

AVON AND SOMERSET POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

17th March 2022

REPORT OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF

COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To provide members of Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel with oversight of all complaints made against Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner for scrutiny of the initial handling by the Chief Executive of Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

BACKGROUND

2. Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Panel (the Panel) is the Appropriate Authority to handle complaints against the conduct of 'Relevant Office Holders', being Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) according to statutory regulations of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 and as referred to in the Police Reform and Social Responsibilities Act 2011, section 31 and schedule 7.
3. However, the initial handling, which includes categorisation, recording decision-making, referral of criminal allegations to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC), disapplication decision-making, and responding to the complainant in the first instance, has been delegated by the Panel to the Chief of Staff in the Office of Avon and Somerset Police and Crime Commissioner, with scrutiny and oversight of all complaints and any escalation for informal resolution, remaining with the Panel.

SUMMARY OF COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

4. There have been no new complaints recorded against PCC Mark Shelford since the last Police and Crime Panel. An email of criticism was received regarding a PCC media appearance and brought to the attention of the panel. The email did not contain any allegations regarding the conduct of the PCC and the matter was not recorded.
5. A new complaint has been recorded regarding former PCC Sue Mountstevens. At the time of this report the allegations have not yet been confirmed by the complainant. The panel has been notified of the complaint.
6. There have been no new complaints against PCC Mark Shelford received via the IOPC.
7. All complaints to date have had Panel oversight, including those solely handled by the PCC's Interim Chief Executive/Chief of Staff.

8. All electronic complaint files are available at the PCC's office for viewing by the Panel, if requested. The document retention period is in accordance with the published Record Retention Policy and this is currently six years.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

9. There are no equality implications arising from the handling of complaints against Avon and Somerset PCC. The protected characteristics of complainants are not necessarily known, and all complaints are logged and published in an open and transparent manner.

RECOMMENDATIONS

10. Members are asked to review and comment on this complaints report and to advise of any recommendations or requests for informal resolution through the statutory process of escalating complaints against the PCC to the Panel.

Alice Ripley – Chief of Staff