

## PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PANEL

## ACTION

A meeting of the Professional Standards Panel was held on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2010 in the Members Conference Room at Police Headquarters.

- PRESENT: Mr Ted Cox JP (Chair), Cllr Caroline Barker, Mr Aslam Hanif, Cllr Ron Lowes, Mr Mike McGrory JP, Cllr Steve Wallace and Mr Peter Hadfield..
- OFFICIALS: DCC Bonnard, Supt Martin Campbell, Mrs Joanne Monkman and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC)  
Mrs Jayne Harpe (CE)
- ADDITIONAL MEMBERS: Cllr Victor Tumilty and Mr Geoff Fell.

The Chair welcomed the new Head of Professional Standards Department to the meeting, Superintendent Martin Campbell.

### **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Mary Lanigan (Vice Chair), Cllr Hazel Pearson OBE, Cllr Dave McLuckie and Mr Peter Race MBE

### **DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no declarations of interests.

### **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 2 FEBRUARY 2010**

The minutes of 2 February 2010 were agreed as a true record.

### Matters Arising

In the Deliberate Damage report dated 2 February 2010 the quantity of cash and drugs recovered for Redcar & Cleveland were transposed.

### **OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS**

The Grievance Procedure had not been finalised, a report would be submitted to the Policy & Resources Panel in June 2010 and subsequently to this Panel.

Three other outstanding recommendations had been discharged.

### **CIVIL CLAIM STATISTICS**

The Legal Advisor presented the Civil Claim Statistics for the period 1<sup>st</sup> April 2009 – 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. 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 the number of claims received remained the same as the number of claims received in the same period last year. Motor liability was the leading category.
2. There had been a 25% increase in the number of claims finalised when compared with the same period last year.
3. 38% of finalised cases during the period were successfully defended which was to be compared with 20% successfully defended during the same period last year.
4. The 62 cases settled during the period cost the Force £386,797. This was to be compared with the 64 cases settled during the same period last year at a cost of £305,510.
5. Middlesbrough remained the area with most claims.
6. The contents of the report be noted.

It was asked for a breakdown of cases and payments to be made available to Members.

Chair  
DCC

Whilst Legal Services had no control over the number of claims received, feedback was provided on a case by case basis to ensure assistance was given to Basic Command Units in managing risks.

**COMPLAINTS AGAINST POLICE**

The Head of Professional Standards Department presented the Complaints Against Police for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010. The Quarterly Progress Report on Complaint Issues for Cleveland Police for the period 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 was attached to the report. The report was produced in this format to be National Intelligence Model (NIM) Compliant.

There had been a 24% decrease in the number of cases recorded during that period (108 to 82), with a 36% decrease in the number of complaints (down from 214 to 138).

Complaints of "other neglect/failure in duty" and "Incivility" continued to outnumber those of "Assault" allegations, 33 and 30 complaints respectively, compared to 21 in the "Assault" categories.

22% (37) of completed complaints had been locally resolved. During that period 81% (42) of locally resolved complaints had been by District and 19% (7) by the Professional Standards Department.

A discussion ensued around the lessons learned section - DC/57/09 and Members asked what processes were in place should this situation arise again, was the Sexual Assault

Referral Centre used? The Deputy Chief Constable answered the questions and assured Members that the matter had been investigated thoroughly. Written response to the Chair.

DCC

Page 6 of the report showed inaccurate data – the 2009/10 force recorded complaints statistics were incorrect and Stockton was not the District with the highest number of recorded complaints as stated in the key points – a new sheet was tabled at the meeting.

138 letters of appreciation had been received, an decrease of 7 (-4.8%) over those recorded the previous year.

**ORDERED** that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. Pledge 10 issues would continue to be contained in the quarterly report and that work would continue on deciding what information was needed by the panel to fulfill its' scrutiny role.

### **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 1<sup>st</sup> January 2010 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 and of the operational results achieved through such forced entry and other premises searches.

Members were informed that the Force had paid out £10,091 in compensation for acts of deliberate damage, this compared to £13,028 paid out in the same period during the previous year. Whilst 2963 searches were conducted, only 298 (10.1%) resulted in deliberate damage compared to 8.77% in the previous year. The value of property, cash and drugs seized totaled £850,595 and this compared to £740,429 seized during the same period in 2009.

**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.

### **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.

