



SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION WEST AREA COMMITTEE

Conduct Committee

Ref: GM/LW

**Minutes of the West Area Conduct Committee meeting held on 27 October 2015
at 10 am within Merrylee House.**

1. ATTENDANCE

Jim Foy (National Conduct Secretary)

Gary Mitchell (Secretary)

Andy Smith (Temp Chair)

Scott Wilson

Lorna Hogarth

Stuart Finnie

Paul Connelly

Phil Maguire

Apologies

Garry Kirkwood

Grahame Gosling

2. OPENING OF MEETING

In the absence of the Chair, the Secretary called for election of a Temporary Chair. This was carried out and Andy Smith was elected unopposed. Andy was nominated by Scott Wilson and seconded by Phil Maguire. The Temporary Chair thereafter opened the meeting.

The Secretary highlighted that this was a training day for the Committee and in order that the time was used to best advantage, a summary of on-going and new matters for the Committee would be covered, with brevity.

3. ADOPTION OF STANDING ORDERS

Standing Orders were adopted for the duration of the meeting.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the previous meeting held at 10am on 21 July 2015 were accepted as a true and accurate reflection of same and would now be circulated to the WAC.

5. MATTERS ARISING

5.1 Complaints against the Police

The National Conduct Secretary updated the Committee with regards on-going matters of practice and outcome, a general update on CAPS, with a noted rise in numbers, the timelines being tighter for the new 2014 Regulations was also discussed. The Secretary updated the members that improved processes for updates for CAPS were being sought.

5.2 Conduct

The National Conduct Secretary informed the members that the new legal cover scheme was in place and no issues of major concern had been identified, this will as agreed, be monitored and reviewed as necessary. Training was progressing well and a wider inclusive training program for all Representatives' was coming closer to fruition.

The National Conduct Secretary covered a matter that had risen with PSD seeking to be allowed into misconduct meetings. This was rejected as it would open possible interference with the allegation laid before the Chair and is not in accordance with the Regulations, and certainly not in fairness to the subject officer. This was wholly supported by the members.

Advice to officers on receipt of initial misconduct allegations was discussed and the position was that no response at that time should remain to avoid integrity issues and give the officer a chance to respond fairly in time and with full facts.

Senior officers reports were also discussed with concerns that some may still make comment on the allegation, this is not appropriate and must be removed.

Concerns were raised over practices reported to various members of the group that officers were being ordered to carry out observations of prisoners of the opposite sex whilst in observation cells and in many cases the prisoner would be naked. This was of major concern to the group and a range of risks were highlighted by this practice. The matter was agreed to be raised and passed to a national level.

5.3 **Performance**

There was a general discussion that the Performance Regulations are still rarely used, it was agreed that this will be monitored to ensure the correct processes are being used when Divisions do apply them.

5.4. **Police Appeals Tribunal**

There were no issues raised.

5.5. **PIRC**

General discussion took place with concerns being raised over interview strategy by PIRC with officers being subjected to long interviews over witness statements. Some of this may be a lack of understanding over how long interviews may be however, it was supported that the issues be raised and monitored.

6. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

7. **COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of competent business.

8. **CLOSE OF MEETING**

The Temporary Chair closed the meeting. The date of the next meeting will be notified in due course.

Andy Smith
Temporary Chair

Gary Mitchell
Secretary