

## Vice 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 1967<sup>1</sup>, Section 117 of PACE 1984<sup>2</sup>, Section 76 of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008<sup>3</sup>, College of Policing's Authorised Policing Practice<sup>4</sup>). 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 Vice Chair

The Vice Chair has a crucial role in supporting the Chair in their duties and ensuring the panel is effective in carrying out its functions. They should have the necessary skills and knowledge to deputise for the Chair at any meeting, should the Chair not be able to attend.

### Appointment

The Vice Chair will be appointed by the Chair and the OPCC but would be expected to be a panel member. The appointment of the Vice Chair will be for a two-year term, overlapping with the Chair's own two-year term to ensure continuity throughout any election process. The Vice Chair can be reappointed for a second term, with a third two-year term by exception.

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<sup>1</sup> [Criminal Law Act 1967, Section 3](#)

<sup>2</sup> [Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, Section 117](#)

<sup>3</sup> [Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008, Section 76](#)

<sup>4</sup> [Use of Force | College of Policing](#)

### **Key Attributes and Responsibilities**

- To effectively chair meetings in the absence of the Chair, and to stand in for the Chair as required.
- To effectively chair the breakout group at meetings, ensuring all panel members are given the opportunity to provide scrutiny.
- 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 consider with the Chair and the OPCC the benefits of panel members having specific roles and whether to form subgroups to specific issues including performance data.
- To perform any other duties as required by the Chair, the Panel or the OPCC.