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Dame Diana Johnson MP
Select Committee Team
House of Commons
London
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17 May 2022

Dear Chair,

Government response to 'Police Conduct and Complaints'

Thank you for your letter of 28th April welcoming the Home Office's early formal response of 13 April to your Committee's report on police conduct and complaints. You asked for further clarification on two specific points.

I noted in the response that we intend to undertake a periodic review of the IOPC in this financial year. We are currently working on the arrangements for this review, including identifying an independent reviewer. The availability of this chosen individual is a factor in determining the start date. I am happy to undertake to write to you when further detail can be provided.

In my original response to the Committee, I outlined the rationale for why we were unable, at such a late stage, to change the Terms of Reference of what was then the ongoing second part of the PCC Review. In any case, as the formal response made clear, I feel it would be better to carry out a review of the role of PCCs in relation to complaints in the context of a full assessment of all of the police integrity reforms in the Policing and Crime Act 2017. These included the radical overhaul of the regulations governing police complaints and discipline, the vast majority of which were commenced in February 2020. We will be reviewing the full package of reforms as part of the usual post-legislative scrutiny of the Act. I will write to update you on timing for this later this year.

You may be interested to know that to further support the 2020 reforms, the Home Office has also recently taken action to increase the volume of police misconduct data that we collect. This stand-alone publication of experimental statistics is due for release in May and will cover the financial year 2020/2021. A further publication containing 2021/2022 data is scheduled for later in the year.

I hope this is helpful.

With all your wishes

Rt Hon Priti Patel MP
Home Secretary