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

Date and Time	Friday, 16th June, 2023 at 2.00 pm
Place	Denning Room, Elizabeth II Court, Hampshire County Council, 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 (Pages 3 - 8)**

To confirm the public minutes from the meeting of the Complaints Sub-Committee held on 19 May 2023.

- 4. GOVERNANCE - REPORT ON THE USE OF DELEGATED POWERS BY THE MONITORING OFFICER (Pages 9 - 12)**

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.

5. SUMMARY OF POWERS - COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE (Pages 13 - 18)

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.

6. 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.

7. TO REVIEW A COMPLAINT MADE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT (Pages 19 - 28)

(a) To consider a complaint made against the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

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'.



HAMPSHIRE &
ISLE OF WIGHT
POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Complaints Sub-Committee

**Friday, 19th May, 2023 at 10.00 am
Held in Ell Court, Winchester
(Hampshire County Council)**

Councillors:

Chairman

p Dave Stewart
(Independent Co-opted Member)

a Stuart Bailey
(Hart District Council)
p Lesley Meenaghan
(Hampshire County Council)
P Seán Woodward
(Fareham 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.

1. WELCOME AND APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apolgies were received from Cllr Stuart Bailey.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (PUBLIC)**

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

4. **SUMMARY OF POWERS - COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE**

The Summary of Powers were noted.

5. **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 outweighs the public interest in disclosing the information.

RESOLVED:

In respect of item 6 of the agenda the Sub-Committee agreed not to exclude the press and public.

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

6. **TO REVIEW COMPLAINTS MADE AGAINST THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR HAMPSHIRE**

The Sub-Committee received a report of the Democratic Services Officer outlining the detail of three complaints received against Donna Jones, in her role as the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight (PCC).

The Chairman explained consideration of the complaints would be taken together as they related to the same matter, videos feature the PCC alongside candidates standing for election in Hart District Council.

The Chairman further explained the Sub-Committee would consider whether the complaints being reviewed demonstrated a failure to meet the Code of Conduct, as published on the PCC's website, and that the Sub-Committee's findings would be made on fact.

The Chairman noted that the report complainants' identities were anonymised, at their request, and would be referred to as complainant A, B and C and that the outcome of the meeting would be confirmed in writing to all parties.

The legal adviser was invited to raise any comments to the meeting, for which he confirmed he had none at this point of the meeting.

The four videos referenced by the complainants were played to the meeting.

The Chairman invited any comments from Members, through which it was observed that:

- The PCC held a very particular role, but was still a politician and an elected official. When considering the role of a PCC, any duties should be dispensed with impartiality, but in campaigning would represent their own political party.
- Members would need to consider whether, in appearing to support these candidates, the Commissioner had gone beyond what might be considered as acceptable and whether the actions taken had demonstrated a breach in the code of conduct.

At 10:18am the Chairman called for the meeting to be adjourned to allow the Sub-Committee to consider legal advice on the evidence presented.

The meeting resumed at 10:50am.

The Chairman noted that office holder role of the Police and Crime Commissioner was not a civil servant and therefore the guidance on conduct for civil servants, as provided to the complaint, did not apply.

The Chairman then read out the comments received from the PCC, for the benefit of the meeting and those observing. It was noted by the Chairman that the images initially provided by the PCC had not been provided to the Sub-Committee, at her request, following confirmation that images would not be eligible for exemption from publication.

Debate was invited by the Chairman, through which Members expressed:

- Whilst the PCC was expected to carry out their duties in an impartial way, it would be usual that they would support campaign activity for their party, providing that they were not themselves subjected to pre-election restrictions and that no public resources were utilised, including staff or resources of their office or of the Constabulary. It was noted that other PCCs across the country had also taken part in campaign activity during the recent local elections.
- A member of the Sub-Committee raised concerns that the role of PCC allowed them to engage and supporting such election activity and hoped that the PCC would give consideration to the views of these complaints when supporting election activity in the future.
- Appreciation as to how the complaints had arisen, given that the role of the PCC was still fairly new and the expectations of the role may not be fully understood. The Sub-Committee noted that they were grateful that the matter had been brought forward for their consideration, to allow them to determine clarity in the matter.

- It was suggested that the Chairman may wish to publish a statement following the meeting explaining the outcome of the meeting.

