

Cheshire Police and Crime Panel

Complaints Management Sub Committee

Date of Meeting: 30th October 2025

Report of: Brian Reed, Head of Democratic Services, Host Authority

Subject: Complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner

1. Report Summary

- 1.1 This report outlines three complaints about the Police and Crime Commissioner received by the Panel in July and August 2025, along with the response to each complaint received from the Police and Crime Commissioner / the Commissioner's Office.

2. Recommendation

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Sub-Committee consider each complaint separately. The options open to the sub - committee in relation to each complaint include:

- Asking the complainant and / or Commissioner for further written information, giving a clear timescale for its submission.
- After fully evaluating all submitted documents, providing written feedback to the complainant and the Commissioner.
- Inviting the complainant and Commissioner, with the Chief Executive, or other member of the Commissioner's staff, to a private meeting to attempt to resolve the complaint by informal resolution.

3. Background information

- 3.1 The sub committee's role is to administer the arrangements for non-criminal complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner, its Terms of Reference, along with the Panel's complaints procedure are attached as Appendix I. The attention of Sub Committee members is drawn to section seven of the complaints procedure – fairness, transparency and confidentiality.
- 3.2 Three separate complaints have been received; all make allegations that the Commissioner has breached his own code of conduct. The full text of each complaint is attached in Appendix II. The only information that has been

redacted are names and other personal information. A copy of the Commissioner's Code of Conduct is attached as part of Appendix II.

- 3.3 Whilst three complaints have been received, complaints two and three are from the same person. Complaint two was sent in a private capacity, whilst complaint three was sent in the complainant's capacity as an elected councillor. Whilst the three complaints are being managed separately the subject matter of each complaint are related.
- 3.4 In accordance with Section 4 of the complaint's procedure, each complaint, when received was shared with the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sub Committee. In all three cases they determined that the complaint should proceed and that the most appropriate way forward was to hold a formal meeting of the Sub Committee to consider the complaints in detail.
- 3.5 Details of each complaint were sent to the Commissioner, asking for his comments. In the case of complaint three, further information was requested from the complainant, this was received and was sent to the Commissioner. The additional information provided by the complainant is reproduced in Appendix II.
- 3.6 The responses received from the Police and Crime Commissioner are attached in Appendix II.

4. Financial Implications

- 4.1 There are no financial implications.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Police and Crime Commissioner ("PCC") is governed by the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. The 2011 Act and associated regulations (Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012.) provide for the process and investigation of complaints. The PCC is subject to an ethical framework and Code of Conduct which include agreeing to abide by the Nolan Principles and not to use the resources of the Commissioner improperly or for political purposes (including party political purposes).
- 5.2 In their personal capacity, the PCC may engage in political activities, including making personal endorsement in the same way as any other citizen can. A PCC must be clear about when they are acting as a PCC and when they are acting as an individual.
- 5.3 The circumstances in which a serving Police and Crime Commissioner ("PCC") may be removed from office are very limited. Barring death or resignation it is only where the PCC is disqualified from holding office that they may be removed. These relate to:

- Bankruptcy/insolvency/debt relief restriction;
- A conviction for an imprisonable offence; or

- Being required to vacate the post by reason of being elected as an MP.

6. Equality implications

6.1 There are no specific equality issues related to this report.

7. Contact information

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