



20<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Dear Editor

**Re: Pre-election Period for the Police & Crime Commissioner Elections**

As you know, the elections for the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) takes place on Thursday, 02 May 2024.

The formal pre-election period begins on the 26 March 2024 and from that time there will be restrictions on the media activities of the current Police & Crime Commissioner. I thought it would be helpful to set out the position of the Office of the Bedfordshire Police & Crime Commission (OPCC) on these matters.

The OPCC is politically neutral and is responsible for providing support to the elected PCC, whoever they are.

The Office will not provide or support any of the candidates during the Pre-election period and indeed staff within the OPCC are forbidden from doing so in a personal as well as professional capacity.

The formal position is that the current PCC will remain in post as PCC throughout the Pre-election Period until end of the day, on the 08 May 2024 following the election: the new term for a PCC will begin on the 09 May 2024.

During the Pre-election Period the OPCC will continue to support the incumbent PCC with regard to their functions and management of business as usual. The OPCC will also respond to requests for information from candidates, and publish the results online.

During the pre-election period the OPCC will not issue any press releases which could be construed as promoting the PCC or his campaign. This will include avoiding, where practicable, making any significant announcements or decisions.

It is important to remember the OPCC, and the PCC, will continue to work and discharge their duties during this period, but we will make every effort to keep any engagement or media statements factual and in line with OPCC business as usual during the election period.

We have advised all political parties that police officers are unable to agree to have their photographs taken with candidates at this time. Nonetheless, it is possible that photographs of candidates next to police cars, in front of police stations or with other



police branding may appear in election material. If this happens, it explicitly does not reflect any endorsement by the Police of the candidate in question.

I hope this is helpful in setting out the role of the OPCC during this pre-election period and our relationship with the democratic process.

Further information, including our detailed protocol are available on <https://www.bedfordshire.pcc.police.uk/pcc-election-2024/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issue you wish to discuss.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Anna Villette".

**Anna Villette**  
**Chief Executive**  
**Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire**

**Police and Crime Commissioner, Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire**

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