Members then considered whether Ms Jones was acting in her capacity as Police and Crime Commissioner in the activities seen in the videos, which it was agreed that she was, and therefore the Sub-Committee agreed that PCC's Code of Conduct was engaged.

In reviewing the Commissioner's actions against the code of conduct, in particular 2.1.4 and 2.1.7, the Sub-Committee noted that there was no evidence to suggest the Commissioner had acted in a manner which had brought the office into disrepute or that she had improperly used resources. The Sub-Committee, therefore, concluded that the complaint did not demonstrate a breach in the code of conduct.

RESOLVED:

That the complaints be closed, without any further action taken, on the basis that the complaints do not evidence any failure in the code of conduct by Donna Jones, in her role as Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.

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

Members received a report from the Monitoring Officer to the Panel which outlined use of their delegated powers when taking a decision either not to record or to disapply the informal resolution procedure in respect of a complaint, or part thereof, since the Sub-Committee last met on 12 April 2022.

It was noted that since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee ten complaints received by the Panel were not recorded, and no further action taken under regulation 9 of the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 (the regulations). It was further noted that the informal resolution procedure had been disappplied for one complaint recorded by the Panel, under part 2 of the Regulations

RESOLVED:

That the report from the Monitoring Officer is noted.

8. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (EXEMPT)

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

Chairman, 16 June 2023

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HAMPSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

Report

Date:	16 June 2023
Title:	Use of delegated powers by the Monitoring Officer
Report From:	Monitoring Officer to the Police and Crime Panel

Tel: 0370 779 6176

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

Purpose of this Report

1. The purpose of this report is to notify the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) Complaints Sub-Committee (the Sub-Committee) of any occasions, since it last met, where the Monitoring Officer has used their delegated powers when taking a decision either not to record or to dissaply the informal resolution procedure in respect of a complaint, or part thereof, in accordance with the Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 (the regulations).

Recommendation(s)

2. That the report from the Monitoring Officer is noted.

Contextual information

3. The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Complaints and Misconduct) Regulations 2012 (the Regulations) mandate the statutory responsibility for the Police and Crime Panel (PCP) to handle non-criminal complaints about the conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner (DPCC), where appointed.
4. The Panel have a published Protocol outlining the informal resolution procedure it will follow when considering complaints made against the PCC/DPCC, an update to which was agreed at its meeting on 19 May 2023.

Non-Recording of Complaints

5. If, following receipt of a complaint against the PCC/DPCC, the Democratic Services Officer, reaches the view that action should not be taken under regulation 9 of the Regulations for notifying or recording the whole or any part

of the complaint received, as it does not properly fall within the responsibility of the PCP, they will refer the matter the Monitoring Officer.

6. The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chairman of the Sub-Committee, will determine whether the complaint should be recorded as such. If it is agreed that action shall not be taken under regulation 9, the Monitoring Officer shall notify the complainant and PCC/DPCC in writing.
7. Since the last meeting of the Sub-Committee, on 19 May 2023, there have been no instances where complaints received by the Panel were not recorded.

Disapplication of the Regulations

8. In some cases, the informal resolution procedure may be disapplied in respect of a complaint in accordance with Part 2, paragraph 15 of the Regulations. If the Democratic Services Officer identifies that a complaint may be suitable for consideration for disapplication under part 2 of the Regulations, they will refer it to the Monitoring Officer.
9. The Monitoring Officer, in consultation with the Chair of the Sub-Committee, will consider the suitability of the complaint for disapplication under part 2 of the Regulations.
10. In the event that disapplication is determined to be appropriate in relation to a complaint, either in its entirety or in part, the Monitoring Officer will write to the complainant and the PCC/DPCC, notifying them of this decision.
11. Since the last meeting of the Sub Committee, on 19 May 2023 the informal resolution procedure has not been disapplied for any complaints recorded by the Panel, under part 2 of the Regulations.

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>
Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (legislation.gov.uk)	

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:	16 June 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:	16 June 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) of a complaint 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.

Executive Summary

3. This report was prepared to inform the Sub-Committee of a complaint received against the PCC.
4. The report requests that the Complaints Sub-Committee come to an agreement on the action to be taken in response to the complaint.

Contextual information

5. The complaint was received from complainant the on 30 April 2023.
6. The Monitoring Officer to the Panel has determined that the complaint may be treated anonymously at the public meeting, as the name and any personal details of the complainant are not relevant to the consideration of the complaint.

