

Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision	
PCCG-2021-023	Police and Crime Commissioner for Gwent Decision
Subject	Annual Review of Gwent Police's Gifts and Hospitality and Business Interests 2020/21.
Summary	To record the decision of the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding Gwent Police's gifts and hospitality and business interests for 2020/21.

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 2020/21.
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 Gwent Police comply with its policies for both gifts and hospitality and business interests.
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 accepted 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, an example of the areas raised are included below.

In relation to the business interests register, it was noted that a number of entries were 'pending' and no approval date had been entered. PSD explained that these were entries waiting for final approval by the Head of department. A dip sample of the entries identified was completed which evidenced that all had since been finalised. PSD have implemented a new process for future reviews undertaken by the OPCC which will enable them to answer any queries relating to specific entries more easily in future.

After the review of the 2019/20 business interest register, 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. We queried whether this piece of work had now been completed. PSD confirmed that it had and that a new process had been identified to improve the annual reviews by line managers for all business interests.

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. A further request was made in 2019/20 which was agreed to. It was noted that this had not been added and an additional request was made for inclusion on the register. It was agreed that this column would be included for ease of reference although it was highlighted that this information was contained elsewhere within the register.

On reviewing the register there were entries contained on there that would have been cancelled due to the implementation of Covid legislation. A request was made for any cancellation of events to be noted on the register. These entries have been confirmed as cancelled and we were informed the register would be updated.

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. 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

09/03/2022

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Background papers	Gwent Police Gifts and Hospitality and Business Interests Registers 2020/21