



Home Affairs Committee

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From the Committee Chair

By email only

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary
Home Office
2 Marsham Street
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28 April 2022

Dear Home Secretary,

Government response to 'Police Conduct and Complaints'

Thank you for your Department's prompt response of 13 April to the Home Affairs Committee report, 'Police Conduct and Complaints' which we published today.

I would like to seek further clarity on a number of points mentioned in the Government's response:

Our report recommended that the Government appoint an independent chair alongside the director general of the IOPC as a matter of urgency to restore the usual checks and balances. The Committee is encouraged by the Government's commitment to consider the existing IOPC governance structure, and specifically our recommendation, as part of its first periodic review of the IOPC which it expects to start 'early 2022/23'.

In our report we expressed concern that the Government is not doing enough to monitor implementation of the new PCC complaint models, and urged it to consider police complaints as part of its review of the PCC model. You published the findings of Part 2 of the PCC review (via a Written Ministerial Statement) on 7 March 2022, a week after the publication of our report and confirmed you cannot now agree to our recommendation. However, you have committed, 'in due course' to make an assessment of the impact of the reforms to police complaints implemented in February 2020, including consideration of the enhanced role for PCCs that the complaints reforms provided for.

In relation to the above points I would be grateful for a response to the following questions:

1) When will the Government undertake its first periodic review of the IOPC as part of its assessment of government arms' length bodies? I would be grateful for a specific month rather than years.

2) When will the assessment of PCCs' enhanced involvement in the police complaints process commence? Again, I would be grateful for a specific date.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Diana Johnson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'D' and a long, sweeping underline.

Dame Diana Johnson MP