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HAMPSHIRE &
ISLE OF WIGHT
POLICE & CRIME PANEL

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL COMPLAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Date and Time Friday, 19th May, 2023 at 10.00 am
Place Hampshire County Council, EII Court, Winchester
Enquiries to hampshire.iow.pcp@hants.gov.uk

FILMING AND BROADCAST NOTIFICATION

This meeting may be recorded and broadcast live on Hampshire County Council's website and available for repeat viewing, it may also be recorded and filmed by the press and public. Filming or recording is only permitted in the meeting room whilst the meeting is taking place so must stop when the meeting is either adjourned or closed. Filming is not permitted elsewhere in the building at any time. Please see the Filming Protocol available on Hampshire County Council's website.

AGENDA

- 1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**
- 2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

To enable Members to declare to the meeting any disclosable pecuniary interest they may have in any matter on the agenda for the meeting, where that interest is not already entered in their appointing authority's register of interests, and any other pecuniary or personal interests in any such matter that Members may wish to consider disclosing.

- 3. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (PUBLIC) (Pages 3 - 4)**

To confirm the public minutes from the meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee held on 12 April 2022.

- 4. SUMMARY OF POWERS - COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE (Pages 5 - 10)**

To receive a report outlining the powers of the Police and Crime Panel Complaints Sub-Committee in relation to non-criminal complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner.

5. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

With respect to each of the following items, the Sub-Committee is recommended to consider:

That, under the provisions of Section 100A of the Local Government Act 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985, the press and public be excluded from the meeting on the grounds that the report(s) contain or there may otherwise be disclosed information which is defined as exempt in within paragraph 1 (information relating to an individual) or paragraph 2 (information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual) of Part 1 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 and that in all the circumstances of the case the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

6. TO REVIEW COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE (Pages 11 - 44)

(a) To consider complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire.

(b) To consider additional comments received from the complainants

(c) To consider additional comments received from the complained against

7. GOVERNANCE - REPORT ON THE USE OF DELEGATED POWERS BY THE MONITORING OFFICER

To report to the Sub-Committee any occasion upon which the Monitoring Officer, in accordance with their delegated authority, has taken the decision to not record a complaint or to disapply the informal resolution procedure in respect of a complaint, or part thereof, since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (EXEMPT) (Pages 45 - 48)

To confirm the exempt minutes from the meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee held on 12 April 2022.

ABOUT THIS AGENDA:

On request, this agenda can be provided in alternative versions (such as large print, Braille or audio) and in alternative languages.

ABOUT THIS MEETING:

The press and public are welcome to attend the public sessions of the meeting. If you have any particular requirements, for example if you require wheelchair access, please contact hampshire.iow.pcp@hants.gov.uk for assistance.

Appointed Members of the Police and Crime Panel attending this meeting qualify for travelling expenses in accordance with their Council's 'Member's Allowances Scheme'.

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**HAMPSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
COMPLAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, 12th April, 2022 at 10.30 am
Held in Mitchell Room, Winchester
(Hampshire County Council)**

Councillors:

Chairman

p David Stewart
(Independent Co-opted Member)

p John Beavis MBE
(Gosport Borough Council)
p Tony Jones
(Local Authority Co-opted Member)

p Phillip Lashbrook
(Test Valley Borough Council)
p Ken Muschamp
(Rushmoor Borough Council)

At the invitation of the Chairman:

Peter Baulf *Legal Advisor to the Panel*

BROADCASTING ANNOUNCEMENT

The Chairman announced that the press and members of the public were permitted to film and broadcast the meeting. Those remaining at the meeting were consenting to being filmed and recorded, and to the possible use of those images and recordings for broadcasting purposes.

24. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

All members were noted to be present.

25. DECLARATION OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

26. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (PUBLIC)

The public minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

27. SUMMARY OF POWERS - COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Summary of Powers were noted.

28. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

Members were asked to consider whether the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the following three items of business, considering whether it was likely, in view of the nature of the business to be transacted or the nature of the proceedings, that if members of the public were present during those items there would be disclosure to them of exempt information within Paragraphs 1 and 2 of Part I of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, being information relating to any individual (paragraph 1) or information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual (2) and, further, that in all the circumstances of the case, the public interest in maintaining the exemption outweighed the public interest in disclosing the information.

In respect of items 6, 7 and 8 of the agenda the exclusion was agreed.

29. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (EXEMPT)**

The exempt minutes of the previous meeting were agreed as an accurate record.

30. **TO REVIEW A COMPLAINT MADE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE**

Members considered a report outlining the complaint, including comments received from the complainant and complained against.

(Summary of an exempt minute)

31. **REVIEWING THE DECISION TO RESTRICT ACCESS**

Members considered a report outlining the decision to restrict access. Following consideration of the report and its content, Members reached a unanimous determination in respect of the restriction of access.

(Summary of an exempt minute)

Chairman,

HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL COMPLAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Report

Date:	19 May 2023
Title:	Summary of Powers
Report From:	Democratic Services Officer to the Panel

Tel: 0370 779 6176

Email: Hampshire.iow.pcp@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to outline the powers of the Police and Crime Panel Complaints Sub-Committee (the Sub-Committee) in relation to non-criminal complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC).

Recommendation(s)

2. That the Summary of Powers are noted.

Executive Summary

3. This report seeks to outline the powers of the Sub-Committee and set out the actions it may take as part of the informal resolution process.

Contextual information

4. The Police and Crime Panel (PCP) has the statutory role of overseeing all complaints against the PCC and DPCC and informally resolving non-criminal complaints. This is set out in the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations).
5. In relation to Part 4 of the regulations and the informal resolution procedure, the Panel have appointed a Sub-Committee to secure the informal resolution of the complaint and report back to the Panel the conclusion of the process, through an annual report.

