



Friday 14th June 2024

Police and Crime Panel

The Old Court Room, Wakefield Town Hall

Item 16

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Police & Crime Panel Officer
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Complaints Received by the Panel

1. Summary

- 1.1 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).
- 1.2 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.
- 1.3 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 April 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. The outcome of the review is summarised below.

Substance of Complaint	Status
The Mayor has failed in respect of her policing and crime functions by allowing her staff to intercept emails sent directly to her both in violation of the Investigatory Powers Act and without any scrutiny or accountability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint formally recorded 15th April 2024 • Referred to WYCA Monitoring Officer – 15th April 2024 • WYCA Monitoring Officer determined it would not be in the public interest to pursue investigation of the complaint and the matter is now closed.

2.2 There have been no further recorded complaints against the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime since the last meeting on 12th April 2024.

2.3 There is one ongoing complaint and the table below provides an update.

Substance of Complaint	Status
The Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime has made untrue statements and 'demands and threats' about the complainant to their employer resulting in their dismissal from employment, made threats to inform other organisations of her opinions about the complainant and acted in a way that is an abuse of her position.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Complaint formally recorded 8th March 2024 • A Complaints Sub-Panel was held on 12th April 2024 to consider the complaint and further information was requested from the DMPC and the complainant. • The Complaints Sub-Panel met on 10th May 2024 to consider the further information provided and determined that further information was required from the DMPC and the complainant. • The Complaints Sub-Panel will re-convene in due course to consider any further information provided.

2.4 The Police and Crime Panel has been notified of one complaint to the Information Commissioner's Office regarding a Panel's response to a Freedom of Information Request. This complaint is awaiting the allocation of a case worker at the Information Commissioner's Office and the outcome is not yet known.

3. Recommendation

3.1 That members note the contents of this report.