

Warwickshire Police Authority – 22 April 2009

Report of the Chair of the Professional Standards Committee

Summary

This report provides an update for Members on work within the Professional Standards Department and on the meeting of the Professional Standards Committee held on the 29th January 2009.

Recommendation

That Members note the report.

1. Chair's Comments

Last month we had a meeting with Len Jackson, Deputy Chair of the IPCC and there were no significant issues at that time.

As the statistics show the number of Cases and Allegations recorded remains the same as last year but the numbers of cases **closed** have increased by 52% and Allegations closed by 21%. This is showing the efforts that are being made to close as many as possible in the shortest possible time and the investigations taking 120 days or less have increased to 87% and allegations locally resolved to 45%.

The new misconduct rules are designed to enable as many cases and allegations to be dealt with locally as possible and although the results of this will take time to work through the system, we are making steady progress.

The nature of Police work means that there will always be complaints from time to time, but dealing with them in an expeditious way and locally where possible, and learning the lessons from them for the future, is the goal.

My first session of dip sampling the files proved to me that Mick Hayward's department is dealing with complaints in a professional and competent way.

It would be good to think that our police force are always kind and courteous to all members of the public and in the main they are, but when they are not they are dealt with in a firm but fair way and serious cases, although few, are dealt with severely

2. Professional Standards Department – Performance

(1) Year to Date Performance Figures 1st April to 31st December 2008

The table below shows the year to date performance levels, with regards to formal complaints made by members of the public, up to the end of the final quarter. Members will note that the number of cases and allegations recorded in the current year is comparable with those for the previous year. The Committee were pleased to note that the number of allegations locally resolved had increased compared with the previous year. However, we would like to see the number of allegations locally resolved to rise even further and are aware that work in ongoing within the Force to ensure that this is achieved.

| Number/Percentage (where applicable) | 2008/09 | 2007/08 |
|--|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Cases/allegations recorded | Cases 166 (-1%) | 168 |
| | Allegations 305 (+2%) | 300 |
| Cases/allegations closed | Cases 181 (+52%) | 119 |
| | Allegations 363 (+21%) | 299 |
| Full/limited Investigations | 54 (+32%) | 41 |
| Full/limited investigations taking 120 days or less | 47 (87%) | 28 (68%) |
| Full/limited investigations taking more than 120 days | 7 (13%) | 13 (32%) |
| Allegations locally resolved | 168 (45%) | 105 (35%) |
| Allegations substantiated | 23 (6%) | 20 (6.7%) |

The Committee were updated on the work being carried out by the Force with regard to lessons learnt arising from complaints, both internally and nationally through the work of the IPCC. They were also briefed on those cases that are the subject of investigation by the IPCC.

(2) Complaint Cases in Relation to Incidents Recorded and Arrests

Members would be interested to note that during the final quarter of 2008/09, the ratio of complaint cases recorded to calls received was 1:655 (0.15%), with 38,626 incidents of all types being recorded on the STORM command and control system. The ratio of arrest-linked complaints was 1:258(0.39%).

(3) Main Categories of Allegations

Of all allegations recorded in the final quarter of 2008/09, 24.5% (26) were of Incivility, 23% (24) were of Other Neglect of Duty and 14% (15) were of Assault.

MIKE EDWARDS
Chair of Professional Standards
Committee