

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PANEL

ACTION

A meeting of the Professional Standards Panel was held on Wednesday 27 April 2011 in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

PRESENT: Mr Ted Cox JP, Cllr Caroline Barker, Mr Peter Hadfield, Mr Aslam Hanif, Cllr Ron Lowes, Mr Mike McGrory JP, Cllr Mary Lanigan.

OFFICIALS: ACC White, Supt Martin Campbell (Professional Standards), Mrs Michelle Phillips (Legal) and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC)
Mrs Jayne Harpe (CE)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from DCC Bonnard, Cllr Dave McLuckie, Cllr Hazel Pearson OBE and Mrs Joanne Monkman.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 27 January 2011

The minutes of 27 January 2011 were agreed as a true record. Cllr Ron Lowes apologies were to be added.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

All outstanding recommendation were discharged.

CIVIL CLAIM STATISTICS

The Legal Advisor presented the Civil Claim Statistics for the period 1st April 2010 – 31st March 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.

If staff were absent from work due to injury which was covered by private health insurance or third party negligence, they were encouraged to claim for loss of earnings. Staff awareness to be raised.

**Legal
Department**

ORDERED that:

1. Members noted there had been a 5.15% decrease in number of claims received when compared with the same period last year. Public liability was the leading category.
2. There had been a 48% increase 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. 46.62% of finalised cases

during the period were successfully defended, which was to be compared with 38.00% successfully defended during the same period last year.

4. There had been an increase in the overall sum paid out. The 79 cases settled during the period cost the Force £635,125. This was to be compared with the 62 cases settled during the same period last year at a cost of £386,797.
5. Headquarters was the area with most claims.
6. The contents of the report be noted.

COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE

The Head of Professional Standards Department presented the Complaints Against Police for the period 1st January to 31st March 2011. The Quarterly Progress Report on Complaint Issues for Cleveland Police for the period 1st January to 31st March 2011 was attached to the report. The report was produced in this format to be National Intelligence Model (NIM) Compliant.

There had been a 17% increase in the number of cases recorded during that period (81 to 95), with a 28% increase in the number of complaints (137 to 176).

Complaints of "other neglect/failure in duty" and "Incivility" continued to outnumber those of "Assault" allegations, 56 and 27 complaints respectively, compared to 24 in the "Assault" categories.

22% (27) of completed complaints had been locally resolved. During that period 67% (18) of locally resolved complaints had been by District and 33% (9) by the Professional Standards Department.

During this period the Force recorded 136 letters of appreciation.

ORDERED that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.

DELIBERATE DAMAGE STATISTICS

The Assistant Chief Constable informed Members of the cost to the Force of deliberate damage by way of forced entry into premises for the period 1st January to 31st March 2011 and of the operational results achieved through such forced entry and other premises searches.

Members were informed that the Force had paid out £13,775.90 in compensation for acts of deliberate damage, this compared to £10,091 paid out in the same period during the previous year. Whilst 2755 searches were conducted, only 220 (7.98%) resulted in deliberate damage compared to 10.1% in the previous year. The value of property, cash and drugs

seized totaled £1,705,396 compared to £850,595 seized during the same period in 2010. Recovered property included a Motorbike, Mini-Moto, computers and BMW 3 series.

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.

IPCC DIRECT COMPLAINTS SURVEY FINDINGS UPDATE

This report was withdrawn from the meeting

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.