Process to be Followed by Complaints Sub-Committee

6. With regard to the informal resolution procedure, the Regulations state that the procedure must make provision for, as soon as practicable, giving the complainant and the person complained against an opportunity to comment on the complaint (if the latter chooses not to comment, the procedure must provide that be recorded in writing).
7. The informal resolution procedure must provide for, as soon as practicable, the making of a record of the outcome of the procedure which must be sent to the complainant and the person complained about.

Initial Sub-Committee Meeting – Alternatives for Consideration

8. The Sub-Committee may first consider whether to disapply Part 4 of the Regulations. The legislation allows for this if the Sub-Committee determines that:
 - The complaint is concerned entirely with the conduct of the PCC/DPCC in relation to a person who was working in his capacity as a member of the PCC/DPCC's staff at the time when the conduct is supposed to have taken place (this ground has presumably been included because the complainant has a separate right to raise a grievance under employment legislation).
 - The matter took place more than 12 months ago and no good reason for the delay has been shown or injustice would be likely to be caused by the delay.
 - The matter is already the subject of a complaint.
 - The complaint discloses neither the name and address of the complainant nor that of any other interested person and it is not reasonably practicable to ascertain such a name or address.
 - The complaint is vexatious, oppressive or otherwise an abuse of the procedures for dealing with complaints; and/or the complaint is repetitious (in accordance with the meaning given in regulation 15(4)).
9. Should the Sub-Committee determine not to disapply the informal resolution procedure, it may wish to consider whether any of the following apply before reaching a conclusion:

From evidence, the complaint appears resolved:

10. Where it appears that the matter has already been satisfactorily dealt with prior to it being brought to the Sub-Committee's notice, (subject to any representations by the Complainant), the Sub-Committee may treat the

matter as having been resolved. Should it choose this course of action, it must record its reasons for doing so and notify these to the parties.

From evidence, complaint appears to be one of alleged criminal conduct:

11. If the Sub-Committee receives additional comments which lead it to decide that the complaint being handled in accordance with the informal resolution procedure should be referred to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) then it must do so.

From evidence, complaint does not appear resolved:

12. The Sub-Committee must consider whether it has the information available to it to reach a conclusion. Should it feel that it requires further evidence in order to reach an outcome, the Sub-Committee may hold further meetings.
13. The Sub-Committee, at any additional meeting, may require the person complained against to provide information or documents or attend before it to answer questions or give evidence.

Initial Sub-Committee Meeting – Formal Resolution

14. If the Sub-Committee agrees that the matter requires a formal resolution, it will decide its course of action. In accordance with the Regulations, the Sub-Committee is not able to conduct an investigation. Aside from requesting additional comments, or those actions discussed in paragraph 13, the Sub-Committee may not take any further steps.
15. The Sub-Committee can consider whether to devise an action plan in relation to the complaint, with indicative timeframes included. Such a plan could include:
 - An explanatory letter being written on behalf of the Sub-Committee or the PCP;
 - An explanatory letter being written by an officer of the Office of the PCC (OPCC);
 - A suggested change to the OPCC's policy;
 - A request that an apology is tendered (but it must be noted that the procedure should prohibit the tendering on behalf of the person complained against an apology for his conduct unless that person has admitted the conduct in question and has agreed to the apology.)
16. If the Sub-Committee draws together an action plan, it may wish to reconvene at a later date in order to review the progress of the actions. It may authorise

a named individual (not the PCC/DPCC or Chief Executive of the OPCC) to review this on their behalf, or refer the plan to the PCP for further action.

17. Once all of the actions from the Sub-Committee's plan have been completed, the Democratic Services Officer will make a record of the outcome within three working days, unless this is not practicable. Copies of this record will be provided to the complainant and complained against. The matter will then be closed.

Report of the Complaints Sub-Committee to the Panel

18. The PCP's Democratic Services Officer will prepare an annual complaints report, which will set out the activities undertaken by the Sub-Committee in the previous year. This will include any actions taken and the outcome of the process.

Publishing the record of the outcome of the informal resolution procedure

19. No part of the record may be published by the Panel unless the parties involved have had an opportunity to make representations about the proposed publication.
20. The Panel has the power to determine whether, having provided the opportunity described in paragraph 19 above and having considered any representations received, the proposed publication of the record of the outcome of the informal resolution procedure is in the public interest. If it decided it is, the Panel has the power to publish it accordingly.

REQUIRED LEGAL INFORMATION:

Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Protocol for the Informal Resolution Procedure Regarding Complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner	https://documents.hants.gov.uk/partnerships/hampshire-pcp/PCP-ProtocolfortheInformalComplaintsProcedure.pdf

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HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT POLICE AND CRIME PANEL COMPLAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE

Report

Date:	19 May 2023
Title:	Complaints and additional comments
Report From:	Democratic Services Officer to the Panel

Tel: 0370 779 6176

Email: Hampshire.iow.pcp@hants.gov.uk

Purpose of this Report

1. This report was prepared to inform Members of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Panel Complaints Sub-Committee (the Sub-Committee) three complaints received against the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

Recommendation(s)

That the Complaints Sub-Committee:

2. Notes the content of this report and its appendices.
3. Considers and agrees the appropriate course of action in response to the complaint and additional comments presented.

Executive Summary

4. This report was prepared to inform the Sub-Committee of three complaints received against the PCC.
5. The report also details the additional comments received from the complainants in support of their complaints, and the comments received from the PCC in relation to the complaints.
6. The report requests that the Complaints Sub-Committee come to an agreement on the action to be taken in response to the complaints.