7. 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.
8. The Democratic Services Officer wrote to the complainant and complained against, on 19 May 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. No comments were received from either the complainant or the PCC.
9. 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

10. The complaint to be considered by the Sub-Committee is worded below:

Donna Jones appeared on "GB News" and interviewed by Nigel Farage. Link to the channels clip of her appearance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKVVUPO81V8> "GB News" is not an impartial news channel, and has within less than two years of launching, been penalised by Ofcom, which also has further investigations into GB News ongoing. GB News is commonly known to be a politically very right-leaning entertainment channel that does not itself purport to be a respectable, independent news channel. Nigel Farage's own background needs little explaining, other than he is well known to be a very right-wing politician whose countless racist, xenophobic, Islamophobic and sexist comments are well reported. Ofcom investigations, and upheld complaints, into GB News include transgressions involving covid vaccines, political impartiality and racism/anti-semitism. The PPC's involvement reflects badly on her judgement and brings the wider police service's political impartiality into disrepute. This gives rise to two breaches of the Nolan Principles of conduct of public officials: Selflessness. There is no apparent public interest in the Police and Crime Commissioner appearing on a TV channel of this reputation, particularly in light of the abundance of legitimate news channels, publishers and social media that are available as alternatives. Objectivity. Appearing on a politically right-wing entertainment channel to be interviewed by a well-known, very right-wing politician displays a clear and unequivocal lack of objectivity. During the introduction to the interview, referring to the increased recruitment of police officers, Farage stated "really? Where are they? I haven't seen them. Oh I see them in cars, driving around, or normally sat at

the side of a motorway, making sure you're complying with the speed limit, but I don't seem them on the streets". Jones did nothing to dispute this lazy, harmful cliché. Jones did, however, state that "Some of them (Hampshire's own police officers) don't know how to investigate crime, they need to learn to do that". She also added (referring to new recruits) "they have spent a lot of the last three years sat in a classroom". She went on "we can have them learning about how to arrest people....rather than write essays about it". The ignorance of these comments is staggering. If Jones was unable to state anything positive about police officers in Hampshire, she was, rather predictably, rather more flowing with her praise for our dishonest, race-baiting, wretched government, including Suella Braverman and Chris Philp, both of whom, were they police officers, would long ago have been discharged for their various examples of dishonesty, misconduct and breaches of standards. According to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Code of Conduct, her appearance on this TV Channel has brought the office and the wider police service into disrepute (2.1.4) and misused her role improperly for political purposes (2.1.7).

Complaint:

11. Additional Comments

12. The original comments sent from the complainant are attached as Appendix 1.
13. A verbatim transcript of the video provided to the complaint has been attached as Appendix 2.
14. A copy of the PCC's code of conduct is attached as Appendix 3.

Appendix 1

Details of the alleged incident: Donna Jones appeared on "GB News" and interviewed by Nigel Farage. Link to the channels clip of her appearance - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKVVUPO81V8> "GB News" is not an impartial news channel, and has within less than two years of launching, been penalised by Ofcom, which also has further investigations into GB News ongoing. GB News is commonly known to be a politically very right-leaning entertainment channel that does not itself purport to be a respectable, independent news channel. Nigel Farage's own background needs little explaining, other than he is well known to be a very right-wing politician whose countless racist, xenophobic, Islamophobic and sexist comments are well reported. Ofcom investigations, and upheld complaints, into GB News include transgressions involving covid vaccines, political impartiality and racism/anti-semitism. The PPC's involvement reflects badly on her judgement and brings the wider police service's political impartiality into disrepute. This gives rise to two breaches of the Nolan Principles of conduct of public officials: Selflessness. There is no apparent public interest in the Police and Crime Commissioner appearing on a TV channel of this reputation, particularly in light of the abundance of legitimate news channels, publishers and social media that are available as alternatives. Objectivity. Appearing on a politically right-wing entertainment channel to be interviewed by a well-known, very right-wing politician displays a clear and unequivocal lack of objectivity. During the introduction to the interview, referring to the increased recruitment of police officers, Farage stated "really? Where are they? I haven't seen them. Oh I see them in cars, driving around, or normally sat at the side of a motorway, making sure you're complying with the speed limit, but I don't seem them on the streets". Jones did nothing to dispute this lazy, harmful cliché. Jones did, however, state that "Some of them (Hampshire's own police officers) don't know how to investigate crime, they need to learn to do that". She also added (referring to new recruits) "they have spent a lot of the last three years sat in a classroom". She went on "we can have them learning about how to arrest people....rather than write essays about it". The ignorance of these comments is staggering. If Jones was unable to state anything positive about police officers in Hampshire, she was, rather predictably, rather more flowing with her praise for our dishonest, race-baiting, wretched government, including Suella Braverman and Chris Philp, both of whom, were they police officers, would long ago have been discharged for their various examples of dishonesty, misconduct and breaches of standards. According to the Police and Crime Commissioner's Code of Conduct, her appearance on this TV Channel has brought the office and the wider police service into disrepute (2.1.4) and misused her role improperly for political purposes (2.1.7).

