

# DYFED-POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL – ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

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## **1. Chairman's foreword**

I am delighted to introduce the Annual Report of Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Panel. Its purpose is to present the key highlights and challenges of the past year.

The Panel was formed in 2012 to challenge, scrutinise and support the work of the elected Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) for Dyfed Powys. This vision for the Panel remains, that is ensuring accountability of the PCC. The governance work of the Panel is often unsung, but not unappreciated. The information here will help readers understand the context and achievements of the Panel's work during the past year.

The year's key achievements include scrutiny of the Policing Precept proposed by the PCC. The Panel also scrutinised how the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account, as well as the PCC's performance against the Policing Protocol Order.

There have been challenges. Following the May 2022 elections there was a significant change in Panel membership. The appointment process was not without its difficulties and delays in the Home Office approval of nominees

meant that the Panel was unable to hold its first meeting until 28 October 2022 and so only held two formal Panel meetings. However, it is particularly pleasing to see the much higher representation of women on the re-formed Panel, especially given the much-publicised complaints of misogyny and sexism in the police generally.

The Panel's goals for the coming year 2023-2024 are set out in section 5 of the report and a schedule of formal meetings has been provisionally set.

The panel is supported by day-to-day work undertaken by officers of Carmarthenshire County Council and I should like to take this opportunity to thank them and recognise their important contribution.

On a personal note, as this will be my first Annual Report as Chair of the Police and Crime Panel I would like to take the opportunity to thank my predecessor, former Ceredigion County Councillor Alun Lloyd Jones, for his past leadership. Alun set high standards for the Panel and oversaw a considerable increase in the scrutiny work that it undertook. **Diolch Alun, and** I look forward to continuing this into the future.



*Professor Ian Roffe (Panel Chairman)*

## **2. Panel Membership**

The Panel has 14 members in total. Of these 14 are County Councillors (3 from each County in the force area) and 2 are co-opted independent members, selected following a public recruitment exercise. Further information regarding the Panel Members for 2022-2023 can be found at Appendix 2. The representation provides a range of different viewpoints from our communities that is important in recognising relevant factors affecting the work of the Commissioner and Dyfed-Powys Police.

## **3. Our role:**

The functions of the Police and Crime Panel are set out in legislation and include;

1. Reviewing the Police and Crime Commissioner's police and crime plan.
2. Reviewing the Police and Crime Commissioner's annual draft budget, with the power to veto the level of precept.
3. Dealing with certain complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner or his deputy.
4. Scrutinising decisions and actions taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner.
5. Reviewing the appointment or removal of the Chief Constable and the appointment of certain senior staff in the Police and Crime Commissioners office, namely any Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, and the Commissioner's Chief of Staff and Chief Financial Officer.
6. Supporting the Commissioner in the performance of his statutory functions.
7. Making reports or recommendations to the Commissioner.
8. Reviewing the Commissioner's conduct.

The Panel has carried out a self-assessment of how it has performed these functions during the year. This can be seen in Appendix 1.

**The statutory functions of the Police and Crime Commissioner are.**

1. Setting the priorities for Dyfed-Powys Police.
2. Publishing a Police and Crime Plan.
3. Engaging with Communities and representing the public's voice on policing matters.
4. Working closely with community safety and criminal justice partners.
5. Supporting victims and bringing people to justice.
6. Commissioning services to make communities safer and to support the vulnerable.
7. Appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable.
8. Dealing with complaints and disciplinary matters against the Chief Constable.
9. Holding the Chief Constable to account.
10. Setting the annual Police budget and precept level.

**Neither the Panel, nor the Police and Crime Commissioner has any role in the management of operational policing by Dyfed-Powys Police. Operational Policing is the responsibility of the Chief Constable.**

#### **4. Review of the year:**

The Panel held 2 formal meetings during the year in October 2022 and January 2023. Sub-groups of panel members also met regularly from October 2022 until the end of the March 2023 to undertake more detailed pieces of work.

More information about the formal panel meetings can be found on the Panel's website [www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales](http://www.dppoliceandcrimepanel.wales) by clicking on the 'meetings' tab, the 'please select' button and then selecting the year of the meeting that you wish to look for.

## Meeting Summary

October 2022

This was the Panel's delayed Annual General Meeting (AGM).

The meeting considered the Commissioner's annual report, decisions he had made since the last meeting and his performance against the requirements of the Policing Protocol Order.

There was also a particular focus on the issue of violence against women.

