

## **JUSTICE SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLICING**

### **INDEPENDENT REVIEW OF COMPLAINTS HANDLING, INVESTIGATIONS AND MISCONDUCT ISSUES IN RELATION TO POLICING**

#### **WRITTEN SUBMISSION FROM A GALLAGHER**

I would like to just start off with a condensed summary and non dressed up words of the police complaints system that currently operates. I cannot at this stage comment on the operational procedures of PIRC as i have only just engaged with them. I can comment on my experience, observation, and research of the current complaints system in place for members of the public should they complain about the failings / actions of Police Scotland. The Current system operates, an omerta honour to the police family, resources will be unlimited to intimidate, and harass parties that attempt to lodge a legitimate complaint about Police Scotland. I was acutely aware from the very onset it was foolhardy to expect a transparent non biased process when it is the police who police themselves in the complaints process. The current complaints system as it stands offers a smoke screen for civilians that appear prima facie as accessible transparent and reachable. History speaks for its self the in house conflict and scandal that has been apparent historically within this agency (references cited below) gives the public zero confidence, and operates out of chaos and crisis. in having to engage with the police complaint process I fortunately have a legal qualification,( which appears you require to navigate yourself round the system / protect your legal rights ) In my ongoing complaint/ forth coming litigation against the police ( being actually aware of not prejudicing future proceedings) so far to date I have had to engage one solicitor , and another lies on the back burner for foreseeable litigation It's unfortunate, and costly that this is the only way forward to seek fair and transparent investigation, and this is not afforded to many people who just have to accept this sub standard unfit for purpose failing complaint system. This is not anything new this report this process been going on for years as the footnote references cite police Scotland culture of complaints set out overly complicated and cumbersome procedures which can result in even the most simple complaints taking months to get resolved . The unfortunate thing about the commission of in-depth tax payer funded reports is that they offer a trend of lip service at the said time, and the famous old quotes such as "lessons have been learned" or "we will take on board recommendations", and it is apparent very quickly that these reports/ findings dissolve in to the system never to be implemented.

#### **A FAIR TRANSPARENT SYSTEM RECOMMENDATION**

**1 A system/ panel that was made up of solicitors/ police/ social work/ doctor/ and people with lived experience**

**2 A complaints process where people could get a hearing, similar to children's reporter style or parole board hearing./ HMCT panel style Made up of a panel of aforementioned professionals / lived experience**

**3 A chance in first instance for a non complicated form submission then an interview with an allocated worker to see the extent or severity of the**

complaint. Giving human beings confidence, respect, and dignity that their complaint is being validated and given a voice to be heard when they have suffered police failing/ abuse

4 A tariff scheme clear and concise for compensation awards, and time scales within that scheme to be addressed and adhered to.

5 A CEO overseeing the agency that has a background in wider spheres inclusive of policing. Law social/ community/ minority groups. Deprived area where people experience high level of disability, health inequality and discrimination with much more of on the field hand approach.

The things that work best are the things that are less complex and simplified the shambolic, biased system that operates in the police Scotland complaints system, as it stands is unfit for purpose and just operates a police family omerta protection. The noted summary statement below imparted from police Scotland i cannot support.

The summary of police Scotland's input in to this report

## **SUMMARY**

Every day across Scotland officers and staff continue to discharge their duties in line with our values of integrity, fairness and respect and a commitment to upholding and enabling the human rights of all. 4 Like other sectors and organisations, issues of real concern exist in policing, as recognised by Dame Elish. Police Scotland will provide civic leadership and seek to demonstrate the highest standards and values to be an exemplar organisation and drive change for everyone. Police Scotland is committed to continually improving standards, processes and procedures wherever learning is identified. We will continue to work with communities and partners to improve how we serve our fellow citizens and maintain and enhance the high levels of confidence and support which exist for policing in Scotland. Police Scotland 30 November 2020

<https://www.dailyrecord.co.uk/news/politics/police-watchdog-chief-branded-sexist-10404863>

<https://www.scotsman.com/news/politics/chief-constable-phil-gormley-resigns-police-scotland-589515>

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2015/aug/02/policing-in-scotland-shambles>

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-of-police-complaints-handling-parliamentary-statement>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-48722323>

<https://www.heraldscotland.com/news/18926236.police-scotland-chiefs-horrified-reports-racism-discrimination/>

A Gallagher  
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