Date of the alleged incident: 2023-04-26

What outcome you would like to see from this complaint: An apology to Hampshire's police officers and public for: the misjudgement in allowing herself to be interviewed on GB News by Nigel Farage; a spectacularly poor interview; and a promise to only appear on legitimate news channels in future.

Video Posted on YouTube by GB News titled Government reaches target of gaining 20,000 police officers: Donna Jones PCC is 'relieved'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jKVVUPO81V8>

Verbatim transcript:

Nigel Farage (NF): the 2019 Manifesto commitment to increase the number of police officers by 20,000 in England and Wales has been met. Wow he seemed so happy with it, but my initial gut reaction was, really, where are they? I haven't seen them. Oh I see them in cars driving around I don't or normally sitting on the side of the motorway you know to make sure you are complying with the speed limit but I don't see them on the streets. I see no evidence that police numbers are now at record levels. Yes, in the last three years, in England and Wales they've recruited 46,000 new police, which means 26,000 have left.

Well, joining me now is Donna Jones, Conservative Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and the national lead for victims.

Donna, on the face of it, this is good news because it is your party meeting its Manifesto commitment so you must be quite pleased.

Donna Jones (DJ): Well, I'm relieved, I'm relieved that we got over the line of the 20,000, I think its 20,951. I was with Suella Braverman, this morning and Christopher, the Policing Minister, when the numbers were officially confirmed. But you know it's been a tough journey in policing over the last 10 to 12 years, we know that because of austerity, this is largely replacing police officer numbers that have reduced over the years. So there's a real re-establishment that needs to happen now.

Yes, more cops is great. We've got very young in-service officers now though, a third of my Force have been in service for less than three years. So, more cops is good, we need that, policing is largely a numbers game, but the experience now needs to be gained. Some of them don't know how to investigate crime, they need to learn how to do that, and they have spent a lot of the last three years sat in a classroom. So actually, I'm really pleased that Suella Braverman, our Home Secretary, has announced the end of the Police Degree, so it's not compulsory anymore, so we can have those new cops out learning how to arrest people under Pace Law and not writing essays about it. Lots to be done, a step in the right direction, but I don't think everyone should be crowing right now.

NF: Yeah, no Donna I think that point you make, and it probably applies to other things like nursing, but not actually doing degrees and being in classrooms, but being out doing things practically, that is a very, very strong point. Do you think as yet that your voters in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, are aware of an increased police presence?

DJ: In our cities, probably yes. In Portsmouth and Southampton, it's obviously you know 60% of our crime comes from those two areas across Hampshire in the Isle of Wight. So two million people, one of the largest Police Forces, so some areas, yes, have seen a greater concentration of police officers because, as I say, it's very much crime related. The rural areas are starting to see that now, Roads Policing Unit, you know so things are trickling through as more officers are coming on-board. It's then pushing other officers out into some of those Police specialisms, as we call them. Look, it is good news, I am really pleased today that the government have achieved what they set out to do. I'm keeping my fingers crossed now for the next pledge from the Conservatives for the next general election, hoping that that will be an uplift of more police officers. So, I do think that the government should be congratulated for this today. Some forces, such as the Metropolitan Police Service, have failed woefully to hit their number. My force, however, has overachieved our number. We had to recruit 498, we've recruited 600 new cops in the last three years, but like I say it's still a long way to go.