January 2023

This meeting focussed primarily on the setting of the police precept for 2023-2024 and the financial management of the Commissioner's budget. However the Panel also scrutinised decisions made by the Commissioner since the last Panel meeting and his performance against the requirements of the Policing Protocol Order for the same period

## **Complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner**

The Police and Crime Panel must record any complaint against the Commissioner that it receives. However, the Panel has only very limited powers to deal with these complaints and cannot 'investigate' any complaint that has been made. The Panel is obliged to refer any serious complaint (i.e. a complaint of criminal misconduct) to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) and has no power to compel the Commissioner to take any remedial action in respect of a complaint. The most the Panel can do is try and achieve an informal resolution of the complaint.

During the year the Panel recorded two complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner from members of the public. These were considered in accordance with the Panel's complaints protocol, and it was resolved to take no further action in relation to either of them as they were not suitable for informal resolution by the Panel and no meaningful outcome was likely.

### Panel priorities for 2022-2023

In its last annual report, the Panel identified 4 priorities for the following year, each of which related to a statutory function of the Panel. The Panel has been able to complete 3 out of the 4 pieces of scrutiny work that it had committed to and I am grateful to my colleagues for the considerable amount of work that they did to make this possible.

Therefore, our priorities for 2022-2023 were

PRIORITY 1	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE DID	OUTCOME
Scrutiny of the Police Precept	To ensure Police and Crime Commissioner's finances are being properly managed and that the people of Dyfed-Powys are receiving value for money from the Police Precept	<p>Reviewed the end of year accounts.</p> <p>Publicly questioned the Commissioner about those accounts.</p> <p>Received a briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Financial Officer regarding the financial status of Dyfed-Powys Police and the demands upon it.</p> <p>Received information on the non-police services procured by the Commissioner.</p> <p>Received information from the Chief Constable on the budgetary pressures that he faced.</p> <p>Held a public hearing to consider the proposed precept</p>	The Panel endorsed the Commissioners proposed precept increase of 7.75% in the precept. The Panel was satisfied that this increase was fair and appropriate taking into account all the relevant circumstances

PRIORITY 2	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE DID	OUTCOME
How the Commissioner manages the Police estate in light of the financial pressures on the capital budget	<p>To understand how the police estate is managed and its impact upon the efficiency and effectiveness of the force</p> <p>To examine whether the capital programme represents best value</p>	Owing to the considerable delay in the Home Office appointing members to the Panel following the May 2022 elections it was not possible to progress this priority.	This priority has been deferred to 2023-2024, when it will be considered as part of the overall precept setting process.

PRIORITY 3	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE DID	OUTCOME
Scrutinising how to Commissioner holds the Chief constable to account	To ensure that the Commissioner is holding the Chief Constable to account in a way that is thorough, effective and fair.	<p>Monitored the Commissioner's performance through attendance at Policing Accountability Board meetings</p> <p>Reviewed and scrutinised agendas and reports submitted to the Policing Board</p> <p>Challenged the Commissioner in relation to specific issues that arose during the year.</p>	<p>The Panel was satisfied that the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account in a robust but fair way.</p> <p>The Panel also made 5 recommendations aimed at improving public accessibility to and understanding of why and how the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account.</p>

PRIORITY 4	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE DID	OUTCOMES
Scrutinising the Commissioner's performance against the Policing Protocol Order	To ensure that the Commissioner is performing the statutory functions prescribed in the Order to the highest possible standard	<p>Monitored the Commissioner's performance against the order on a quarterly basis</p> <p>Challenged the Commissioner in relation to any specific performance issues that arise during the year.</p>	<p>The Panel was satisfied that the Commissioner had performed his functions to a high standard.</p> <p>The Panel made 5 recommendations regarding further scrutiny in this field</p>



## 5. OUR PRIORITIES FOR 2023-2024

The Panel has decided to focus its work on two broader priorities in 2023 – 2024 each of which will consist several themes

Therefore, our priorities for 2022-2023 will be

PRIORITY 1	OBJECTIVE	WHAT WE WILL DO	INTENDED OUTCOME
<p><b>Scrutiny of the Police Precept</b></p> <p>The themes to receive particular consideration will be</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Estates</li> <li>2. Commissioned Services</li> <li>3. Efficiency Savings</li> </ol>	<p>To ensure the Police and Crime Commissioner's finances are being properly managed and that the people of Dyfed-Powys are receiving value for money from the Police Precept</p>	<p>Review the end of year accounts, Estates Strategy and other relevant documentation</p> <p>Publicly question the Commissioner about these matters and request relevant information from him.</p> <p>Receive a briefing from the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Financial Officer regarding the financial status of Dyfed-Powys Police and the demands upon it.</p> <p>Receive information on the non-police services procured by the Commissioner.</p> <p>Receive information from the Chief Constable on budgetary pressure in a Finance Seminar.</p> <p>Hold a hearing to consider the proposed precept</p>	<p>That the level of precept set for 2024-2025 is appropriate having regard to all the circumstances.</p> <p><b>Target Date – February 2024</b></p>

