

**Item 12**

**Friday 13th September 2024**

Samantha Wilkinson

Police & Crime Panel Officer

07920 833358

Item 14

**Police and Crime Panel**

**The Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall**

Item 14

**Complaints Received by the Panel**

**1. Summary**

Item 14

* 1. Through the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011, the West Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel has a duty to record non-criminal complaints made against the Mayor of West Yorkshire when acting in relation to their policing and crime functions, and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime (DMPC).
  2. Whilst the Panel has a duty to record such complaints, it only has a duty to consider recorded complaints about a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime who is not a Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. Where recorded complaints are about the Mayor or a Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime who is a Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority, the Panel has a duty to refer the same for consideration by the Monitoring Officer of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority. The current Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime of West Yorkshire is not a Member of the West Yorkshire Combined Authority.
  3. The Monitoring Officer has authority for filtering complaints and must refer the following to the IOPC:

1.3.1 All Recorded Conduct Matters;

1.3.2 All Serious Complaints (i.e. a complaint that constitutes or involves or appears to constitute or involve, the commission of a criminal offence)

**2. Complaints received by the Panel**

2.1 There has been one new recorded complaint against the Mayor when acting in relation to policing and crime functions since the last meeting on 12th July 2024.

2.2 The West Yorkshire Combined Authority (Election of Mayor and Functions) Order 2021 requires the Panel to refer recorded complaints to the WYCA Monitoring Officer for consideration.

2.3 The complaint was referred to the WYCA Monitoring Officer for review.

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| **Substance of Complaint** | **Status** |
| *That the Mayor has failed to exercise proper oversight of the Policing and Crime complaints process by failing to deal with [the complainant’s] complaint about West Yorkshire Police in accordance with due process.*  *That the Mayor or West Yorkshire falsely accused [the complainant] of harassment resulting in [the complainant’s] arrest by West Yorkshire Police.* | * Complaint formally recorded 21st August 2024 * Referred to WYCA Monitoring Officer – 21st August 2024 |

2.2 There has been one new recorded complaint against the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime since the last meeting on 12th July 2024.

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| **Substance of Complaint** | **Status** |
| *That the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has failed to exercise proper oversight of the Policing and Crime complaints process by failing to deal with [the complainant’s] complaint about West Yorkshire Police in accordance with due process.*  *That the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime falsely accused [the complainant] of harassment resulting in [the complainant’s] arrest by West Yorkshire Police.* | * Complaint formally recorded 21st August 2024 * The DMPC was contacted on 22nd August 2024 and asked to provide relevant information regarding the complaint by 13 September 2024. |

2.3 As reported at the Panel meeting on 14th June 2024, the Police and Crime Panel had been notified of one complaint to the Information Commissioner’s Office (ICO) regarding a Panel response to a Freedom of Information Request.

2.4 Panel were informed of the ICO’s decision on 19th August 2024, and this will be published on the ICO website in due course and in line with their statutory requirements. It will, after publication, be shared through the next scheduled Complaints report to the Police and Crime Panel.

**3. Recommendation**

3.1 That members note the contents of this report.