



**Dame Diana Johnson MP**  
**Chair, Home Affairs Select Committee**  
via email: [HOMEAFFCOM@parliament.uk](mailto:HOMEAFFCOM@parliament.uk)

8 June 2022

Dear Dame Diana,

Thank you for your letter dated 17 May 2022 which highlights the delays in IOPC investigations.

I share the concern about investigative delays that is documented within the Report of the Home Affairs Committee into Police Conduct and Complaints published on 1 March 2022. I welcome the opportunity to explain how the CPS is supporting the IOPC in this area and the further steps that we are already undertaking in this important area of casework.

You may be aware that the IOPC has a lower threshold for referral to the CPS than a police investigator. This is established by the Police Reform Act 2002 which enables the IOPC to refer cases to the CPS where there is an indication that a criminal offence may have been committed and where the investigator considers that it is appropriate to refer the matter for a charging decision. As a consequence, cases are referred to the CPS when there is outstanding material or further lines of enquiry that need to be pursued before a charging decision can be reached. Some cases, for example, are submitted without key evidence which creates further delays before a prosecutor can progress the case.

The CPS meets regularly with the IOPC at a senior level and has been engaged in discussions relating to the quality of their investigations and file submissions for some time. We are in the process of agreeing a Memorandum of Understanding with the IOPC to assist them in improving their file quality. Sue Hemming, the CPS Director of Legal Services, will contact the IOPC to request details of the relevant cases and check their progress.

We are committed to working closely with the IOPC and providing the support they need to bring these cases to justice. I look forward to discussing this with you further when we meet on 5 July 2022.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Max Hill'.

**MAX HILL QC**  
**DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC PROSECUTIONS**