

GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD

COMPLAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE

ABERDEEN, Monday 13th December 2010 – Minute of meeting of **GRAMPIAN JOINT POLICE BOARD, COMPLAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE.**

Present:- Councillor Greig, Convenor, Councillor Dunbar, Councillor Hendry and Councillor Leadbitter (as substitute for Councillor Shepherd).

In Attendance:- Deputy Chief Constable John McNab, Grampian Police, Superintendent Colin Brown, Grampian Police and Ms F Smith, Representing the Depute Clerk to the Board.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

1. Apologies for absence were intimated on behalf of Councillors Bell, McKail and Shepherd, Jane MacEachran, Clerk to the Board and Karen Donnelly, Depute Clerk to the Board.

MINUTE OF PREVIOUS MEETING OF GJPB COMPLAINTS SUB-COMMITTEE OF 7TH JUNE 2010.

2. The Sub-Committee had before it and approved as a correct record, the Minute of meeting of the Grampian Joint Police Board Complaints Sub-Committee meeting of 7th June 2010.

The Sub Committee Resolved:

To approve the minute.

MATTERS ARISING

3. Item 3: With respect to the request made at the last meeting for the Sub Committee to be provided with statistics on the total number of complainers alongside the total number of complaints received, the Deputy Chief Constable advised that consideration was still being given to the best way in which to present this information in order that it provides the Sub Committee with the context it was seeking alongside ensuring that complaint figures were reported with clarity and consistency by the Force. Further discussions on this matter, along with discussions with PCCS on methods for dealing with persistent complainers, are on-going and the outcome of these will be reported to the Sub Committee in due course.

The Sub Committee resolved:

To note the matters arising.

QUARTERLY REPORT ADVISING NUMBER OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE – QUARTER 2 - 1ST JULY 2010 – 30TH SEPTEMBER 2010.

4. The Sub-Committee had before it a report by the Chief Constable, providing members with an update on the number of complaints made against Grampian Police for the period 1st July to 30th September 2010.

Deputy Chief Constable John McNab introduced the report and advised that, in respect of the volume of complaints received in the three month period from 1st July to 30th September 2010, there was a decrease from the last quarter and a decrease in comparison with the same quarter last year. Table 1 detailed that 143 complaints were received by the Force, giving rise to 194 on duty allegations and 7 off duty allegations. Action was taken in relation to 34 allegations.

Mr McNab went on to advise that the most common type of allegation made in this quarter was Irregularity in Procedure (69 allegations) followed by Incivility (33 allegations). Mr McNab noted that this quarter saw a decrease in complaints received, which was welcome given the rises seen in previous quarters, however he also noted that Grampian Police have higher levels of complaints than some other Forces.

Table 2 summarised Quality of Service complaints received by the Force and put these figures into context. 42 Quality of Service complaints were received during the period 1st July to 30th September 2010, the equivalent of 0.77 complaints per 10,000 population. During this same period, 84 letters of appreciation were received by the Force which compares to 92 for the corresponding period in 2009/10.

The report stated that the national target for completion of minor non-criminal and quality of service complaints is 56 days. The aim is to achieve this 85% of the time in the quarter in question, 81% of cases were concluded in 56 days.

Criminal and serious non-criminal cases require more complex investigation and the target for criminal cases fully reported to the Area Procurator Fiscal is within 126 days of receipt of the complaint. In the quarter in question, 3 cases were reported which were all within this timescale.

The Sub-Committee resolved:-

To note the contents of the report.

ON-GOING DEVELOPMENT OF COMPLAINTS SUB COMMITTEE

5. The sub-committee had before them a paper from the Clerk which sought its approval of actions proposed to address the on-going development of the Complaints Sub Committee in line with previous Grampian Joint Police Board decisions.

Ms F Smith introduced the report and advised that, following review of the GJPB Standing Orders, the terms of reference of the Sub Committee were amended. Given this development, now is an opportune time for the Sub Committee to give consideration to any changes which are required to existing ways of working in order to better support the Sub Committee in fulfilling its role. In addition, the Sub Committee are required to give consideration to the contents of a Board Complaints Policy and to issues arising from on-going development activities of the Board.

As such, the report proposed that the Sub Committee hold a half day development session on Friday 4th February 2011. The agenda for this session will be prepared by the Depute Clerk in conjunction with relevant officers at Grampian Police.

The Sub-Committee resolved;-

- (i) To instruct the Clerk to organise a half day development session during the morning of Friday 4th February 2011 and to liaise with relevant parties to develop an appropriate format for this session.
- (ii) To otherwise note the report

EXEMPT INFORMATION

Prior to considering the remaining items of business the Board resolved that in terms of Section 50A (4) of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 that the public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration on the items on the grounds that it was likely in view of the nature of proceedings that if members of the public were present during the consideration of these items that there would be a disclosure to them of exempt information as defined in paragraph 1 of part 1 of Schedule 7A of the said Act.

REPORT PROVIDING A RESUME OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE WHICH HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED BY THE POLICE COMPLAINTS COMMISSIONER FOR SCOTLAND

- 6. The Sub-Committee had before it a report which noted that one complaint handling review had been published by the Police Complaints Commissioner for Scotland (PCCS) since the last meeting.

The Sub-Committee resolved:-

To note the content of the report.

COMPLAINT AGAINST A SENIOR OFFICER

7. Prior to the Sub Committee considering this item, Mr John McNab, Deputy Chief Constable and Superintendent Colin Brown and left the meeting. The Sub Committee had before it a report by the Clerk to the Board summarising an investigation undertaken with respect to a complaint received against a senior officer.

Ms Smith introduced the report and advised the Sub Committee of the remit of the sub committee and the background of the complaint.

Following detailed discussion of the report, the sub-committee unanimously resolved to conclude that it cannot draw a reasonable inference from the complaint that misconduct on behalf of a Senior Officer has been committed.

The Sub-Committee resolved:-

- To conclude that it cannot draw a reasonable inference from the complaint that misconduct on behalf of a Senior Officer has been committed.

COUNCILLOR MARTIN GREIG - Convener