

DECISIONS

BACKGROUND

The statutory framework for decision making consists of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 which states that the Police and Crime Commissioner's decisions and actions are reviewed by the police and crime panel. The purpose of the panel is to provide both support and challenge to the PCC and also ensure information is available to the public.

The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) is responsible for ensuring that all information used in coming to a decision will be made accessible to local people through a variety of means. The means will be determined by where the decision lies on the sliding scale of public interest including:

- Office of the PCC website – decision records and associated papers
- Media releases
- Leaflets, Social Media e.g. Twitter, Blogs
- Web casts
- Annual reports



DECISION MAKING PRINCIPLES

The Police and Crime Commissioner must uphold the Nolan principles to ensure the correct procedures are followed throughout the decision making process.

- **Integrity:** The PCC must avoid influence from others in their work and should not take decisions that benefit themselves.
- **Objectivity:** The PCC and his office must take decisions impartially, fairly and on merit, using the best evidence and without discrimination or bias.
- **Accountability:** The PCC and his office are accountable to the public for their decisions and actions and must submit themselves to the scrutiny necessary to ensure this.
- **Openness:** Information should not be withheld from the public unless there are clear and lawful reasons for doing so.
- **Honesty:** The PCC's office should be truthful.
- **Leadership:** The PCC and his office should actively promote and robustly support the principles and be willing to challenge poor behaviour wherever it occurs.

RECORDING, TRANSPARENCY & PUBLICATION

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Office must ensure good record keeping for any decisions made by the PCC and his office, this includes the accompanying information and challenge, which supports each decision.

The Chief Executive will ensure that a record of each decision is made, and all associated information retained in accordance with the record management policy.

In addition, the Chief Executive will ensure that once decisions are taken by the Police and Crime Commissioner, they are effectively communicated both internally and externally to ensure that any implementation and accountability arrangements are initiated.

SCAN ME



The OPCC will use guidance from the Information Commissioner's office in assessing the public interest. The public interest means the public good, not what might interest the public. There is a general public interest in transparency and accountability. There is therefore a presumption that all decisions should be accessible to the public. However, in some cases there is also a public interest in not disclosing information behind decision making.