

SPF Conduct Sub Group (North Area)

Minutes of meeting held at Perth Police Office on Thursday 8th August 2013.

1 – Attendance.

David Kennedy (SPF Conduct Secretary)

Brian Dick (Chair)

John Ferguson (Secretary)

Sandy Smart

Gary Brown

Gordon McDonald

Stephen Ross

David Hamilton.

2 – Opening of Meeting.

Chair opened the meeting and thanked all those present for attendance. Apologies were received from George Murray, Angus Morrison (exigencies of duty), Les Donaldson (Annual Leave) and Iain Ward (Resignation from Committee).

Chairman/Secretary to seek a replacement for Iain Ward at next NAC meeting.

3- Minutes of Previous Meeting.

As this was the first meeting of this group, no previous minutes existed.

The Committee however agreed to ratify the decision taken at the June meeting of the NAC of the incumbent nomination Chair and the nomination of the Chair and Sandy Smart as JCC Conduct Committee representatives.

4 – Complaints Against the Police

David Kennedy gave an overview of the present situation and informed the group of his intention to introduce a training course lasting 3 days for Conduct Reps to begin in the New Year.

David also informed the group that PSOS are to be undertaking their own training for Inspectors and Sergeants with regards to the new Conduct Regulations.

5 – Conduct

Chair informed the group that he expected Conduct issues to increase in the future and hoped for proportionality when it came to dealing with the issues.

He also asked what the procedure was for Reps when dealing with an officer and how an overview was going to be kept. David Kennedy thereafter explained how meetings with officers were being recorded and where that information was being kept on the Membership Database allowing him to access and keep the national overview.

6 – Efficiency

David Kennedy informed the group the new Efficiency regulations will come into force next year and we await the impact that will have.

7 – Police Appeals Tribunal

There are no cases currently at the PAT. The panel formation has changed to include a QC and 2 other lawyers away from the old system which had an ex Chief Constable present on the panel.

8 – Police Investigations and Review Commissioner

David Kennedy has regular meetings with the PIRC and reports favourable signs coming from them.

PIRC currently have several investigations ongoing across the area. Prior to publishing reports and recommendations on their website, PIRC update PSOS with full report.

Chair raised the issue of officers involved with PIRC investigations and in particular the requirement to give a statement and the legality of that, David Kennedy stated that should the need arise then legal opinion may be sought.

9 – National Vetting.

David Hamilton informed the group that the ACPOS Vetting Forum which had regular meetings up until 01 April 2013 had disappeared. Vetting now sits within the PSD arena and we await to see what happens in the future.

10 – Communications

Communications continue to be an issue particularly in the North Area given its geographical position. Discussion took place with regards to what equipment whether the issuing of pre-paid mobile telephones or ipads would best suit Conduct trained reps including those not on the sub group. David Kennedy to raise this nationally at the JCC meeting on 10/11 September 2013.

Secretary to report back to this committee after JCC meeting.

11 – AOCB

- a) Expenses – Chair raised the issue of incidental expenditure incurred by non Full Time Officials when dealing with officers involved in Misconduct

Enquiries. David Hamilton informed the group that each office still has Petty Cash which should cover such outlays.

- b) Drug Testing – David Kennedy raised the issue of the confusion with regards to PSOS policy on random Drug Testing and there is no requirement for officers to give a sample.

12 - Closure

Chair closed the meeting and thanked those in attendance, Secretary to circulate minutes and dates for future meetings and to scope potential for video conferencing to negate future travel for these meetings.