Contextual information

7. The complaints were received from complainants the on 11 April 2023.
8. All three complainants requested that their identity be kept anonymous. Within this report they are referred to as complainant A, B and C.
9. Any text or material provided to the Sub-Committee which the complainants or complained against have requested be redacted have been reflected within this report.
10. In accordance with the 'Protocol for the Informal Resolution Procedure Regarding Complaints made Against the PCC', the Democratic Support Officer has convened a meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee.
11. The Democratic Services Officer wrote to the complainants and complained against, on 24 April 2023, setting out the timescales and informal resolution procedure, and giving all parties the opportunity to comment upon the complaints. All parties were given at least 14 calendar days to provide this information.
12. Within their meeting the Sub-Committee will first consider whether the informal process should be applied, whether the complaints have been satisfactorily dealt with and, subject to any representations made may decide to treat the complaints as having been resolved. In such case, the Complaints Sub-Committee's reasons will be recorded and notified to the complainants and the PCC. If, on considering the complaints, the Complaints Sub-Committee feel that the matter needs to be formally resolved, it will decide its course of action and set this out in writing.

Complaints

13. The complaints to be considered by the Sub-Committee are worded below:

Complaint A:

14. I am writing to complain over social media posts that include party political support by the Police & Crime Commissioner over the Easter weekend. This appears to be a breach of the Code of Conduct and Oath of Impartiality entered into by Donna Jones in 2021.

The following links refer to the complaint being raised;

<https://www.facebook.com/100089582612143/videos/553818873551402>

<https://www.facebook.com/HartConservatives/videos/592020576190888>



<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=531144179206773&set=a.236698278651366>

I am not aware the Police & Crime Commissioner is permitted to actively support one party in this way? The Oath of Impartiality states that although Police & Crime Commissioners may stand for a political party, the public will expect them to represent all the people in their area impartially, without fear or favour. The enclosed demonstrates this is not being adhered to by Donna Jones.

I also believe the Police & Crime Commissioner is equally not permitted to actively support elected or non-elected local councillors during a Pre-Election Period (Purdah)? The evidence above relates to clear support for 2 local councillors who are asking to be elected at the forthcoming May elections.

Complaint B:

15. Our PCC (Donna Jones) recently met up with our local elected and unelected candidates in Fleet and is now posting and commenting on their social media posts to support their campaign.

A request was made by our ruling council at Hart to meet with Donna some weeks ago and she was unable to attend even for a virtual meeting but she did send her deputy. The meeting was received well but the deputy promised to come back with some follow-up actions that are still pending.

In the interim, the PCC meets up with only Conservatives councilors and candidates and records a number of election videos making firm commitments e.g " You will receive a new police station or building which I will buy". This was not shared by the deputy in the previous meeting with the

opposition. Furthermore, Donna openly asks for support for her conservative councilors up for election "Please support Annette on 4th May".

I understand our PCC is aligned to a party but our police and police representatives should be impartial and assist all of our constituents not just the one aligned to the party she is a member of. I am truly outraged that this is allowed to happen and deepens the perception that the police are heavily influenced by politics for their own game. The PCC role should not be a political one. In my opinion this is in breach of the code of conduct

Complaint C:

16. Openly campaigning for Conservative candidates in Hart.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/499689254263734> see video at 1:27 <https://fb.watch/jRCdxXc7EQ/> where she openly endorses a candidate. Not a visit to the council but a visit to Conservative party members whilst in the role of PCC actively campaigning.

Whilst the PCC oath of office for Hampshire may have dropped impartiality but that other force's PPC use, and it is acknowledged that the person in the role of PCC may themselves stand for a political party, the public still expects them to represent all the people in their area "impartially, without fear or favour". I refer you to the APCC guidance "Whether or not Police and Crime Commissioners have a particular allegiance to a political party, it is recognised that this is a political role, but in seeking re-election themselves, or supporting other individuals seeking election, Police and Crime Commissioners are acting in a personal capacity and should not use their public office to influence the outcome of the PCC Elections. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners are in much the same position, since they are also in a political role, and they should follow the advice for Police and Crime Commissioners, except where there is some difference as set out below, rather than the advice relevant to the other staff of the OPCC, which is more restrictive." Whilst that specifically applies to the PPC elections it is expected that they should not use their public office to influence the outcome of any Elections.

Additional Comments

17. The original comments sent from the complainant A are attached as Appendix 1.
18. The original comments sent from the complainant B are attached as Appendix 2 and 3, along with additional comments which were received from complainant B within the window for submissions.

19. The original comments sent from the complainant C are attached as Appendix 4.
20. The PCC has provided commentary on the complaints. This has been attached as Appendix 5.
21. Verbatim transcripts of the videos provided to the complaints have been attached as Appendix 6.

Appendix 1

Details of the alleged incident: I am writing to complain over social media posts that include party political support by the Police & Crime Commissioner over the Easter weekend. This appears to be a breach of the Code of Conduct and Oath of Impartiality entered into by Donna Jones in 2021.

The following links refer to the complaint being raised;

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<https://www.facebook.com/HartConservatives/videos/592020576190888>

<https://www.facebook.com/photo?fbid=531144179206773&set=a.236698278651366>

I am not aware the Police & Crime Commissioner is permitted to actively support one party in this way? The Oath of Impartiality states that although Police & Crime Commissioners may stand for a political party, the public will expect them to represent all the people in their area impartially, without fear or favour. The enclosed demonstrates this is not being adhered to by Donna Jones.

