

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision	
PCCG-2020-034	Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision
Subject	Annual Review of Gwent Police's Gifts and Hospitality and Business Interests 2019/20.
Summary	To record the decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding Gwent Police's gifts and hospitality and business interests for 2019/20.

DECISION

1. The Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) has undertaken a review of Gwent Police's gifts and hospitality and business interests registers along with compliance against policy for 2019/20.
2. The registers are maintained as normal business practice by the Professional Standards Department and are subject to audit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS).
3. Undertaking this review provides assurance that, in declaring any gift or hospitality or outside business interest, Gwent Police officers and staff have not undermined personal and/or professional integrity and that all officers are treated with parity. It also ensures that Gwent Police complies with its policies.
4. Any business interests declared by the Chief Constable are held on the OPCC business interests register and are reviewed on an annual basis.
5. Any gift or hospitality offered or declined by the Chief Constable is recorded on the force gifts and hospitality register held by the Professional Standards Department (PSD).
6. Whilst undertaking the review of both registers a number of queries/requests were raised.

In relation to the business interests register, it was queried if timesheets had been modified to capture the hours worked by employees in their approved business interest areas. It was confirmed this had been amended and that it was the responsibility of line managers to monitor.

It was confirmed that the Counter Corruption Unit now had oversight of business interests and an ongoing programme to review any business interests over a year old had been implemented. Managers are also being reminded of

the requirement to conduct annual reviews of business interests with their staff.

During the review of the 2017/18 register a request was made to include an additional column entitled 'Disposed of' to the Gifts and Hospitality Register, in line with best practice, to evidence what was done with the gift if it was refused. It was noted that this had not been added and an additional request was made for inclusion on the register. PSD have agreed to amend the register to reflect the request.

We noted that there had been procedural issues for PSD in receiving gifts and hospitality records for chief officers in a timely manner. The Head of Assurance and Compliance has discussed the process with the Chief Constable's Staff Officer following a change of personnel and it is hoped that an improvement in timeliness of forms to PSD occurs during 2020/21.

The updated Gwent Police policy also states that the gifts and hospitality register will be shared quarterly with the OPCC for consideration and review and we look forward to this starting shortly.

Significant work on the gifts and hospitality register has been made over the last few years by PSD and we thank them for their work to improve this area.

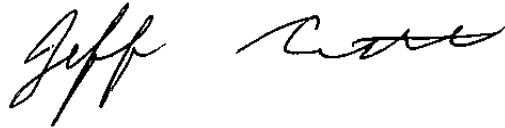
7. As a result of the review, I am satisfied that all declarations by officers and staff have been made within the boundaries of acceptability in accordance with the relevant policies and procedures. Any comments or queries arising from the OPCC review have been provided to the PSD and a response to each query/request received. Compliance with previous requests will be considered as part of future reviews.

Jeff Cuthbert B.SC., MCIPD, Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent

I confirm I have considered whether or not I have any personal or prejudicial interest in this matter and take the proposed decision in compliance with my code of conduct. Any such interests are recorded below.

The above decision log has my approval.

Signed



Date

23.10.2020

Contact Officer

Name

Joanne Regan

Position

Head of Assurance and Compliance

Telephone

01633 642015

Email

Joanne.Regan@Gwent.pnn.police.uk

Background papers

Gwent Police Gifts and Hospitality and Business Interests Registers 2019/20