PCC's Code of Conduct

The Code of Conduct of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire, including the register of interests v3.0, can be viewed online at <https://www.hampshire-pcc.gov.uk/transparency/policy-and-governance/code-of-conduct>

1.0 Code of conduct: Introduction

1.1 The code of conduct sets out the desire for the Police and Crime Commissioner for Hampshire (Commissioner) and others associated with the elected local policing body, to uphold office in line with the intentions of the Policing Protocol Order 2011 and abide by the 'Nolan Principles':

- Selflessness: Holders of public office should act solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.
- Integrity: Holders of public office should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might seek to influence them in the performance of their official duties.
- Objectivity: In carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts, or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit.
- Accountability: Holders of public office are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.
- Openness: Holders of public office should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands.
- Honesty: Holders of public office have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.
- Leadership: Holders of public office should promote and support these principles by leadership and example.

1.2 The scope of this code applies to the following persons (if appointed):

- The Commissioner
- Deputy Commissioner
- Any appointee to a panel or committee (such as: Joint Audit Committee; Misconduct Panel)

1.3 This code does not apply when any person, as mentioned above, is acting in a purely private capacity.

2.0 General obligations

2.1 All persons agree to:

- 2.1.1 treat others with dignity and respect
- 2.1.2 not use bullying behaviour or harass any person
- 2.1.3 abide by legal requirements
- 2.1.4 act in a manner which could not reasonably be regarded as bringing the office into disrepute.
- 2.1.5 respect the impartiality of officers and not to obstruct or interfere with any officer who may be discharging any responsibilities placed upon them by law.
- 2.1.6 not use resources for personal benefit or for the benefit of family or friends, or any other person in relation to any business interest.
- 2.1.7 not use resources improperly for political purposes (including party political purposes)
- 2.1.8 only claim expenses and allowances as permitted in the PCC/DPCC Expenses Scheme
- 2.1.9 reach decisions having given consideration to relevant information and any advice from the OPCC's staff
- 2.1.10 not disclose confidential information (other than in very limited circumstances)

2.2 Each person shall:

- 2.2.1 enter in the register of disclosable interests maintained by the monitoring officer every disclosable interest as set out in the schedule
- 2.2.2. within 28 days of any change in circumstances to enter in the register of interests the changes insofar as are related to disclosable interests.
- 2.2.3 within 28 days of receipt, to register the acceptance of any gift or hospitality worth £25 or more.

2.3 If the Monitoring Officer considers disclosure could result in the risk of violence or intimidation, details of the interest will not be published. The register should indicate the interest has been disclosed and is withheld by virtue of this section.

2.4 If there is any doubt about whether something could be considered a recordable interest the Monitoring Officer must be consulted.

3.0 Conflicts of interests

3.1 In any case where exercising the functions of office may conflict with any disclosable or other interest, which has become known, the person shall declare such conflict. A determination of whether the conflict of interest is so substantial the function can not be exercised personally should be taken.

3.2 A person will consider a conflict of interest to be so substantial and should not exercise the function personally, if a member of the public with knowledge of the

relevant facts would reasonably consider the interest so significant it would likely prejudice judgement on the decision.

3.3 In the event of declaring a conflict of interest, the person shall withdraw from any discussion or decision.

3.4 If a person is unable to take a decision, due to a conflict of interest, the advice of the Monitoring Officer shall be sought – including whether the matter may be delegated.

4.0 Disclosure of information

4.1 Confidential or restricted information must not be disclosed unless: consent has been authorised; relevant time has elapsed; provision is required by law; or, disclosure to a third party for the purpose of obtaining professional legal advice where the third party agrees not to disclose the information to any other person.

4.2 Any disclosure made shall be reasonable, be in the public interest and made in good faith.

5.0 Gifts and Hospitality

5.1 As a general rule offers of gifts or hospitality should be refused courteously in a manner that does not cause offence or embarrassment to the organisation or individual making the offer.

5.2 If consideration is being given to accepting a gift or hospitality, the Monitoring Officer should be consulted prior to a decision being taken. In deciding whether a gift should be accepted the following points should be considered:

- Why is the offer being made?
- What are the background circumstances to it?
- Does the donor feel obliged to make the offer?
- What does the donor expect in return?
- What could be the outcome if the offer is accepted or declined?
- Would the PCC be prepared to justify its acceptance to the public?

6.0 Transparency

6.1 A register of interests and recording of declarations of conflicts of interest will be maintained. The register will be published on the website.

6.2 A gifts and hospitality register will be published on the website. The register will contain information relating to gifts and hospitality with a real or perceived value of at least £25, or as required by the Monitoring Officer in the interests of transparency.

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	January 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