

FOI 2019-920

You wrote:

1. Please advise what provisions are in place during and throughout the election/selection process to ensure that any candidate with a vested interest in influencing police strategy towards personal ends rather than aims reflective of the will of the public is weeded out, to prevent potential misuse of PCC powers should such a candidate be selected for office.
2. Please confirm who has the right to vote for the selected candidates and how such persons may register to vote.

Response:

**Q1**

The guidance for the 2020 Police and Crime Commissioner Elections is due to be published in the up-coming months. In the meantime, I would like to refer you to the '*Guidance and resources for candidates and their agents at the Police and Crime Commissioner election on 5 May 2016*' which can be accessed and viewed on the Electoral Commission website; <https://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/i-am-a/candidate-or-agent/police-and-crime-commissioner-elections> .

Part 1 – '*Can you stand for elections?*' covers qualification for standing for election and disqualification from standing for elections.

Part 2 – '*Standing as an independent candidate*' & Part 3 – '*Standing as a party candidate*' covers all essential topics such as:

- Completing and submitting your nomination papers
- Paying the deposit
- What happens after the close of nominations?
- Appointing your election agent and other agents
- What happens if a candidate dies?

Further guidance can be viewed on the GOV.UK website as per the below link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/police-and-crime-commissioners-publications#pcc-elections-2016>

I would like to bring to your attention the document 'Applying and demonstrating strong governance' which highlights the framework for good governance which is in line with the Good Governance Standard for Public Services which is established upon **the Nolan Principles** for the behavior of individuals in public life. The Policing Protocol clearly states that PCCs must act according to the Nolan Principles which are selflessness, integrity, objectivity, accountability, openness, honesty and leadership.

In addition, the elected Police and Crime Commissioner must have a chief executive who acts as the monitoring officer. His key responsibilities include to advise and support the PCC as well as to report any decision or failure within the organization that represents risk of breaking the law or a code of practice or constitutes maladministration. The copy of this report must be shared with the police and crime panel. To sum up, the chief executive and monitoring officer roles have been established in addition to the scrutiny provided by the police and crime panel. For further information, please, refer to the below link:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/511415/2016\\_Candidate\\_Guidance\\_Delivering\\_through\\_CEX\\_v2.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/511415/2016_Candidate_Guidance_Delivering_through_CEX_v2.pdf)

**Q2**

Regarding your second point inquiring about who is eligible to vote in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections, please, refer to the below link from the GOV.UK website.

<https://www.gov.uk/elections-in-the-uk/police-and-crime-commissioner>

In short, to vote in a PCC election you must:

- be [registered to vote](#)
- be 18 or over on the day of the election ('polling day')
- be a British, Irish, Commonwealth or EU citizen
- be resident at an address in England or Wales (excluding London)
- not be legally excluded from voting