

# Winston Roddick: I acted in 'right and proper manner' over where I live

Police and Crime Commissioner accused of lying in electoral papers as police watchdog probe continues

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CRIME Tsar Winston Roddick insisted he acted in a “right and proper manner” after claims he lied about where he lived in electoral papers.

The North Wales Police and Crime Commissioner is at the centre of a police watchdog probe over electoral fraud, allegedly committed before last year’s poll.

Mr Roddick QC, has been accused of listing his brother’s address in Caernarfon as his home address, when his main residence is in Cardiff.

The Independent Police Complaints Commission yesterday confirmed it was in the early stages of investigating North Wales PCC Winston Roddick following “referrals” about him and Hampshire PCC Simon Hayes. If found guilty of breaching electoral law, Mr Roddick who stood as an independent and won the inaugural election in November, faces being stripped of the £100,000 a year post, which would trigger a £1 million plus election re-run.

The IPCC has the power to look into allegations of potential criminal misconduct against PCCs, who have the power to set police force budgets and hire and fire chief constables. They must live in their police force area.

Mr Roddick listed his address in his election literature as Caernarfon, but it was reported in a Sunday newspaper that the electoral roll and Land Registry records showed his main

home for the last 20 years had been Cardiff. That has not been confirmed or denied.

Yesterday Mr Roddick, a former barrister and Caernarfon crown court recorder, denied he had done anything wrong. In a statement he said: “The Independent Police Complaints Commission is investigating a complaint against me by a resident of North Wales, not the result of any ‘undercover sting operation’, that on one of my nomination forms for the Police and Crime Commissioner election last November I gave an address which was not my home address and thereby committed an election offence.

“I believe I acted in a right and proper manner, but the IPCC is required to investigate such complaints and is doing so in a perfectly proper and transparent way.”

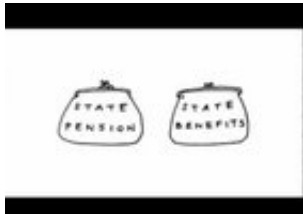
But Tal Michael, the defeated Labour PCC candidate in North Wales said his rival had real questions to answer, which his statement failed to address: “He (Roddick) needs to be clear, open and transparent about where he lives and his statement doesn’t clarify that.”

In July, Mr Roddick faced questioning about his housing arrangements, at a Welsh Affairs Select Committee hearing in Cardiff. He told the committee: “My home is, was and always will be Caernarfon.”

After his election last year Mr Roddick also faced claim – which he dismissed – that he hid his membership of the Liberal Democrats by standing as an Independent.

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