

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS PANEL

ACTION

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

PRESENT: Mr Ted Cox JP, Cllr Caroline Barker, Mr Peter Hadfield, Mr Aslam Hanif, Mr Peter Hadfield, Cllr Hazel Pearson OBE

OFFICIALS: ACC Pickard, Supt Martin Campbell (Professional Standards), Mrs Joanne Monkman (Legal) and Miss Kate Rowntree (CC) Mrs Jayne Harpe (CE)

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from DCC Bonnard and Cllr Dave McLuckie.

DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING 2 FEBRUARY 2010

The minutes of 29th October 2010 were agreed as a true record.

OUTSTANDING RECOMMENDATIONS

One outstanding recommendation was discharged.

CIVIL CLAIM STATISTICS

The Legal Advisor presented the Civil Claim Statistics for the period 1st April 2010 – 30th September 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.

The Deputy Chief Constable asked Members if they would like the format of the report changing to incorporate trend information, this was welcomed by the Panel.

A Panel Member queried how the sums paid out on finalised cases compared to the Insurance budget. A written response would be provided to Members

**Legal
Department**

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 7.22% decrease in number of claims received when compared with the same period last year. Motor liability was the leading

2. There had been a 45.21% 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. 46.23% of finalised cases during the period were successfully defended, which was to be compared with 31.50% successfully defended during the same period last year.
4. There had been an increase in the overall sum paid out. The 57 cases settled during the period cost the Force £429,941. This was to be compared with the 50 cases settled during the same period last year at a cost of £275,491.
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 October 2010 to 31st December 2010. The Quarterly Progress Report on Complaint Issues for Cleveland Police for the period 1st October to 31st December 2010 was attached to the report. The report was produced in this format to be National Intelligence Model (NIM) Compliant.

There had been a 8% decrease in the number of cases recorded during that period (119 to 109), with a 13% increase in the number of complaints (207 to 180).

Complaints of "other neglect/failure in duty" and "Incivility" continued to outnumber those of "Assault" allegations, 27 and 41 complaints respectively, compared to 23 in the "Assault" categories.

24% (42) of completed complaints had been locally resolved. During that period 81% (34) of locally resolved complaints had been by District and 19% (8) by the Professional Standards Department.

The number of reports from Cleveland direct to the IPCC was 56 reports per 1,000 Officers.

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 October 2010 to 31st December 2010 and of the operational results achieved through such

forced entry and other premises searches.

Members were informed that the Force had paid out £9,951 in compensation for acts of deliberate damage, this compared to £12,871 paid out in the same period during the previous year. Whilst 2480 searches were conducted, only 203 (8.19%) resulted in deliberate damage compared to 10.3% in the previous year. The value of property, cash and drugs seized totaled £288,748 compared to £1,397,383 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.

COMPLAINANT SELF CLASSIFIED ETHNICITY SCANNING

During a Police Authority meeting in 2009 at which Professional Standards presented the latest reports on complaint issues, concern was raised by a Member of the Authority that although the non white population accounted for only 3% of the total population, non white members of the population accounted for 11% of all complaints recorded. It was agreed that a scanning document be prepared examining the self classified ethnicity of complainants. This exercise was repeated in May 2010. Complaints finalised between 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2010 had been analysed with regard to the Complainants ethnicity.

ORDERED that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.

SUBJECT SELF CLASSIFIED ETHNICITY SCANNING

At a Police Authority meeting in 2009 at which Professional Standards presented the latest reports on Complaint issues, concern was raised by a Member of the Authority that although the non white population accounted for only 3% of the total population, non white members of the population accounted for 11% of all complaints recorded. It was agreed that a scanning document be prepared examining the self classified ethnicity of complainants. This exercise was repeated for the 2009/20 financial year. Complaints recorded and complaints finalised between 1st April 2009 and 31st March 2010 had been analysed with regard to the complainants ethnicity.

A Panel Member asked for figures to be broken down into gender in the form of a written reply.

ORDERED that:

1. The contents of the report be noted.

**Head of
Professional
Standards**

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.