



Friday 10th November 2023

Police and Crime Panel

The Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall

Item 12

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Police & Crime Panel Officer
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Complaints Received by the Panel

1. Summary

- 1.1 Through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel has a duty to record non-criminal complaints made against the Mayor of West Yorkshire when acting in relation to their policing and crime functions, and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC).
- 1.2 Whilst the Panel has a duty to record such complaints, it only has a duty to consider recorded complaints about a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime who is not a Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Where recorded complaints are about the Mayor or a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime who is a Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Panel has a duty to refer the same for consideration by the Monitoring Officer of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The current Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime of West Yorkshire is not a Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
- 1.3 The Monitoring Officer has authority for filtering complaints and must refer the following to the IOPC:
 - 1.3.1 All Recorded Conduct Matters;
 - 1.3.2 All Serious Complaints (i.e. a complaint that constitutes or involves or appears to constitute or involve, the commission of a criminal offence)

2. Complaints received by the Panel

- 2.1 Following the last report to Panel on 8th September, it came to light on 11th October that there had been a technical error with the Police and Crime Panel website, which meant that a number of complaints sent via an electronic form were not directed to the Police and Crime Panel staff for processing. There were seven complaints covering a period from September 2022 until August 2023.
- 2.2 Upon this discovery, all complaints were immediately assessed by officers. It was found that none of the complaints were complaints about the Mayor or Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime and so were not matters that are within the Police and Crime Panel's remit.

- 2.3 All complainants were immediately contacted, the situation was explained and apologies were given before each complainant was signposted to the most appropriate body to deal with their complaint.
- 2.4 Panel can be assured that the IT issues have now been resolved to ensure that this situation cannot happen again in the future.

3. Complaints Recorded by the Panel

- 3.1 There have been no complaints recorded against the Mayor when acting in relation to policing and crime functions or the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, since the last meeting on 14th July 2023. There are currently no outstanding recorded complaints awaiting resolution.

4. Recommendation

- 4.1 That members note the contents of this report.