
Community Services Report - Police & Crime Panel

From Greenwood, Ruth <[REDACTED]>

Date Mon 23/03/2026 14:25

To Councillor Gareth Kitchen <cllr.gareth.kitchen@stroud.gov.uk>

OFFICIAL

Dear Cllr Kitchen

Many thanks for sharing your Member Report – I don't believe you have done so before so I assume you seek a response. As I am sure you will have anticipated, your comments regarding the IOPC investigation have concerned me particularly as I assume this report is a public record:

I questioned about the second IOPC investigation into CC Hansen. I am being asked questions about this by members of our community and it's taking considerable amounts of my time. CC Rod Hansen is well respected in the community for work he led at the constabulary following the murder of George Floyd in 2020. People are wanting to know how the PCC will be held to account for his part in these suspensions. There is real concern that these initiatives have been left to flounder at the behest of the OPCC. The PCC has previously offered to receive detailed questions from the panel. I asked how he envisaged that process taking place? The PCC ducked that question and said it would be highly inappropriate to discuss the matter or to say more. CEO proposed a lessons learnt workshop because CEO believes Gloucestershire have handled the matter well. Our Local Democracy Reporter was interested in this topic and there is clearly political dynamic at play which I wasn't aware of. The Chair quips that we may end up with two Chief Constables.

As has been reported multiple times, the investigation into CC Hansen followed a mandatory referral to the Independent Office for Police Conduct (IOPC). That referral led to an investigation following a severity assessment by the IOPC, and that has found a case to answer for gross misconduct. As per the Police Conduct Regulations 2020, there is a process to follow from referral to hearing, much like any other legal process, whereby documents are shared and disclosure is requested and supplied for example. There are also pre-hearing meetings with legal representatives and the Panel Chair who must be, as you have been told, the HM Chief Inspector or delegated to one of his / her HMIs. I struggle to understand how this legal process could be characterised as an "initiative".

I am not sure what would be gained by allowing this process to "flounder" but I assure you this is not the case. Any delays in the process are most definitely not at the "behest" of the OPCC. This is a very serious legal process and certainly not something that we would entertain for alternative purposes including political. I am concerned that the integrity and professionalism of the OPCC is being questioned here and it is for this reason I am copying in the Monitoring Officers for both SDC and GCC for their awareness. My comment about the OPCC managing the process well was not my own personal belief; the very team in the Home Office responsible for writing the regulations and guidance to which we are working have said this. Further, we do not "duck" questions. We answer what we can and not what we can't as has been explained multiple times.

Finally, yes you are right, there is a political dynamic in the way this matter is being portrayed particularly in the local press but not from the OPCC / PCC. We continue to follow the process with robust legal advice and with respect for all parties involved. Please note that the CC's legal representatives are able to challenge any decisions made by the PCC as Appropriate Authority if they believe there is grounds to do so. If members of the public are concerned about the investigation into CC Hansen, I suggest that you signpost them to the IOPC as the body carrying out the investigation and as subject matter experts. They can be contacted via this link: [Contact us | Independent Office for Police Conduct \(IOPC\)](#)

Regards
Ruth

Ruth Greenwood
Chief Executive

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