

**DEVON AND CORNWALL POLICE AUTHORITY  
PROFESSIONAL STANDARDS AND COMPLAINTS MONITORING GROUP**

A meeting of the Professional Standards and Complaints Monitoring Group was held on 31 January 2007.

*Further information on the items referred to below can be found in the agenda, reports and notes for the meeting held on 31 January 2007*

Matters discussed included:

**1. Study Of Case Files**

Members conducted an inspection of a random sample of completed case files and reviewed the file detailing the summaries of cases involving suspended officers.

**2. Statistics – Complaints Monitoring**

The meeting considered the statistics regarding complaints received for the period 1 December 2006 to 31 December 2006 including information and statistics regarding suspended officers and work being undertaken by the Special Cases Unit. Issues discussed included:

- Sharing working practices with regional colleagues
- Self definition of ethnicity by complainants
- Increases in the number of complaints received from females.
- Issues around the repeated lodging of complaints from the same persons
- Reasons behind the comparatively low number of complaints against staff in Plymouth BCU
- The day to day working relationship with the Independent Police Complaints Commission.

**3. Complaints – Consultation Update**

A final meeting is to take place between staff from the Professional Standards Department and Police Authority to agree the questions for the survey and set a date for distribution.

**4. Professional Standards and Performance Department**

Issues discussed included:

- The Head of Professional Standards will retire on 9 March 2007.
- The structure of the new Professional Standards and Performance Department.
- Staff moves into the Department following the implementation of the new structure.
- The new process for dealing with complaints against police staff.

The Chairman thanked the Head of Professional Standards for his contribution to the service and his open and honest approach at these meetings

**5. Professional Standards Strategy Board Update**

The Head of Professional Standards outlined recent decisions by the Board.

Issues discussed during consideration of this item included:

- The Drug and Alcohol Testing Policy.
- The report of the Force Vetting Officer.
- The Professional Standards Strategy.

Criminal Case Review and the work of the Criminal Case Review Group, chaired by the Head of Professional Standards.

**6. Independent Police Complaints Commission investigations**

Members discussed the subject of externally managed investigations by IPCC.

There is some concern that the IPCC has moved outside of its statutory powers laid down by the Police Reform Act 2002.

The Chairman has written to the Chairman of the Hampshire Police Authority's Complaints and Professional Standards Committee and state the Authority's position.

**7. High Profile Cases**

An update of cases considered to have the potential for media interest were considered.

**Mr Carl Wallin JP**  
**Chairman of the Professional Standards and Complaints Monitoring Group**