

**To: Report of the Chief Executive  
To the Chair and Members  
of the Police Authority Executive  
10 December 2009**

**Executive and Presenting Officer: Joe McCarthy, Chief Executive  
Status: For approval**

## **Appointment of Independent Members on the Standards Committee**

1. **Purpose**

2. The Police Authority is required by legislation to have a Standards Committee and to appoint Independent Members to that Committee. The Committee was formed in April 2002 and has had two Independent Members who have undertaken the role of Chair and Vice Chair of that committee. Following the resignation of the Vice Chair and changes to the Standards Committee (England) Regulations in 2008 the Authority has undertaken a recruitment process to appoint additional Independent Members to our Standards Committee. This report requests members of the Police Authority to endorse the decision of the Appointments Panel.

3. **Recommendations**

4. That Members approve the appointments of Ms Vicki Lawson-Brown, Mrs Carole Pollard MBE, Mr Joe Rayner, Mr John Robinson and Mr Gerard Walsh to serve as Independent Members on the Standards Committee for an initial period of four years commencing 1 January 2010, with the option to extend the appointments.

5. **Reasons**

6. The Local Government Act 2000 required Police Authorities to form Standards Committees. This Authority established its Standards Committee in April 2002 when the membership was also agreed. The membership included two people who were independent of the Police Authority.

7. In 2008 the Standards Committee (England) Regulations were amended and the impact of this has led to a requirement for the Authority to appoint additional Independent Members.
8. There is a requirement for any complaint received to be initially assessed by an assessment sub-committee which must consist of no less than three members of the standards committee, including at least one independent member and must be chaired by an independent member. The assessment sub-committee initially decides on how the complaint should be handled (see Appendix A). If the assessment sub-committee deems that there is no further action to be taken the complainant has the right to request a review of the standards assessment sub-committee decision. This must be carried out by a review sub-committee which will also need to consist of no less than three members of the Standards Committee, including an independent member and must be chaired by an Independent member (see Appendix B). It is therefore recommended that each Standards Committee should have a minimum of three independent members to ensure that there is an independent member available without a conflict of interest for both the assessment and review sub-committees.
9. Standards Committee members involved in a complaint initial assessment, or in a review of a standards committee's previous decision to take no further action, can take part in any subsequent standards committee hearing.
10. When the Standards Board (England) Regulations were amended in 2008 one of the proposals was for Authorities to consider establishing Joint Standards Committees and the Standards Board undertook to produce guidance on how this could be established. Guidance was not received until July 2009 and upon reviewing this option it was agreed that this was not an appropriate option for Cleveland Police Authority.
11. Following an advertisement in the local media six applications were received. All six applicants were invited to interview. The Appointments Panel consisting of Mrs Ann O'Hanlon, Chair of the Standards Committee, Mrs Julie Leng, Deputy Chief Executive and Mrs Kath Allaway, Police Authority Independent Consultant conducted the interviews on 2 and 10 November 2009.
12. Five of the candidates were suitable for the position and it was agreed that it would be beneficial to have a pool of people the Authority could call upon to ensure the Cleveland Police Authority could meet its requirements to deal with any complaint received.

If Members approve the appointments membership of the Standards Committee will be as follows:-

- Mrs Ann O'Hanlon – Chair
- Ms Vicki Lawson-Brown
- Mrs Carole Pollard MBE
- Mr Joe Rayner
- Mr John Robinson
- Mr Gerard Walsh
- Miss Pam Andrew-Mawer
- Cllr Barry Coppinger
- Mr Aslam Hanif
- Cllr Mary Lanigan
- Cllr Dave McLuckie
- Mr Peter Race MBE

13. **Financial Implications**

14. Allowances and expenses are payable to the Independent Members of Standards Committees on a daily basis the costs of which are included in the Police Authority budget.

15. **Diversity and Equal Opportunities**

16. Cleveland Police Authority has a commitment to consider diversity and equal opportunities at each stage of any recruitment process.

17. **Risk Management**

18. The Police Authority has a statutory responsibility to establish a Standards Committee, appointing additional Independent Members to this committee will ensure that the Authority can fulfil its requirements at each stage of the process.

19. **Human Rights Act**

20. There are no Human Rights Act implications arising from this report.

21. **Sustainability**

22. There are no sustainability implications.

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Background papers – Standards Board (England) Regulations 2008