



SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION

Established by Act of Parliament

CONDUCT SUB GROUP COMMITTEE (WEST)

Minutes of the West Area Conduct Committee Meeting
Held at 151 Merrylee Road on 14/11/13 at 10am

1. ROLL CALL

Present

Jim Foy (Secretary)
David Kennedy (SPF Conduct Lead)
Phil Maguire (T Chair)
Scott Wilson
Martin Bertram
Andy Hastie
Charles Sweeney
Andrew Keating
Stuart Finnie

Apologies were received from Graham Gosling, Andrew Smith, Dawn Bethune, Kevin Moffat and David Blacklock.

2. OPENING OF MEETING

The Secretary opened the meeting and Phil Maguire was elected as temporary chair for the duration of the meeting.

3. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE

The Secretary updated the group on the number of complaints currently being monitored. The new monitoring system appears to be working well and all of the complaints recorded are updated

every 3 months. There remains an issue with some officers attending court and not updating the federation until after the event or immediately prior to this. The National Lead updated the group that work is ongoing in this regard. Again the issue of operational statements was discussed. There may be changes in the future to when these will be requested. The fact remains that, whilst an officer is subject to an allegation, he or she cannot be compelled to comment on the allegations. Discussions again took place regarding the unacceptable length of time it takes for investigations to be complete, especially when the Crown Office is involved. Specific discussions took place regarding a recent case where malicious allegations had been made against an officer.

4. CONDUCT

The Secretary gave an update on upcoming hearings and recent disposals at same. Work is still ongoing in relation to the training programme to be rolled out in relation to the new conduct and performance regulations. All federation reps will be given supervisory level training. The group were updated on an investigation taking place in the North area. The National Lead gave an update on ongoing work in relation to officer movements within the force where there are outstanding complaints or warnings recorded against the officer. The current policy is being reviewed and each case should be reviewed on its own merits. Members of the committee are now getting the chance to attend meetings with members subject to allegations and attend at hearings. Feedback so far is that this has been very beneficial. Much of what was discussed was of a sensitive nature.

5. EFFICIENCY

There have been no recent proceedings under Efficiency regulations. This is unlikely to change until the new regulations come in to effect next year. There is some confusion over what these regulations will mean. Some members report having been informed by various sources that ill health retirements will no longer take place after April of next year. The Secretary updated the group that this was incorrect and there appears to be misleading information being circulated.

6. POLICE APPEALS TRIBUNAL

There is a potential appeal in the West area being progressed, further updates to follow in due course.

7. POLICE INVESTIGATIONS AND REVIEW COMMISSIONER

The group were updated that a representative from PIRC had attended the JCC conduct committee recently and provided an update on the work of the PIRC. The Secretary provided some information on current investigations. PIRC are willing to attend future WAC meetings and give an input on their work. If PIRC are to interview members at any time their status will always be clarified. The vast majority of work carried out by PIRC hasn't given rise to any concerns at this point. The group were advised to report any concerns they had and these would be taken up with PIRC at the earliest opportunity.

8. VETTING

No specific issues regarding the vetting of recruits have been raised.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

The Secretary stated correspondence had been received from both William Park and Andy Kennedy, indicating they are standing down due to retiral and resignation respectively. It was noted the valuable contribution both had made over the years to the board and specifically to the committee. The committee acknowledged this and recorded their thanks and very best wishes to both.

10. COMPETENT BUSINESS

One member raised an issue in respect of recent press articles. The articles themselves, whilst extremely distressing for those involved, were not entirely without substance and the situation will be monitored for now.

A potential issue was also identified in relation to a member's use of CS Spray. Further investigation will be required and reported back to the committee.

11. CLOSURE

The Temporary Chair closed the meeting and thanked everyone for their attendance.

Jim Foy
Conduct Secretary

Philip Maguire
Chair (temporary)