**Monitoring of Vetting Procedures**The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) receives regular updates on vetting from the Professional Standards Department (PSD). This is an area that has seen significant improvements in recent years. Specific investment was made a few years back into increasing resources in the Vetting department so that we could be assured that vetting for officers and staff is up to date. The additional resource in Vetting has resulted in the department undertaking more vetting interviews which allows for more informed decisions to be made.As well as vetting individuals when they join Gwent Police and the OPCC, all staff also have annual health checks of their vetting to clarify whether their circumstances have changed in the previous year. All staff are vetted by Gwent Police and many staff also have an additional layer of vetting undertaken by the Home Office, depending on their role. Additional checks are also undertaken when staff and officers are promoted or start new roles.

There is a Vetting Panel which is chaired by the Deputy Chief Constable and made up of staff and officers from different departments as well as the OPCC Head of Assurance and Compliance. The panel considers appeals against vetting refusals and there is an automatic referral for consideration where the refusal relates to an individual with protected characteristics under the Equality Act. The Head of Assurance and Compliance also dip samples vetting decisions by the team within the Professional Standards Department.

In January 2024, the National Police Chiefs’ Council published the outcome of a national integrity screening project where all officers, staff and volunteers were checked against the Police National Database.[Results published in policing’s largest integrity screening project (npcc.police.uk)](https://news.npcc.police.uk/releases/results-published-in-policings-largest-integrity-screening-project)

National vetting standards to ensure that they are consistently applied across the policing service. The College of Policing provides Authorised Professional Practice on His Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services also inspects forces on Vetting compliance.

A new PSD Scrutiny Panel is due to be piloted by the OPCC. In addition to the monitoring of complaint and conduct matters, Gwent Police’s approach to vetting will also be scrutinised.