

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PANEL

ACTION

A meeting of the Professional Standards Panel was held on Thursday 28 July 2011 in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT: Mr Ted Cox JP (Chair), Mr Peter Hadfield, Mr Aslam Hanif, Cllr Ron Lowes, Mr Mike McGrory JP, Cllr Sean Pryce.

OFFICIALS: DCC Bonnard, Mrs Joanne Monkman (Legal), A/Supt Steve Gillson (Professional Standards) and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC). Mrs Jayne Harpe (CE)

ADDITIONAL MEMBERS Cllr Terry Laing

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Mr Peter Race (ex-officio), Mr Chris Coombs, Mayor Stuart Drummond (ex-officio), Supt Martin Campbell (Professional Standards),

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 27 April 2011

The minutes of 27 April 2011 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

All outstanding recommendations were discharged.

CIVIL CLAIM STATISTICS

The Legal Advisor presented the Civil Claim Statistics for the period 1st April 2011 – 30th June 2011. The Panel was informed of the number and types of civil claims against the Force received during that period, the amount paid out for those claims finalised during the period and the amount recovered. The report also detailed a comparison between the Basic Command Units.

ORDERED that:

1. Members noted there had been an 8.11% increase in number of claims received when compared with the same period last year. Public liability was the leading category.
2. There had been a 2.56% decrease in the number of claims finalised when compared with the same period last year.
3. There had been an increase in the number of successfully defended cases. 55.26% of finalised cases during the period were successfully defended, which was to be compared with 35.89% successfully defended

during the same period last year.

4. There had been a slight increase in the overall sum paid out. The 17 cases settled during the period cost the Force £174,955. This was to be compared with the 25 cases settled during the same period last year at a cost of £172,701.
5. Headquarters was the area with most claims.
6. The contents of the report be noted.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE

A representative from the Professional Standards Department presented the Complaints Against Police for the period 1st April to 30th June 2011. The Quarterly Progress Report on Complaint Issues for Cleveland Police for the period 1st April to 30th June 2011 was attached to the report. The report was produced in this format to be National Intelligence Model (NIM) Compliant.

There had been a 1% increase in the number of cases recorded during that period (111 to 112), with a 20% increase in the number of complaints (167 to 201).

Complaints of "other neglect/failure in duty" and "Incivility" continued to outnumber those of "Assault" allegations, 51 and 37 complaints respectively, compared to 20 in the "Assault" categories.

29% (39) of completed complaints had been locally resolved. During that period 82% (32) of locally resolved complaints had been by District and 18% (7) by the Professional Standards Department.

During this period the Force recorded 88 letters of appreciation.

Members discussed the application of handcuffs and were invited to attend Personal Safety Training Sessions where application and associated assault allegations would be demonstrated.

Chief
Constable's
Staff Officer

A briefing would be arranged to provide Lessons Learned and Local Resolution refresher.

Executive
Staff Officer

ORDERED that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.

DELIBERATE DAMAGE STATISTICS

The Deputy Chief Constable informed Members of the cost to the Force of deliberate damage by way of forced entry into premises for the period 1st April to 30th June 2011 and of the operational results achieved through such forced entry and other premises searches.

Members were informed that the Force had paid out £5,868 in

compensation for acts of deliberate damage, this compared to £14,971 paid out in the same period during the previous year. Whilst 2498 searches were conducted, only 180 (7.2%) resulted in deliberate damage compared to 10.1% in the previous year. The value of property, cash and drugs seized totaled £720,542 compared to £412,282 seized during the same period in 2010.

ORDERED that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. The operational benefits accruing to the Force in terms of property, drugs and cash seized, outweigh the cost of the damage claims be noted.

INDEPENDENT CUSTODY VISITING ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

The Independent Custody Visitor Co-ordinator presented the report to Members. The report provided an update on the Cleveland Police Authority Custody Visiting Scheme in particular in respect of the number of visitors, visits undertaken, training and meetings during 2010-2011.

During 2010-11 a recruitment campaign resulted in the appointment of seven Custody Visitors across the three panels. The appointments were 3 males, including one BME and four females. This was offset by the death of one long serving ICV and the resignation of one other ICV.

Appendix 'A' was attached to the report which detailed statistics for Visits, Age and Recruits.

ORDERED that:

1. Members received the annual report and agreed to its publication on the Cleveland Police Authority Website.
2. Letters of appreciation be sent to existing Independent Custody Visitors.

ICVA
Co-ordinator

EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

ORDERED that pursuant to Section 100a(4) of the Local Government Act 1972, excluding the press and public from the meeting under Paragraphs 1 and 7 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Act.

CASES FROM THE COMPLAINTS REGISTER

Members of the Complaints Panel were shown the cases from the Complaints Register which had previously been selected by the Panel Chair.