



SCOTTISH POLICE FEDERATION

Established by Act of Parliament

CONDUCT STANDING COMMITTEE (WEST)

Minutes of the West Area Conduct Committee Meeting

Held in Merrylee House, Marchfield Drive, Paisley on 15 April 2014 at 10 a.m.

1. ROLL CALL

Jim Foy (Secretary)
Graham Gosling (Chair)
Gary Mitchell
Stuart Finnie
Scott Wilson
Andrew Smith
Malcolm MacDonald
Andrew Keating
Malcolm MacDonald (observer)

Aplologies

David Kennedy
David Blacklock
Phil Maguire
Stuart Davidson
Tam Liddle
Andy Hastie
Charles Sweeney

2. OPENING OF MEETING

The Chair opened the meeting and welcomed the members.

3. COMPLAINTS AGAINST THE POLICE

The Secretary updated the group on the number of complaints currently being monitored. A recent quarterly review had been commenced and several matters had been resolved. It was clear from the review that some officers continue to believe the Federation are automatically updated on the status of complaints.

An action was taken by the Secretary to write to members of the Conduct Committee with a form of words to be forwarded to members, reminding them of the need to let Area Representatives or full time officials know of their complaints.

There remain considerable delays in the finalising of criminal complaints against officers and this in most instances is due to a lack of information from the Crown Office. The Secretary further informed the group that in some cases involving RTA offences, officers are being served with an NIP out with the required timescales.

It is unknown why this practice is applied in some instances because clearly Officers are subject to the same legislation as anyone else. The Crown will not pursue traffic cases where the legal requirements have not been applied. Anyone subject to such a report must contact the Federation for advice as soon as possible.

Further discussions took place regarding officers being reported for DPA offences. There has clearly been a lack of proper training and direction in legacy forces regarding this issue and work is ongoing in this regard.

4 **CONDUCT**

The Secretary gave an update on recent hearings and those in the pipeline.

All Federation Representatives have had the opportunity to attend the Inspector and above training days and most have reported this to be a worthwhile exercise. In addition members of the Conduct Committee have had the opportunity to attend 2 Federation run training days at Merrylee House on conduct and performance, with more planned in the future.

As this is a whole new set of Regulations, it was emphasised how important it was that Federation Representatives are involved in any performance/conduct issues at the earliest stage of any investigation.

Further issues of a sensitive nature were discussed at length. The Secretary stated the need for vigilance if any Supervisor is found to be attempting to invoke the new performance regulations to meet any 'targets' for fixed penalties or stop/searches.

5 **EFFICIENCY**

Nothing to report.

6 **POLICE APPEALS TRIBUNAL**

Nothing to report .

7 **POLICE INVESTIGATIONS & REVIEW COMMISSIONER**

The group discussed concerns that the PIRC were being particularly critical over very minor issues when reviewing the complaint handling process. An invitation will be extended to PIRC to attend the WAC as soon as the schedule allows. Specific issues will be reported back to the management team at PIRC. There was also concern raised about how long interviews are taking. These concerns have been fed back and the situation will be monitored. Officers were encouraged to complete the questionnaire that had been sent out recently.

8. **VETTING**

There was nothing to report.

9. **CORRESPONDENCE**

There were no items of correspondence.

10 **COMPETENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of competent business

11. **CLOSURE**

The Chair closed the meeting and thanked the members for attending.

J. FOY

SECRETARY

G. GOSLING

CHAIR