I also believe the Police & Crime Commissioner is equally not permitted to actively support elected or non-elected local councillors during a Pre-Election Period (Purdah)? The evidence above relates to clear support for 2 local councillors who are asking to be elected at the forthcoming May elections.

Date of the alleged incident: 2023-04-08

What outcome you would like to see from this complaint: Removal of social media posts due to a violation of the code of conduct and breach of the Oath of Impartiality by Police Crime Commissioner Donna Jones over the Easter weekend. Removal of these posts and message issued by all parties acknowledging this was a breach of conduct.

Appendix 2

Details of the alleged incident: Our PCC (Donna Jones) recently met up with our local elected and unelected candidates in Fleet and is now posting and commenting on their social media posts to support their campaign.

A request was made by our ruling council at Hart to meet with Donna some weeks ago and she was unable to attend even for a virtual meeting but she did send her deputy. The meeting was received well but the deputy promised to come back with some follow-up actions that are still pending.

In the interim, the PCC meets up with only Conservatives councilors and candidates and records a number of election videos making firm commitments e.g " You will receive a new police station or building which I will buy". This was not shared by the deputy in the previous meeting with the opposition. Furthermore, Donna openly asks for support for her conservative councilors up for election "Please support Annette on 4th May".

I understand our PCC is aligned to a party but our police and police representatives should be impartial and assist all of our constituents not just the one aligned to the party she is a member of. I am truly outraged that this is allowed to happen and deepens the perception that the police are heavily influenced by politics for their own game. The PCC role should not be a political one. In my opinion this is in breach of the code of conduct

Date of the alleged incident: 2023-04-08

What outcome you would like to see from this complaint: The PCC apologies and requests the removal of all the political propaganda posted with her Conservative party Councillors in Hart district.

Attachment to support my claim – three videos as transcribed in Appendix 6

Attachment to support my accusation of a breach of conduct - attached as Appendix 3

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1140374/May2023_Local_Elections_guidance_conduct_civil_ser_vants.pdf

One video - as transcribed in Appendix 6

Another example of electioneering from our PCC to support a Conservative candidate standing for election. The PCC claims CCTV will make our community safer and she has been working with Conservatives across Hart on this initiative for the last 2 years. The statement that most Councils has done this needs is in dispute as that is not the case in our neighbouring boroughs. The PCC wants Hart to get better CCTV to give us safer streets and more prosecutions. Will she deliver against this pledge is her proposed candidates do not get control? I am outraged that our wonderful police force is used as a back drop for her videos and politicised by the PCC.

Details of the alleged incident: Openly campaigning for Conservative candidates in Hart.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/499689254263734> see video at 1:27 <https://fb.watch/jRCdxXc7EQ/> where she openly endorses a candidate. Not a visit to the council but a visit to Conservative party members whilst in the role of PCC actively campaigning. Whilst the PCC oath of office for Hampshire may have dropped impartiality bit that other force's PPC use, and it is acknowledged that the person in the role of PCC may themselves stand for a political party, the public still expects them to represent all the people in their area "impartially, without fear or favour". I refer you to the APPC guidance "Whether or not Police and Crime Commissioners have a particular allegiance to a political party, it is recognised that this is a political role, but in seeking re-election themselves, or supporting other individuals seeking election, Police and Crime Commissioners are acting in a personal capacity and should not use their public office to influence the outcome of the PCC Elections. Deputy Police and Crime Commissioners are in much the same position, since they are also in a political role, and they should follow the advice for Police and Crime Commissioners, except where there is some difference as set out below, rather than the advice relevant to the other staff of the OPCC, which is more restrictive." Whilst that specifically applies to the PPC elections it is expected that they should not use their public office to influence the outcome of any Elections.

Date of the alleged incident: 2023-04-01

What outcome you would like to see from this complaint: For the PCC to acknowledge and abide by the APPC guidance. To stop using her office to campaign for candidates. And to distance herself and her office from any candidate or party that attempts to use her office / name for their own promotion. The PCC should inform the Hart conservatives and any other campaigns in Hampshire that she has colluded with to remove all such promotion and certainly any endorsements.

Verbatim transcripts of the videos provided to the complaints

Video Posted on Facebook by Annette Whibley (A) Crookham East Candidate on 11 April 2022

<https://www.facebook.com/100089582612143/videos/553818873551402/>

Verbatim transcript:

A: Hello, I'm Annette Whibley. I'm the Conservative candidate for Crookham East and I'm with Donna Jones, the Police and Crime Commissioner who's very kindly given up her Easter Saturday to come and talk to us about issues in Church Crookham.

Donna, one of the things that I'd like to talk to you about particularly because it's something that residents have raised with me is these illegal car meets that have been happening in Church Crookham. Now, I understand that you've got a particular unit dealing with these. Could you perhaps tell our residents a little bit about that?

Donna: Yes, absolutely. Thank you very much Annette. It's been really good to be out with you today as well. Speaking to local residents and business owners. Now, with these car meets, they've grown in their frequency particularly over the last six to eight months. The police have a specialist operation called Op Cromium and this is where we have trained officers and we are sourcing intelligence constantly about these unauthorized car meets. We have had a number of young people who've been seriously injured, cars are seized, people are fined, no tax, no insurance. If you have any information, please report it to Hampshire and IOW Constabulary online or through 101.

Secondly, I'd like to talk to you about the Police the PCSOs, Police Community Support Officers and also the importance of Councils having high quality community wardens to support the police. Some Councils across the County have got brilliant community wardens. And what we're able to do is to tackle ASB quickly, nip it in the bud and to bring people either on to some kind of reparation course, or where we need to. a criminal conviction.

Please please do support Annette on May the 4th in the local elections.