PRIORITY 2	OBJECTIVES	WHAT WE WILL DO	INTENDED OUTCOME
<p><b>Scrutiny of how the Commissioner performs his statutory duty to maintain an efficient and effective Police Force</b> (Paragraph 17(g) of the Policing Protocol Order 2011)</p> <p>The themes to receive particular consideration will be</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The impact of staff resources and wellbeing on performance</li> <li>2. The impact of public engagement and accessibility on performance</li> <li>3. How effectively the Police and Crime Plan Priority of preventing harm has been implemented and what has been achieved.</li> </ol>	<p>To achieve an understanding of how the Commissioner has been able to influence how efficient and effective Dyfed-Powys is, what he could do to improve things further.</p>	<p>Ask the Commissioner to provide the Panel with specific information</p> <p>To invite other key stakeholders to give their views to the Panel.</p> <p>Seek examples of best practice from elsewhere.</p>	<p>To be able to determine whether the Commissioner has satisfied the requirement to maintain an efficient and effective police force</p> <p><b>Target Date – June 2024</b></p>

In addition to these priorities the Panel will continue to.

- Scrutinise all key decisions made by the Commissioner including those in relation to commissioned services.

- Monitor how the Commissioner holds the Chief Constable to account.
- Monitor the Commissioner's performance against the Policing Protocol Order

## **6. CONCLUSION**

As I stated in my introduction, this is my first year as the Chairman of the Police and Crime Panel, having previously served as Vice-Chairman.

Policing in general is facing many challenges, both financial and ethical and it would be naïve to think that Dyfed-Powys is immune from them. I and my fellow Panel members are fully committed to supporting the Commissioner in addressing these challenges.

The role of the Commissioner is however, wider than just policing. It encompasses such matters as victim support, for example, and elements of the wider criminal justice system. I therefore welcome the decision of the Panel to begin to focus on some of these areas as well.

Professor Ian Roffe (Chairman)

## APPENDIX 1 – PANEL PERFORMANCE

The Panel has assigned a RAG (Red/Amber/Green) rating to each of its functions. Where the Panel has not been required to perform a particular function during the year it has not been given a RAG rating.

The ratings are applied as follows.

RED - Where the Panel has been required to perform a function but has not done so.

AMBER - Where the Panel has been required to perform a function and is in the process of doing so.

GREEN - Where the Panel has been required to perform a function and has done so.

FUNCTION	RATING	COMMENT
Consideration of the Precept	GREEN	The Panel considered the Precept in January 2023 and endorsed the increase proposed by the Commissioner
Reviewing specified appointments by the Commissioner	N/A	It has not been necessary for the Panel to perform this function during the year.
Consideration of the proposed dismissal of the Chief Constable	N/A	It has not been necessary for the Panel to perform this function during the year.
Review of the draft Police and Crime Plan	N/A	It has not been necessary for the Panel to perform this function during the year.
Review of the PCC's Annual Report	GREEN	This was done in October 2022
Receive Reports and Information from the Commissioner	GREEN	Reports were received at both the October 2022 and January 2023 Panel meetings

Attendance of Commissioner at Panel meetings	Green	The Commissioner attended both Panel meetings held during the year.
Appointment of an Acting Police and Crime Commissioner	N/A	It has not been necessary for the Panel to perform this function during the year.
Dealing with complaints against the Commissioner	Green	The Panel considered and concluded 2 complaints against the Commissioner during the year.
Supporting the Commissioner to effectively exercise his functions	Green	The Panel has carried out 2 pieces of scrutiny work during the year and made recommendations to the Commissioner regarding areas of improvement.

## **APPENDIX 2 – MEMBERS OF DYFED POWYS POLICE AND CRIME PANEL FOR 2022 to 2023**

### Carmarthenshire County Council

Councillor Dot Jones

Councillor Karen Davies

Councillor Ken Howell

### Ceredigion County Council

Councillor Elizabeth Evans

Councillor Wyn Thomas

Councillor Keith Evans (Vice Chairman)

### Pembrokeshire County Council

Councillor Brian Hall

Councillor Jonathan Grimes

Councillor Dr Simon Hancock

### Powys County Council

Councillor Liz Rijnenberg

Councillor Les George

Councillor William Powell

### Independent Co-opted Members

Mrs. Helen Thomas

Professor Ian Roffe (Chairman)

