

COMPLAINTS UPDATE

Purpose of the Report

1. To update the Police and Crime Panel on complaints considered under the Complaints Procedure.

Information and Advice

2. The Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) is required to make suitable arrangements for handling complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner (the Commissioner). Criminal complaints must be referred to the Independent Police Complaints Commission, while local arrangements are required for dealing with other complaints. The Panel has adopted a complaints procedure which is attached for reference as an **Appendix** to this report.
3. Since the last report to Panel in April 2016 two complaints have been addressed to the Panel.
4. One complaint related to the conduct of a Nottinghamshire Police Officer. Complaints regarding operational matters do not fall within the remit of the Panel; there are separate procedures for dealing with complaints of this nature. The complainant was advised to forward the complaint to Nottinghamshire Police.
5. The second complaint related to the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner. In September 2016 the Panel received five complaints from members of the public regarding the Commissioner's decision to appear in Court to support Mr Neil Greatrex' application for a firearms licence. Mr Greatrex has a previous conviction for a serious dishonesty offence. The complainants were concerned that the Commissioner's actions compromised his position.
6. After giving the matter careful consideration, the Chairman of the Panel and the Panel's Monitoring Officer referred the matter to the Independent Police Complaints Commissioner (IPCC) for review. The IPCC concluded that the matter did not constitute a criminal offence and referred the matter back to the Panel for resolution.
7. The Chairman of the Panel and the Panel's Monitoring Officer agreed to resolve the matter by making a recommendation to the Commissioner; 'should you ever be requested to provide a character reference either in writing or in person for an individual with a known conviction, in future you should seek independent advice and give the matter careful consideration before deciding how to proceed'. This brought the matter to conclusion and the complainants were advised accordingly.

Other Options Considered

8. The report is for noting only.

Reasons for Recommendation/s

9. The report is for noting only.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That the Police and Crime Panel note details of the complaints received in respect of the Police and Crime Commissioner since April 2016.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner dated 28 March 2017

For any enquiries about this report please contact:-

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