A: Thank you very much Donna.

Text posted with video by Annette Whibley Crookham East Candidate:

Talking to [Donna Jones - Police Commissioner Hampshire & IOW](#) about illegal car meets and antisocial behaviour. The increased focus on tackling car meets in Hampshire is very welcome, but we definitely need Community Wardens in Hart. We would make that happen!

Video Posted on Facebook by Hart Conservatives on 10 April 2022, featuring Spencer Farmer Hartley Wintney Candidate (S)

<https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=592020576190888>

Verbatim transcript:

S: Hello I am Spencer Farmer and I am your Conservative Candidate for Hartley Wintney, and I am here today with Donna Jones, our Police and Crime Commissioner to talk about our plans to tackle anti-social behaviour and the importance of CCTV in dealing with that issue.

Donna: Its been really good to have a walk around today, Spencer, with you along the High Street and to talk to local residents and business owners about what's going on.

So, as Police and Crime Commissioner, over the last 2 years, I've recruited 600 more police officers. We've now recruited the 600th at the beginning of March. I've just pledged another 50. Importantly, I am also committed to making sure that we have more police front desks and more police stations and that every district in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight has a Police HQ. A head office police station with a front counter. So here in Hart, you will be getting a new police station or a building, which I will buy, which will make sure that we have front counter access for you, the people of this local area.

Secondly to that, I have been working with Spencer and the Councillors, the Conservative team here, for over two years. I really understand the importance of decent quality CCTV. The only way we can tackle catalytic converter thefts, Op. Chromium – the big car meets, or anti-social behaviour, or kids taking drugs in parks, is if we've got high quality, high resolution CCTV.

Some Councils across the County have got brilliant CCTV and they are seeing many more arrests and convictions as a consequence. Secondly to that, Community Wardens. I cannot stress the importance of Councils investing in a really comprehensive Community Warden scheme to complement the neighbourhood policing teams. And I am really pleased, Spencer, that your plans include everything I've just said and more. If you need help, please get in contact with either Spencer or myself.

S: Thank you very much Donna.

Text posted with video by Hart Conservatives:

We've been asked to give details of what we discussed at this week's meeting with [Donna Jones - Police Commissioner Hampshire & IOW](#)

Watch the video to hear Donna Jones talk with Spencer Farmer, one of our Councillors, about our plans to tackle anti-social behaviour, illegal car meets, local crime, and increasing local police presence.

We continue to engage with residents, community groups, and the police, to look at solutions. We've seen incidents of ASB and criminality become more frequent, and in too many instances, more serious. This includes car crime, nitrous oxide and drug taking, as well as vandalism and theft.

- We will invest £160K to fix the broken CCTV network. We will also add extra cameras in problem areas.
- We will recruit Council Community Wardens to complement our neighbourhood PCSOs and the police. This will add to the additional 600 full time police officers Donna has already recruited across Hampshire, plus the 50 extra officers she is now committed to deliver.
- We will relocate the neighbourhood police team from the Hart Council offices to a new central neighbourhood HQ police location in Fleet, with a public accessible staffed front desk. Neighbourhood HQs will typically be a base for local officers including CID, roads police, dog units and other teams. This delivers a policy pledged by Donna Jones and follows the work Hart Conservatives have undertaken with Donna Jones over the past two years.

CCH and the LibDems, who have run Hart for the past 6 years, continue to deny there is a problem with anti-social behaviour and local increases in crime. They have buried their heads in the sand, try to blame others, and attempt to hide behind misleading statistics. They have failed to maintain or upgrade our CCTV network. The ageing cameras are often not working, produce poor quality images, and have not been properly monitored. They have done nothing to deal with these problems and don't take Community Safety seriously.

You get to decide on 4th May who you want to Protect our community. To find out more, follow our page and let us know what else you would like to see the Council do better.

Video provided by complainant B, featuring Roy Fang, Fleet Central Candidate (R)

Verbatim transcript:

R: Hi I'm Roy Fang. I'm standing for Fleet Central this May. I'm here with Police and Crime Commissioner Donna Jones, today and talking about anti-social behaviour.

Donna: Thank you very much Roy. It's really good to have done a walk around today with you in Fleet speaking to local business owners and also to residents.

Just want to give people a quick update on what we're doing together working with the local Conservative team here in Fleet.

So first of all, just under two years ago, I pledged to recruit 600 more police officers across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. That is now done, and achieved. I've now gone on to pledge another 50 police officers that will be recruited over the next year. That means that you will see more police in your area.

Secondly, the new Chief Constable started on 23rd February. He is going to be changing the police operating model, rebuilding local policing. Now local policing means that we need to have good quality CCTV cameras. A lot of the councils across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have got very high quality CCTV. The only way we can bring about prosecutions for drug taking, and for anti-social behaviour, for car thefts, catalytic converter thefts, is if we've got good quality, high resolution CCTV through the Council, and also you guys registering your ring doorbells.

Please do support Roy in the local elections and if I can help with anything at all, please do get into contact with me. Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner.

Video provided by complainant B, featuring Jennifer Copeland, Hook Candidate (J)

Verbatim transcript:

J: Hi, I'm Jennifer Copeland. I'm a candidate standing here today for Hook. I'm with Donna Jones, the Police and Crime Commissioner. She's going to tell us the importance of CCTV

Donna: Thank you very much. It's been really good to be out with you today Jennifer as well speaking to local residents and local businesses. I am going to start first with the car meets. This has got a policing name called Op Chromium. This has really been picking up in its number over the last six to eight months and we have seen a number of car meets and some very serious injuries, particularly to young people. The Police have now got a dedicated unit, there is a team of people that are really trying to seize cars, you know, fine people for no insurance, no tax and take strong action to try and prevent these car meets, which are unauthorised and as I say, where people are being injured.

