

17 May 2013 Last updated at 13:29

## Colette Paul named as new Bedfordshire Police chief

**The proposed new chief constable of Bedfordshire Police has been named as Colette Paul by Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) Olly Martins.**

Ms Paul, who is currently Deputy Chief Constable of South Wales Police, replaces Alf Hitchcock, who is joining the Ministry of Defence police force.

Mr Martins said former detective Ms Paul had both "depth of experience" and "enthusiasm".

The appointment must now be ratified by the Police and Crime Panel.

Ms Paul joined the Metropolitan Police Service after graduating and progressed to CID, where she spent a large part of her career as a detective.

In 2000, she was appointed as Detective Superintendent of the Anti-Terrorist Branch and set up its War Crimes Unit and the Counter Terrorist Intelligence Cell.

Ms Paul joined South Wales Police as an Assistant Chief Constable in 2008.

### 'Diverse county'

Mr Martins said he believed she was "best suited to the needs of Bedfordshire Police".

"I think she has got the depth of experience but also she has got infectious energy and enthusiasm," he said.

"I think she is absolutely the right person to build on the very good legacy that the outgoing chief constable leaves."

Ms Paul said she was "over the moon" at the appointment.

"Bedfordshire is a wonderfully diverse county with lots of complexities, which will make it a really interesting place to work," she said.

The Police and Crime Panel will meet on 4 June to discuss the recommendation in line with new legislation.

The panel is responsible for reviewing the proposed appointment and recommending whether or not Ms Paul should be appointed.

It also has the power to veto the appointment.

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