

Caroline Roser
Democratic Support Officer to the Hampshire & Isle of Wight Police and Crime Panel
Hampshire and Isle of Wight Police and Crime Panel
Elizabeth 11 Court
The Castle
Winchester
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By email: hampshire.iow.pcp@hants.gov.uk

27 April 2023

Dear Caroline,

RE: Complaints made against Donna Jones, Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

Thank you for your recent correspondence advising 3 complaints have been registered against me. I am grateful to the sub-committee in allowing me the opportunity to respond to the allegations lodged.

I am aware and always cognisant to the duty placed upon me by statute of law, to act impartially when representing the public. For clarity, I always act with impartiality when undertaking my duties as the Police and Crime Commissioner. I take pride in the cross-party political relationships I have taken time to develop across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight over the last 15 years. This investment in relationships has helped to serve with absolute impartiality as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight when dealing with opposition politicians, since May 2021.

As an elected person, it is absolutely in accordance with the legislation and guidance that Police and Crime Commissioners (PCC) can take part in active political campaigning. In fact, both the Labour Party and the Conservative Party expect their PCCs to support election activity. The role of the PCC is treated in the same way as a Member of Parliament (MP). MP's are and do take part in political campaigning for both local and national elections. At the same time, they are expected to represent all constituents regardless of their political opinions or membership of a political party in an impartial way. The office I hold is the same in law and there is no restriction on any political activity.

However, being cognisant of the fact I have regular cross party activity, I try to limit the party political activity on my personal social media. You can view all my social media channels (Twitter, Facebook and Instagram) by searching for @donnajonespcc. You will see from my social media that I have not shared party political content on my channels, not because I am restricted in doing so, but because I am not up for election and my part in political campaigning is to support colleagues who are.

It is also worth pointing out that I am not responsible for the posts created by others, and note that the posts included in the complaints are posts from 3rd party social media channels and not mine. But in any case, even if the posts were on my social media channels, this is not a breach of the legislation or guidance.

Finally I have provided for the panel, some examples of images of PCC's from the two political parties represented by PCC's, from across the country, campaigning in the last few weeks, supporting their politically aligned colleagues. This information is meant to assure the committee that my activity is normal and in accordance with both law and guidance. I would be grateful if the attached images were treated as an exempt appendix? If you are not able to treat the attached images as exempt, I would be grateful if you could disregard them and not include them in the panel's deliberations?

Kind regards,

Donna Jones



Donna Jones
Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire & Isle of Wight