



Democratic Services
County Hall
Martineau Lane
Norwich
Norfolk, NR1 2DW
Tel: 01603 223814

Please ask for Jo Martin
Direct Dialling Number: (01603) 223814
Email: jo.martin@norfolk.gov.uk

3 September 2021

Mr Giles Orpen-Smellie
Police and Crime Commissioner for Norfolk
(sent electronically by email)

Dear Commissioner,

When the Panel met on 13 July 2021 you reported that the Policing Minister had written to all PCCs, setting out his expectations that they put in place a formal Succession Plan to be followed in case of vacancy or incapacitation. Also that he asked PCCs to involve their Police and Crime Panel in those discussions as necessary, given their statutory role in the process. You explained your preliminary thoughts; should an Acting PCC need to be appointed, the Chief Executive Officer of OPCCN, Mark Stokes, should fulfil that role. While the Panel raised some initial concerns about a non-elected individual being appointed, it was reassured that this was essentially a caretaker role and the individual could not legally make key strategic policy decisions such as amending or issuing a new Police and Crime Plan.

Thank you for subsequently sharing with myself and the Vice-Chair a draft copy of your Succession Plan, which states that in the event of such an appointment being required, the person holding the statutory role of Chief Executive of the OPCCN will be considered for appointment as Acting Commissioner in accordance with the relevant legislation.

We agree that the Covid-19 pandemic has brought the need for such a plan into sharp focus.

(Continued ...)

We note:

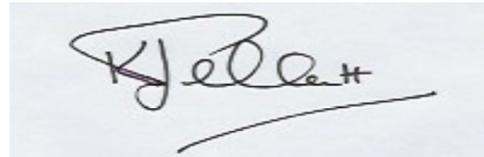
- That it is not your intention to appoint a Deputy PCC, but that you will keep this under review as the Home Secretary's plans to expand the role of PCCs emerge and are enacted;
- The person appointed as Acting Commissioner must, by law, be a member of the PCC's staff;
- The Panel must have regard to any representations made by the PCC in relation to the appointment;
- Notwithstanding your Succession Plan, a formal decision will be required by the Panel under section 62 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 to appoint an Acting Commissioner should circumstances necessitate such an appointment being made.

On behalf of the Panel, we confirm our support for your Succession Plan, as drafted, and will advise all Panel Members accordingly.

Yours sincerely,



Councillor William Richmond
Chair, Norfolk Police and Crime Panel



Air Commodore Kevin Pellatt
Vice-Chair, Norfolk Police and Crime Panel

Copy for information to:

Mark Stokes, Chief Executive OPCCN

Norfolk Police & Crime Panel Members