

**POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR WILTSHIRE AND
CHIEF CONSTABLE OF WILTSHIRE POLICE
JOINT INDEPENDENT GOVERNANCE, RISK AND AUDIT COMMITTEE
CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL STATEMENT September 2021- September 2022**

1. The Joint Independent Audit Committee (JIAC) was established by the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) and the Chief Constable in 2012, implementing a recommendation in the Home Office's Financial Management Code of Practice for Police Forces. It changed its name to the Joint Independent Governance, Risk and Audit Committee (JIGRAC) in September 2021 to better reflect the work of the Committee.
2. The JIGRAC is totally independent of both the PCC and the Chief Constable and its role is to provide independent assurance to the PCC and Chief Constable on the adequacy of the governance, risk management and control processes within their organisations.
3. Each year the JIGRAC produces an annual statement. The last statement was issued in November 2021, covering the work of the meetings held during the period July 2020 to September 2021. This statement covers the period September 2021 to September 2022.
4. The purpose of the annual statement is to summarise the work undertaken by the Committee and to identify any significant concerns or issues.

Membership and Meetings

5. Committee Membership since September 2021 has been as follows:
 - Mr Keith Bellamy (Chairman)
 - Ms Kathryn Amey – stepped down July 2022
 - Ms Caroline Baynes – appointed March 2022
 - Mr Alex Blair
 - Mr James Colquhoun
 - Mr David Line – stepped down June 2022
6. Six meetings were held in this period and took place primarily online (due to Covid19) but from June 2022 either in person or a mix of in person and online. The meetings took place in September and November 2021 and March, June, July, September 2022.
7. Attendance at the six meetings covered by this annual statement was as follows: Keith Bellamy 100%, Kathryn Amey 60%, Caroline Baynes 100%, Alex Blair 83%, James Colquhoun 100%, and David Line 75%.
8. The Committee re-elected Keith Bellamy as JIGRAC Chairman at its meeting in November 2021.
9. The JIGRAC appreciate the attendance and contribution of both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable at its meetings. Feedback from audit committees elsewhere in the

country indicates that the committee effectiveness is enhanced if both individuals play an active part in the work of JIGRAC.

10. The JIGRAC performs its work through meetings which are open to members of the public. Agendas, reports and minutes are published on the PCC's website (www.wiltshire-pcc.gov.uk).

Presentations Received

11. In addition to the standing items presented at Committee, Members also received presentations on the following subject matters:

- Community Policing Team Review (September 2021) – report on the post implementation review
- Professional Standards Department (November 2021) – presentation delivered on misconduct procedures, Members asked to receive data relating to misconduct matters in 12 months' time
- Stores Integration into Stores Management (November 2021) – the Head of Crime and Justice attended the meeting to provide an update on the progress of recommendation from a 'limited' assurance internal audit, Members requested an update on progress in 12 months' time
- Business Continuity Review (March 2022) – following a presentation to JIGRAC in March 2021, a closing report was provided to Members on the implementation of the recommendations from an external review
- South West Forensics (June 2022) – the Regional Director of South West Forensics attended the meeting to report on progress made against recommendations from an internal audit report

Members Briefing Session – Annual Self-Assessment and Workplan

12. A Members Briefing Session took place in person on 8 March 2022. As is usually the case, Members reviewed their workplan from the previous year, considered their workplan for the next 12 months, conducted their self-assessment, and reviewed the Committee Terms of Reference. The outcomes from this session are attached at Appendix A.

Key Findings, Developments and Issues from 2021-22

Engagement with the Commissioner and the Chief Constable

13. The Commissioner and the Chief Constable both have regular slots on the Committee agenda which provides them with the opportunity to update Members on latest developments and operational matters. The Members welcome this and will appropriately question and challenge the Commissioner and Chief Constable.

PCC and Force Risk Registers

14. During this reporting period, and as reported by the OPCC Chief Executive to the March meeting, the OPCC risk policy and register undertook a review. The findings of that review were reported to the June Committee meeting. The views of the Committee Chairman and David Line (as Independent Member) were requested and their comments fed into the review of the policy and register. The Committee was

supportive of the changes made and endorsed the new approach being taken by the OPCC to risk management.

15. The Force risk register is presented to JIGRAC by the Chief Constable with the Chief Finance Officer providing additional information on an exception basis.
16. The two risk registers form a key part of Committee meetings with Members providing scrutiny and challenge. This allows for informed and insightful discussions to take place and, where appropriate, further updates or more detailed reports can be requested at future meetings.

External Audit – Grant Thornton – Statement of Accounts

17. As is usually the case, the Committee had an opportunity to receive and comment on the draft Statement of Accounts at its July meeting. At the time of writing this report (November 2022), the final version of the Statement of Accounts and the audit findings report by Grant Thornton are yet to be received.
18. As per last year, there has once again been some challenges on concluding the audit for the statement of accounts. The Committee recognise and share the frustration of the Chief Finance Officer in the additional work the external auditors have asked to be undertaken when there are no substantive changes in accounting regulations requiring this information. It has felt there has been a change in approach by Grant Thornton in how the accounts are audited, and that the requests made do not take materiality into account. The frustration exists as the requests made have no impact on the service delivered to the public and result in less staff time and finances available to help deliver improvements to the public. This topic will be explored further in the annual “private” meeting between JIGRAC members and both sets of auditors which normally takes place after the December meeting.
19. As has been the case since the JIGRAC was established, the Chief Finance Officer and Senior Accounting Technician provided a detailed briefing on the statement of accounts immediately prior to the July Committee meeting and took Members through the accounts line by line and page by page.

Internal Audit – South West Audit Partnership (SWAP)

20. At the June 2022 meeting and in their Annual Opinion report, SWAP gave a ‘reasonable annual opinion’ to both the Commissioner and the Chief Constable. There were no significant issues identified by internal audit that required inclusion in the Annual Governance Statement.
21. Six audits were conducted in the 2021-22 financial year and all received ‘reasonable’ assurance. One advisory audit was completed and three audits were progressed as part of a South West regional collaboration. A follow-up of previous recommendations from the Governance, Fraud and Risk Management audit also took place. No priority one recommendations were identified.

Specific Areas of Note

PEEL Inspection

22. In July 2022, Her Majesty’s Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire and Rescue Services (HMICFRS) published its findings following a PEEL inspection of Wiltshire

Police. The report found the Force 'requiring improvement' in five areas and 'inadequate' in three areas. This resulted in the Force being placed in the 'engage' process.

23. The Committee requested that update on progress against PEEL recommendations become a standing item at JIGRAC meetings until the Force moves out of special measures.

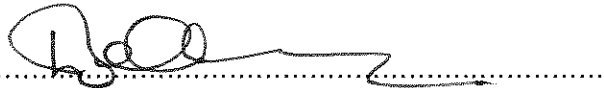
Police and Crime Plan

24. The OPCC Chief Executive provided an overview to Committee in March 2022 on how the OPCC would be delivering the new Police and Crime Plan, which had been published earlier in the month. This included the review of governance arrangements between the OPCC and the Force, establishing the new Executive Leadership Group, and streamlining decision making processes to make them more effective.

Recruitment of New Members

25. Attracting new Members to the Committee continues to prove challenging with the OPCC looking to promote opportunities for members of the public to join the Committee as Independent Members in the New Year.

Chairman Signature:
Keith Bellamy



Date:

8/12/22