

Minutes

Professional Standards Committee

Tuesday 11 May 2010, 13.30

at 6th Floor Meeting Room, FHQ, 25 Camden Road

The Forum
5th Floor North
74-80 Camden Street
London NW1 0EG

T: 020 7383 0259
F: 020 7383 2655
E: general.enquiries@btpa.police.uk

www.btpa.police.uk

Present:

Mrs Wendy Towers
Mr Lew Adams
Mr Ian Dobbs

Apologies:

Mr Howard Collins
Mr Neil Scales

In attendance:

Mr Paul Crowther, Deputy Chief Constable
Mr Martin Fry, Detective Chief Superintendent PSD

Mr Andrew Figgures, Chief Executive
Miss Lucy Barrick, Business Support Manager & Minutes

12/2010 Welcome and Apologies

Non-Agenda

The Chair welcomed Mr Adams to the Committee and the new Chief Executive who was observing the meeting. DCS Fry was also welcomed as the new Head of Professional Standards.

The Chair recorded thanks to Mr Culley and Mr Foxall for their contribution to the Committee and to DCS Carroll for his support to the Committee whilst Head of Professional Standards.

Apologies were given from Mr Collins and Mr Scales who had not been able to attend their first Committee meeting due to the short notice of the date.

13/2010 Matters Arising From the File Review

Agenda Item 1

The Committee noted that the files were in a tidier state which made it easier to conduct the file review. There were a few minor comments

relating to delay in one case and in another case the members would have liked to have seen a note that management action recommended had been taken.

14/2010 Minutes of Meeting 26 January 2010

Agenda Item 2

The minutes were approved as an accurate record.

15/2010 Matters Arising

Agenda Item 3

The Committee had asked for more information on a completed G20 complaint file. DCS Fry explained that the IPCC had managed all the investigations relating to the G20 and had approved the dispensation in this case. The Committee accepted this but felt that more could have been done to investigate the claims of the complainant despite the problem of non-contact with the complainant.

The Committee was advised that the report of the return visit to the property store at Liverpool Street would be circulated to them by the end of the week. The update was that the situation had improved but there were still some issues with administration. The Deputy Chief Constable said that he would contact the Area Commander to ensure that the outstanding issues were addressed.

It was noted that there were two G20 complaints outstanding due to sub-judice.

The BTPA staff and member complaint policy would no longer be dealt with via the Committee but would be presented to the Full Authority for approval. The Senior Officer Complaints Policy would be brought to the next meeting for final sign off once it had been reviewed in light of the new IPCC statutory guidance.

The complaints page on the BTP website had been translated into Welsh. The only outstanding issue was to translate the online complaints form.

There was a discussion around amending the Quarterly Report that the Committee received. It was agreed that the Chair and DCS Fry would meet to review the current format.

Actions

- The Deputy Chief Constable to contact the Area Commander to ensure that the outstanding issues were addressed.
- The Senior Officer Complaints Policy to be brought to the next meeting for final sign off.

- A meeting to be arranged between the Chair and DCS Fry to review the format of the Quarterly Report.

16/2010 Quarterly Report

Agenda Item 4

There were currently 65 complaint cases under investigation including 4 IPCC cases. There were 3 IPCC supervised cases all involving G20 complaints and 1 managed case which had received media attention with the complainant alleging that he had been deliberately knocked down by a BTP vehicle during a pursuit.

The Committee noted that the trend line on the graph of recorded complaints and misconduct allegations was useful. Also, that the Confidential Anonymous Reporting System (CARS) was working well with 26 reports in the last quarter.

The number of "*other assault*" complaint cases had significantly reduced in the last quarter. The Force said that complaint figures were now reviewed at the Force Management Team (FMT) meeting and this may have helped to reduce these figures. It was also noted that the London North figures had decreased and this was partly attributed to the Area Champion who was described as very active.

It was noted that London South had a high ratio of complaints per officer when compared to other Areas. It was suggested that this may partly be the result of the policing style on the Area, which was largely interventionist as dictated by its policing plan targets. However, it was agreed that the Force would take a more in depth look at the complaint levels for London South and report back to the next Committee meeting.

The Committee noted that since the inception of Taylor there had been a steady increase in the number of conduct allegations recorded. It was agreed that the Analyst would be asked to look into the reasons for this. The number of post Taylor conduct cases also appeared to be high for FHQ and the Committee asked the Force to check whether this was disproportionate.

It was noted that the misconduct meeting/hearing caseload seemed more manageable and all pre Taylor hearings had been completed.

The Committee noted that it was useful to have the Force Management Information (FMI) included at the back of the report as this gave a flavour for all the activities of the Department and the breadth of work undertaken. However, there was still some disagreement in the figures.

Agreed

- The Force to report back to the next meeting on the complaint levels in London South.
- The Analyst to be tasked to review the increase in the number of allegations and report back on the reason for this.
- The Force to advise whether there was a disproportionate number of conduct allegations for FHQ and if so comment on this.
- The FMI data in the report did not match the figures reported at the beginning of the report and this would be checked.

17/2010 Update on PSD Plans

Agenda Item 5

The end of year report for the 2009/10 Plan would be distributed to Members outside of the meeting.

The 2010/11 Plan was circulated at the meeting (copy in the minute book) and Members were invited to comment. It was noted that Members had commented on the development of the 2010/11 Plan at its July meeting the previous year and this would be re-circulated.

Actions

- Re-circulate the comments from the Committee on the development of the 2010/11 Plan.
- Members to let DCS Fry have any comments by 21 May.

18/2010 Secretariat Update

Agenda Item 6

The Secretariat updated on the complaints received by the Authority in the last quarter and the progress of Police Appeal Tribunals.

It was noted that following the Authority restructure the Committee would be receiving reports from the Authority's partners who delivered Independent Custody Visiting (ICV) Services. A report from Greater Manchester Police Authority was distributed (copy in the minute book). The Committee was advised that discussions had taken place with the Metropolitan Police Authority (MPA) regarding the coverage of the new London North custody facility by ICVs. This had been agreed and a date was being arranged for the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Islington Panel to visit the facility before it opened. ICVs would complete weekly visits

once the facility opened. It was suggested that committee members might like to visit a custody facility and this was agreed.

19/2010 IPCC Performance Framework

Agenda Item 7

DCS Fry updated that this had been delayed until October as the IPCC had changed IT suppliers which had resulted in the delay. The performance framework would allow benchmarking against other forces and would help BTP to manage performance.

20/2010 IPCC Statutory Guidance

Agenda Item 8

The IPCC had released updated statutory guidance which had come into force on 1 April 2010. The Force had prepared itself for this and would bring a paper on the substantive changes and how these had been addressed to the next Committee meeting.

Agreed

- The Force to bring a report on the new statutory guidance its substantive changes and how these had been addressed to the next meeting.
- A visit to be arranged for Committee members to the new custody facility

21/2010 AOB

Agenda Item 9

The Committee was advised that the Flanagan inquest was scheduled to take place from 24 May 2010 for three weeks but could possibly go on for longer. The Force was re-investigating some of the aspects of this case which could potentially delay the inquest and the family had been made aware of this.

The Force was considering appointing an Assistant Chief Constable as the lead for misconduct hearings as this was considered good practice and would help to ensure consistency. The use of video conferencing for hearings was also being researched. The Committee backed these proposals.

Date of Next Meeting - 27 July 2010
File Review 11.30 - 13.30, Meeting 13.30 - 15.30

Signed.....

Chairman