



Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Panel

25th November 2022

Involvement of the IOPC in Police Legitimacy

Representatives from the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC) will be in attendance at the Police and Crime Panel to give a brief overview of their work, how they investigate police complaints and how it contributes to overall public confidence.

The IOPC are independent of the police, government and interest groups and investigate the most serious and sensitive incidents and allegations involving the police in England and Wales. They also provide independent scrutiny to a significant number of cases investigated by the police.

Over time, their remit covering police forces has been extended to include:

- Police and Crime Commissioners and their deputies
- the London Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, and his deputy
- certain specialist police forces (including the British Transport Police, the Ministry of Defence Police and the Civil Nuclear Constabulary)
- Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC)
- staff who carry out certain border and immigration functions who now work within the UK Border Force and the Home Office
- the National Crime Agency (NCA)
- officers carrying out certain functions at the Gangmasters and Labour Abuse Authority (GLAA)

Most complaints about the police are dealt with by the relevant police force. Each force has a separate department that oversees complaints. These are generally called 'professional standards departments' (PSDs).

By law, all forces must refer certain matters to the IOPC. These include:

- certain complaints made to their force – such as those that include an allegation of serious corruption or serious assault
- indications that police officers or staff may have committed misconduct – for example, any suggestion that a criminal offence has been committed or that a serious injury has been caused
- if someone had direct or indirect contact with the police when, or shortly before, they were seriously injured or died. However, forces only need to refer cases where the contact may have caused or contributed to the death or injury



The IOPC can also direct forces to record incidents and then 'call them in'. They can also consider incidents that have not been referred by police forces, and decide whether and how they will investigate them.

Contact for further information:

Pierre Doutreligne

Governance Officer

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon and Cornwall

pierre.doutreligne@dc-pcc.gov.uk

Report prepared on: 15th November 2022