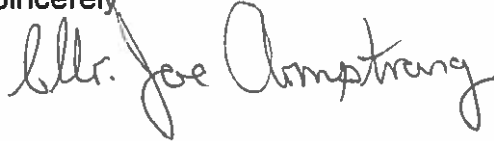
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- Mr Ridley's clear and confident assurance to the Panel of his understanding of his powers and duties as a Section 151 officer.

On the basis of this assurance, the Panel was able to recommend approval of your proposed appointment of Mr Ridley.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mr. Joe Armstrong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent 'A'.

Councillor J Armstrong
Chair of the Durham Police and Crime Panel Confirmation Hearing Meeting

Cc: Mr Gary Ridley, Assistant Chief Officer, Durham Constabulary
Lesley Davies, Chief Executive, Office of Durham Police and Crime
Commissioner
Colette Longbottom, Head of Legal and Democratic Services