



ACCOUNTABILITY BOARD

WEDNESDAY 22 NOVEMBER 2023 AT 1.00PM IN ROOM 8, THE EXCHANGE, COUNTY HALL, PRESTON

MINUTES

PRESENT

Andrew Snowden - Police and Crime Commissioner
Chris Rowley - Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary

IN ATTENDANCE

Andrew Pratt – Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner

Sacha Hatchett – Deputy Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Peter Lawson – Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Mrs Angela Harrison – Chief Executive, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner
Gillian Routledge, Chief Operating Officer, Lancashire Constabulary
Chief Superintendent Nikki Evans, Lancashire Constabulary
Superintendent Zoe Mainey, Lancashire Constabulary
Inspector Duncan Arthur, Lancashire Constabulary
Ian Dickinson – Head of Governance and Accountability, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner
Rachel Whittle, Communication and Engagement Manager, Office of Police and Crime Commissioner

APOLOGIES

Sam Mackenzie - Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Russ Procter – Assistant Chief Constable, Lancashire Constabulary
Steve Freeman – Chief Finance Officer, Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

The Minutes of the meeting held on 23 August 2023 were confirmed as a correct record.

ACTION LOG

The Commissioner was pleased to note that all the actions identified at the last meeting were in progress or had been completed.



CURRENT AND SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Following the publication of the Independent External Review of Lancashire Constabulary's Operational Response to the widely publicised missing person Nicola Bulley, the Commissioner had reflected on the media response to the negative findings rather than the positive.

The Chief Constable informed the Commissioner that he had reviewed the report and had already created an 18-point action plan to address the issues raised. It was also noted that arrangements had been made for the Commissioner to receive a report from the Chief Constable in relation to the matter in the new year.

The Commissioner wished to place on record his thanks for those members of the Constabulary involved in the search for Nicola Bulley.

The Commissioner informed the meeting that he was aware that the Drug and Drink Drive campaign had now gone live.

The Commissioner informed the Chief Constable that the 2024/25 Budget consultation would be underway in the coming weeks.

PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT – COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT

The Commissioner received a report detailing complaints finalised by the Constabulary between 1 April 2023 and 30 September 2023.

It was noted that whilst the Professional Standards Department had seen a steady increase in demand, the service recovery target remained high. By handling complaints at an early stage provided a better outcome and resolution for the complainant.

The Commissioner was advised that the Constabulary's process for dealing with discrimination allegations was seen as national good practice and staff had recently given a presentation at a conference held by the Independent Office for Police Conduct.

In addition, the Commissioner was made aware of the work being undertaken by the Constabulary to raise awareness of the complaints process within Lancashire's minority groups and to encourage complaints were appropriate.

It was further noted that Lancashire Constabulary was also a national leader in the use of the Reflective Practice Review Process (RPRP).



The Commissioner was advised that there was a steady reduction in the number of outstanding complaints, and this would continue into 2024 where it was predicted that the backlog would be clear by the end of April 2024.

In response to a question from the Commissioner it was noted that the backlog was being dealt separately to the 'business as usual' complaints which were continuing to be received daily.

DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING

It was noted that the next scheduled meeting was the 13 February 2024.

EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

That the press and public be excluded from the Meeting during the consideration of the following Items of business on the grounds that there would be a likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the Freedom of Information Act 2000 as indicated against the heading to the Item, and the public interest not to disclose it outweighed the public interest in disclosing it.

PART II – PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL

PROGRESS AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME PLAN

The Police and Crime Commissioner received a presentation on the progress against the Police and Crime Plan priorities set out in his Police and Crime Plan.

PART II OF THE PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS DEPARTMENT – COMPLAINTS AND MISCONDUCT

The Commissioner received a report detailing the Police Misconduct cases handled by the Constabulary between 1 April 2023 and 30 September 2023.

In noting the report, the Commissioner asked officers to review both the recent and current cases to ensure where the criteria is met, any possible pension forfeiture request is brought to his attention for consideration.

INSPECTIONS, AUDITS AND REVIEWS

The Commissioner received a presentation setting out the Constabulary's progress against the HMICFRS recommendations and Areas for Improvement and their readiness in relation to the next PEEL Inspection expected in 2024.

Mrs A Harrison
Chief Executive