

Chair's Role Profile for the Hertfordshire Independent Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

The Use of Force Scrutiny Panel

Independent scrutiny of the police's use of coercive powers sits at the heart of police legitimacy which is critical in maintaining the trust and confidence of the communities of Hertfordshire. The role of the Independent Use of Force Panel is to support the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) to discharge their statutory duty and hold the Chief Constable to account. The Panel do this by providing independent scrutiny and feedback on whether use of force was lawful, proportionate, and justified within national and local statutory frameworks (Common Law, Section 3 of the Criminal Law Act 1967¹, Section 117 of PACE 1984², Section 76 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008³, College of Policing's Authorised Policing Practice⁴). They Panel also make sensible and proportionate recommendations on the Constabulary's procedures and practices. The Panel is made up of volunteers.

Role of the Chair

The Chair has a crucial role in ensuring that panel meetings run effectively and include diverse perspectives and lived experience. They should be proactive in developing the effectiveness of the panel and building confidence with all stakeholders. They are also the public face of the panel, including representing the panel at meetings with the PCC and constabulary.

Appointment

The Chair will be appointed by the PCC but would be expected to be a panel member. The appointment of the Chair will be for a two-year term. They can be reappointed for a second term, with a third two-year term by exception.

¹ [Criminal Law Act 1967, Section 3](#)

² [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 117](#)

³ [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, Section 76](#)

⁴ [Use of Force | College of Policing](#)

Key Attributes and Responsibilities

- To be approachable and able to listen to the ideas, needs and suggestions of panel members.
- To fully participate in a wide range of training to enable effective scrutiny and ensure this is regularly updated with new requirements as set out by policy and legislation.
- To effectively chair meetings ensuring all aspects of business are properly covered in line with the Terms of Reference.
- To ensure the Terms of Reference for the Panel are updated biannually with panel members and support from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC).
- To ensure the panel is being evidence led and data driven, reviewing use of force countywide summary data and undertaking deep dives into specific districts/boroughs in Hertfordshire and related areas including disproportionality.
- To ensure the Panel uses a variety of complementary data including trends arising from complaints data held by the PCC's Complaints Resolution Team about use of force, to understand areas for good practice and areas for improvement.
- To undertake scrutiny on matters that the PCC requires for assurance in addition to the Panel's own areas of exploration.
- To consider with the OPCC the benefits of panel members having specific roles and whether to form subgroups to specific issues including performance data.
- To represent community views and report back to the communities of Hertfordshire on the findings of the panel.
- To meet the PCC on a quarterly basis to discuss themes and agree the forward work programme, along with other scrutiny panel chair(s) as appropriate.
- To attend Hertfordshire Constabulary's quarterly Police Powers Board to provide feedback on the themes arising from the Panel's work.
- To make recommendations to Hertfordshire Constabulary on improvements around use of force practices.
- To produce an annual report, with support from the OPCC, on the Panel's business.

- To present findings from the Panel's annual report to the Hertfordshire Police & Crime Panel (usually in June).