

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PANEL

ACTION

A meeting of the Professional Standards Panel was held on Thursday 3 November 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, Mayor Stuart Drummond and Cllr Norma Stephenson.
OFFICIALS:	ACC White, Mrs J Chaffey (Legal), A/Supt Steve Gillson and Inspector Mark Pitt (Professional Standards) and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC). Mr Stuart Pudney, Mrs Jayne Harpe and Miss Jenny Yates (CE).
ADDITIONAL MEMBERS	Cllr Ray Goddard

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 28 July 2011

The minutes of 28 July 2011 were agreed as a true record. There were no matters arising.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

All outstanding recommendations were updated and agreed.

CIVIL CLAIM STATISTICS

The Legal Advisor presented the Civil Claim Statistics for the period 1st April 2011 – 30th September 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.

The Legal Department were asked to complete a Benchmarking exercise with most similar forces per 1,000 population in relation to civil claims and a report would be presented to the next meeting.

Legal Dept

ORDERED that:

1. Members noted the number of claims received remained the same as the number of claims when compared with the same period last year. Public liability was the leading category.
2. There had been a 9.09% 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. 58.6% of finalised cases during the period were successfully defended, which was to be compared with 44.2% successfully defended during the same period last year.
4. There had been a significant decrease in the overall sum paid out. The 29 cases settled during the period cost the Force £250,993. This was to be compared with the 43 cases settled during the same period last year at a cost of £302,690.
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 July to 30th September 2011. The Quarterly Progress Report on Complaint Issues for Cleveland Police for the period July to September 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% decrease in the number of cases recorded during that period (121 to 101), with an 11% decrease in the number of complaints (218 to 195).

Complaints of "other neglect/failure in duty" (49), "Incivility" (22) and "Other Assault" allegations (23) continued to be made at high levels.

23% (29) of completed complaints had been locally resolved.

Members were informed that the rise in the number of complaints in Middlesbrough district coincided with the start of the football season.

The meeting discussed how some firms of solicitors in and around neighbouring forces were not engaging in the the Local Resolution process. A report would be sent to the next meeting.

**Professional
Standards
Dept**

During this period the Force recorded 90 letters of appreciation broken down as follows:

Hartlepool	10
Redcar & Cleveland	4
Middlesbrough	16
Stockton	12
Specialist Ops & Comms	8
HQ Other/Website	23
Steria	17

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 July to 30th September 2011 and of the operational results achieved through such forced entry and other premises searches.

Members were informed that the Force had paid out £3,985 in compensation for acts of deliberate damage, this compared to £6,992 paid out in the same period during the previous year. Whilst 2457 searches were conducted, only 173 (7.04%) resulted in deliberate damage compared to 7.34% in the previous year. The value of property, cash and drugs seized totaled £691,358 compared to £1,034,394 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.

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.