Moving on to CCTV, well yes for Hook Village, it is very important. Good quality, high resolution CCTV can be the difference between somebody getting away with an assault or a catalytic converter theft and not.

The Police cannot prosecute if the Crown Prosecution Service and a jury would not be convinced that that individual is the person that stole the car or stole the catalytic converter. Now, most councils across the County have now really improved their CCTV. I've been working with the local Conservatives here, across (ah) the whole of the Hart area for the last two years. I really really want you to have better CCTV to lead to safer community, safer streets and more prosecutions.

REQUIRED LEGAL INFORMATION:

Significant Links

Links to previous Member decisions:	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Direct links to specific legislation or Government Directives	
<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012	

Section 100 D - Local Government Act 1972 - background documents

The following documents discuss facts or matters on which this report, or an important part of it, is based and have been relied upon to a material extent in the preparation of this report. (NB: the list excludes published works and any documents which disclose exempt or confidential information as defined in the Act.)

<u>Document</u>	<u>Location</u>
Protocol for the Informal Resolution Procedure Regarding Complaints made against the Police and Crime Commissioner	https://documents.hants.gov.uk/partnerships/hampshire-pcp/PCP-ProtocolfortheInformalComplaintsProcedure.pdf

May 2023 Elections: guidance on conduct for civil servants

1. On Thursday 4 May 2023, elections will be taking place to a number of Local Authorities in England, including some directly elected Mayors. On Thursday 18 May, elections will take place to all local councils in Northern Ireland. Further information on the areas affected is attached at Annex A.
2. This note provides guidance to civil servants in UK Government departments, and the staff and members of non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and other arm's-length bodies (ALBs) on their role and conduct during the forthcoming election campaigns. It is for individual public bodies to apply this pre-election guidance within their own organisations, but in doing so they should not go beyond the principles set out in this guidance.
3. The period of sensitivity preceding the local elections is not fixed to any particular date, but the general convention is that special care should be taken in the three weeks preceding the elections -
 - a. from Thursday 13 April in respect of elections taking place in Local Authorities in England; and
 - b. from Thursday 27 April in respect of elections taking place in local councils in Northern Ireland.
4. This guidance does not apply to Local Authorities, who are subject to their own restrictions during the pre-election period. The period of sensitivity for Local Authorities holding elections is different from that recommended for the UK Government in this

guidance¹. Separate conduct guidance will be issued by the Northern Ireland Civil Service to civil servants working in the Northern Ireland Civil Service and their agencies and public bodies.

5. These elections are different from a UK general election. The UK Government will remain in office whatever the outcome of the elections. UKG Ministers will continue to carry out their functions in the usual way. Civil servants will continue to support their Ministers in their work. Subject to the principles set out below, UK Government business can continue.

6. However, it needs to be borne in mind that the activities of the UK Government could have a bearing on the election campaigns. Particular care will need to be taken during this period to ensure that civil servants conduct themselves in accordance with the requirements of the *Civil Service Code*. Care also needs to be taken in relation to the announcement of UK Government decisions which could have a bearing on the elections. In particular, civil servants are under an obligation:
 - a. to ensure that public resources are not used for party political purposes; and
 - b. not to undertake any activity that could call into question their political impartiality. It is important to remember that this applies to online communication such as social media,

¹ For local authorities in England with elections, the *Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity* sets out that the period of heightened sensitivity for local authorities is the period between the posting of notice of an election locally and the election itself. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/recommended-code-of-practice-for-local-authority-publicity>

This is different to the period of sensitivity recommended for the UK Government as outlined in paragraph 3 of this guidance.

in the same way as other activity.

7. In all cases essential business, which includes routine business necessary to ensure the continued smooth functioning of government and public services, must be allowed to continue.

General principles

8. The following general principles should be observed by all civil servants, including Special Advisers:
 - a. Particular care should be taken over official support, and the use of public resources, including publicity, for government announcements that could have a bearing on matters relevant to the elections. In some cases it may be better to defer an announcement until after the elections, but this would need to be balanced carefully against any implication that deferral could itself influence the political outcome. Each case should be considered on its merits.
 - b. Care should also be taken in relation to proposed visits.
 - c. Special care should be taken in respect of paid publicity campaigns and to ensure that publicity is not open to the criticism that it is being undertaken for party political purposes.
 - d. There should be even-handedness in meeting information requests from the different political parties and campaigning groups.
 - e. Officials should not be asked to provide new arguments for use in election campaign debates.

Handling of requests for information

9. There should be even-handedness in meeting information requests from candidates from the different political parties. The aim should be to respond to requests from candidates and campaigners as soon as possible. This also applies to requests from mayoral candidates.
10. Where it is clear that a candidate's request is a Freedom of Information (Fol) request it must be handled in accordance with the Freedom of Information Act 2000. The Act requires public authorities to respond to requests promptly and in any event not later than 20 working days after the date of receipt. Where it is clear that it will not be possible to provide a quick response, the candidate should be given the opportunity to refine the request if they wish so that it can be responded to more quickly.
11. Any enquiries from the media should be handled by Departmental Press Officers.

Ministerial visits

12. In this period, particular care should be taken in respect of proposed visits to areas holding elections. The basic test of whether a visit is for government purposes must be satisfied. Official support must not be given to visits and events with a party political or campaigning purpose. In cases of doubt, further guidance should be sought from your Permanent Secretary's office (who may then seek advice from the Cabinet Office - see paragraph 31 below).

