

# NORTH YORKSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

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The North Yorkshire Police and Crime Panel is responsible for dealing with complaints about the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner for North Yorkshire (PCC).

Complaints are handled by Informal resolution which is a way of dealing with a complaint by solving, explaining, clearing up or settling the matter directly with the complainant, without investigation or formal proceedings. The Panel has appointed a sub-committee of three members of the Panel to carry out this responsibility.

The Complaints Sub-Committee met on Friday, 1 May 2015 to consider the complaint lodged by Mr NI regarding his dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Police and Crime Commissioner had responded to concerns he had raised about Chief Constable David Jones.

**Present:** Cllr Fiona Fitzpatrick, Cllr Mick Griffiths (Chair) and Santokh Sidhu, Community Co-opted Member.

**In attendance:** Ray Busby (Panel Secretariat)

The Sub Committee **CONSIDERED:** all the correspondence submitted by Mr NI, comprising various supporting information and items of correspondence in relation to each of the aspects covered below; the exchange of correspondence between the complainant and the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner; and the PCC's submissions to the Panel.

## The actions of the PCC's Monitoring Officer

The PCC dealt with Mr NI's correspondence to her regarding Chief Constable David Jones by: 1) assessing whether it met the relevant criteria for recording complaints against a Chief Constable; and, separately, 2) reaching a view on what would be the appropriate course of action about certain allegations Mr NI made against Chief Constable Jones. The Sub Committee's responsibility is not to substitute its judgement for that of the PCC, but to review how the PCC had fulfilled her responsibilities.

The Panel **CONCLUDED** that:

- the PCC's Chief Executive operated within her delegated powers as Monitoring Officer and had followed correct procedures for complaints handling;
- when reviewing the content of Mr NI's submission, the PCC's Chief Executive had communicated clearly and promptly her decision and the reasoning behind it; and,
- given the substance and nature of the allegations made, the PCC's Chief Executive had responded appropriately.

For the above reasons, the Sub-Committee's determined that PCC had applied herself properly to the required procedures. And, by being as open as possible about her decisions and the reasons behind them, she had done so objectively and transparently. Taking the above into account, the Sub Committee saw no reason to question the action the PCC had taken.

**The Panel therefore CONCLUDED there was no evidence to support Mr NI's assertion that the PCC had failed in her responsibilities. Therefore, there was no reason to believe anything other than the PCC's actions were consistent with the standards expected of a public office holder.**

### **Correspondence about alleged illegal use of funds**

In his correspondence Mr NI refers to the "Illegal and criminal misuse of public funds by PCC Julia Mulligan". The Sub Committee believes that Mr NI is commenting from the standpoint of an interested individual and observer. He is not directly or personally affected by the events to which he refers. His concern is not an expression of dissatisfaction about either the PCC's lack of action, or about the standard of service provided by or on behalf of the PCC to him. Moreover, the PCC in her submissions regarding the complaint explains why she refutes the complainant's assertion that public funds have been used illegally, and also explains why it is wholly without foundation.

**The Panel CONCLUDED there was no action to take in relation to this part of the Mr NI's correspondence.**

**In the light of all the above conclusions, the Panel RESOLVED to take no further action in relation to Mr NI's complaint.**

**COUNCILLOR MICK GRIFFITHS**

1 May 2015