Announcements

13. Similarly, national announcements by the UK Government may also have a particular impact on local areas with elections, for example, the publication of policy statements which have a specific local dimension.
14. Ministers will wish to be aware of the potential sensitivities in this regard and might decide, on advice, to postpone making certain announcements until after the elections. Obviously, this needs to be balanced carefully against any implication that deferral itself could influence the political outcome. Each case should be considered on its merits. Again, in cases of doubt, further advice should be sought.

Public consultations

15. Public consultations with a particular emphasis on local issues or impact on areas where elections are being held, should generally not be launched during the pre-election period. If there are exceptional circumstances where launching a consultation is considered essential (for example, for safeguarding public health), advice should be sought from your Permanent Secretary's office (who may then seek advice from the Cabinet Office - see paragraph 31 below).
16. If a consultation is ongoing during this period, it should continue as normal. However, departments should avoid taking action that will compete with candidates for the attention of the public. This effectively means not undertaking publicity or consultation events for those consultations that are still in progress, and which have a particular emphasis on local issues, or impact on areas where elections are being held. During this period, departments may continue to receive and analyse

responses. Departments should also consider extending consultation periods after the election to allow all parties sufficient time to respond.

17. This is particularly important where a consultation will require the participation of Local Authorities which are under their own pre-election publicity restrictions during this period².

Communication activities

18. Government communicators should apply the principles set out above when planning and delivering communications activities that will take place during this period. Additional care should therefore be taken around press and marketing activity concerning local issues.
19. It is also important to take care with official websites, including GOV.UK, and use of social media that will be scrutinised closely by the news media and the political parties during the election period. In cases of doubt, guidance should be sought from the Government Communications Service in the Cabinet Office.

Use of Government property

² The *Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity* is issued under powers conferred on the Secretary of State under section 4(1) of the Local Government Act 1986 ('the 1986 Act'). Local authorities, defined in section 6(2) of the 1986 Act, are required by section 4(1) of the 1986 Act to have regard to the Publicity Code in coming to any decision on publicity. Publicity is defined in section 6(4) of the 1986 Act as 'any communication, in whatever form, addressed to the public at large or a section of the public'. Local authorities should pay particular regard to the legislation governing publicity during the period of heightened sensitivity before elections and referendums.

No corresponding publicity code has been issued for Northern Ireland under Section 115B of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 1972. The behaviour of NI councils is informed by guidance from the Northern Ireland Local Government Association.

20. Government property should not be used by Ministers or candidates for electioneering purposes.
21. In the case of NHS property, decisions are for the relevant NHS body, but should visits be permitted to, for example, hospitals, it should be on the basis that there is no disruption to services and that the same facilities are available to all candidates. Care should also be taken to avoid any intrusion into the lives of individuals using the services. The decisions on the use of other Local Authority properties should be for those legally responsible for the premises. Where it is decided to agree to such visits, the key principle is that the same facilities should be available to all candidates, and that there is no disruption to services.

Statistical and social research activities

22. During the election periods, statistical activities should continue to be conducted in accordance with the Code of Practice for Statistics and the Pre-release Access to Official Statistics Order 2008 (and / or the equivalent Orders made by the Devolved Administrations in relation to devolved statistics - including those produced for Northern Ireland by the Executive Office), which should be read as though it is part of that Code. Regular pre-announced statistical releases (for example, press notices or bulletin publications) will continue to be issued and published. The principles set out here are not about restricting commentary from independent sources, for example academics who may also hold public appointments or non-executive roles in government departments or public bodies. It is for individual public bodies to apply this pre-election guidance within their own organisations, but in doing so they should not go beyond the

principles set out in this document.

23. Social research activities should be in accordance with the Government Social Research (GSR) Code and supplementary guidance, including the GSR Publication Protocol. Requests for information should be handled in accordance with the principles set out in paragraphs 9-10 of this note and with the Code of Practice for Statistics. In cases of doubt, you should consult your departmental Head of Profession for Statistics (who should consult the National Statistician if clarity is required) or your departmental Head of Profession for Social Research. The National Statistician, and the Government Economic and Social Research Team can be contacted for further guidance.

Use of public funds

24. During the pre-election period, departments should carefully consider the timing of decisions and announcements in relation to large and/or contentious commercial contracts or grants which could have a bearing on matters relevant to the elections. In some cases it may be better to defer an announcement until after the elections, but this would need to be balanced carefully against any implication that deferral could itself influence the political outcome. Each case should be considered on its merits.

Political activities

25. Political activity connected with local elections falls within the definition of **local** political activity.

26. Detailed guidance on the restrictions on civil servants' involvement in a private capacity in local political activities is set out in section 4.4 of the [Civil Service Management Code](#), and in departmental staff handbooks.

Special Advisers

27. The rules on Special Advisers' involvement in local (and national) political activities are set out in the [Code of Conduct for Special Advisers](#).
28. After consultation with their appointing Minister, Special Advisers who wish to take part in the local election campaigns may do so in their own time. Official resources must not be used in support of the elections.

Non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs) and other arm's-length bodies (ALBs)

29. NDPBs and other ALBs spend public money, make public announcements, use government property and may employ civil servants. It is for individual public bodies to apply this pre-election guidance within their own organisations, but in doing so they should not go beyond the principles set out in this document. Sponsor departments must ensure that staff and board members of their NDPBs and other ALBs are aware of the guidance and are applying the principles appropriately. Sponsor departments should be consulted by the NDPB/ALB in cases of doubt.

Schools

30. The Department for Education has published guidance for schools on [political impartiality](#) during political events, and guidance specifically relating to the [pre-election period](#).

Further advice

31. In cases of doubt, in the first instance you should consult your Permanent Secretary's Office. They may then wish to take advice from the Cabinet Office's Propriety & Ethics team.

Cabinet Office March 2023

Annex A

LIST OF LOCAL ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND 2023

On 4 May, in England, elections will take place to 32 Metropolitan District Councils, 46 Unitary Councils, and 152 District Councils. There will be 4 council mayoral elections.

On 18 May, elections will take place to the 11 local councils in Northern Ireland.

Elections will also take place to some town and parish councils. Local Authorities (unitary councils, and district councils in two-tier county areas) can identify which town and parish councils are being elected to.

-

Metropolitan District election by whole council (9):

- Bolton
- Liverpool
- Oldham
- Stockport
- Tameside
- Trafford
- Wigan
- Wirral
- Wolverhampton

Metropolitan District election by thirds (23):

- Barnsley
- Bradford
- Bury
- Calderdale

- Coventry
- Dudley
- Gateshead
- Kirklees
- Knowsley
- Leeds
- Manchester
- Newcastle upon Tyne
- North Tyneside
- Rochdale
- Salford
- Sandwell
- Sefton
- Sheffield
- Solihull
- South Tyneside
- Sunderland
- Wakefield
- Walsall

Unitary Councils electing by whole Council (32)

- Bath and North East Somerset
- Bedford
- Blackpool
- Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole
- Bracknell Forest
- Brighton and Hove
- Central Bedfordshire
- Cheshire East
- Cheshire West and Chester
- Darlington
- Derby

- East Riding of Yorkshire
- Herefordshire
- Leicester
- Luton
- Medway
- Middlesbrough
- North Lincolnshire
- North Somerset
- Nottingham
- Redcar and Cleveland
- Rutland
- Slough
- South Gloucestershire
- Southampton
- Stockton-on-Tees
- Stoke-on-Trent
- Telford and the Wrekin
- Torbay
- West Berkshire
- Windsor and Maidenhead
- York

Unitary Councils electing by thirds (14):

- Blackburn with Darwen
- Halton
- Hartlepool
- Kingston upon Hull
- Milton Keynes
- North East Lincolnshire
- Peterborough
- Plymouth
- Portsmouth

- Reading
- Southend-on-Sea
- Swindon
- Thurrock
- Wokingham

District Councils election by whole council (105):

- Amber Valley
- Arun
- Ashfield
- Ashford
- Babergh
- Bassetlaw
- Blaby
- Bolsover
- Boston
- Braintree
- Breckland
- Broadland
- Bromsgrove
- Broxtowe
- Canterbury
- Charnwood
- Chelmsford
- Chesterfield
- Chichester
- Cotswold
- Dacorum
- Dartford
- Derbyshire Dales
- Dover
- East Cambridgeshire

- East Devon
- East Hampshire
- East Hertfordshire
- East Lindsey
- East Staffordshire
- East Suffolk
- Eastbourne
- Epsom and Ewell
- Erewash
- Fenland
- Folkestone and Hythe
- Forest of Dean
- Fylde
- Gedling
- Gravesham
- Great Yarmouth
- Guildford
- Harborough
- Hertsmere
- High Peak
- Hinckley and Bosworth
- Horsham
- Kings Lynn and West Norfolk
- Lancaster
- Lewes
- Lichfield
- Maldon
- Malvern Hills
- Mansfield
- Melton
- Mid Devon
- Mid Suffolk

- Mid Sussex
- Mole Valley
- New Forest
- Newark and Sherwood
- North Devon
- North East Derbyshire
- North Kesteven
- North Norfolk
- North Warwickshire
- North West Leicestershire
- Oadby and Wigston
- Ribble Valley
- Rother
- Rushcliffe
- Sevenoaks
- South Derbyshire
- South Hams
- South Holland
- South Kesteven
- South Norfolk
- South Oxfordshire
- South Ribble
- South Staffordshire
- Spelthorne
- Stafford
- Staffordshire Moorlands
- Stratford-on-Avon
- Surrey Heath
- Swale
- Teignbridge
- Tendring
- Test Valley

- Tewkesbury
- Thanet
- Tonbridge and Malling
- Torridge
- Uttlesford
- Vale of White Horse
- Warwick
- Waverley
- Wealden
- West Devon
- West Lancashire
- West Lindsey
- West Suffolk
- Wychavon
- Wyre
- Wyre Forest

District Councils election by thirds (47):

- Basildon
- Basingstoke and Deane
- Brentwood
- Broxbourne
- Burnley
- Cambridge
- Cannock Chase
- Castle Point
- Cherwell
- Chorley
- Colchester
- Crawley
- Eastleigh
- Elmbridge

- Epping Forest
- Exeter
- Harlow
- Hart
- Havant
- Hyndburn
- Ipswich
- Lincoln
- Maidstone
- North Hertfordshire
- Norwich
- Pendle
- Preston
- Redditch
- Reigate and Banstead
- Rochford
- Rossendale
- Rugby
- Runnymede
- Rushmoor
- St Albans
- Stevenage
- Tamworth
- Tandridge
- Three Rivers
- Tunbridge Wells
- Watford
- Welwyn Hatfield
- West Oxfordshire
- Winchester
- Woking
- Worcester

- Worthing

Local Authority Mayoral Elections (4)

- Bedford
- Leicester
- Mansfield
- Middlesbrough

Northern Ireland (11)

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Council
- Belfast City Council
- Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council
- Derry City and Strabane District Council
- Fermanagh and Omagh District Council
- Lisburn and Castlereagh City Council
- Mid and East Antrim District Council
- Mid-Ulster District Council
- Newry, Mourne and Down District Council
- Ards and North Down District Council

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