

## **APA/IPCC JOINT REGIONAL SEMINAR FEEDBACK**

### **INTRODUCTION**

1. Mr Ron Stuart JP and the Chief Executive attended this seminar on 8 July 2005.

### **CONTENT OF THE SEMINAR**

2. There were general introductions by Bob Jones, (APA) and Gary Garland, IPCC Commissioner.
3. The most interesting part was Mary Calam's regional update.
4. Mary stated that in the first eighteen months the IPCC regionally had conducted ten independent investigations; fifteen managed investigations; two hundred and thirty five supervised investigations.
5. Since October, they had been doing regional casework, ie supervised investigations, appeals, dispensations, and clearing the old PCA work.
6. Direct public complaints still are handled from London for reasons of national consistency.
7. The regional IPCC now has permanent accommodation in Sale, Manchester. 21 July sees the launch party and we are looking into attendance.
8. There is also a temporary office in Wakefield and they are still recruiting. They started this year with eighteen investigators and by the year end they had thirty. They have also recruited twenty casework staff, two lawyers for the region and a Regional Communications Officer.
9. Mary went on to say she felt the IPCC had made a good start with some clear successes. The A63 Humberside investigation had taken four months and it will then be referred to the CPS. When Ron Stuart asked about this later, Mary stated such a referral may not be uncommon in cases where a death had occurred.
10. They have done some good work with the gypsy and traveller community.

11. Forces are generally beginning to see the IPCC as presenting an opportunity rather than a threat.
12. Mary then went on to discuss obstacles, the main issue she raised was the heavy workload which the IPCC still has and insufficient staff to deal with them.
13. She went on to then discuss three key themes:
  - There were clear issues around mental health. She was staggered by the numbers going through custody with mental health issues. Some regional / national work was ongoing re whether police cells are the appropriate places of safety in mental health cases.
  - Death in custody. The IPCC had now seen a series of these. She said they had seen nothing suspicious, but there were failings in systems and duties of care. They were in the early stages of working through these things with Forces.
  - Stop and Search. More work was needed here.

### **Growth Areas**

- Guardianship issues. To develop the wider relationships with Professional Standards Branches.
  - Setting of targets and standards. Setting of performance measures for the IPCC itself
  - Prosecutions. The first are likely to start this year.
  - Need to work on consistency of approach with forces and authorities
14. It was clear that the IPCC have engaged more with Forces than Police Authorities to date and they acknowledged the need to work with Police Authorities on these issues. She believed these were very much joint endeavours and we needed together to enhance and improve relationships.
  15. There was then a quick update on national draft guidance.
  16. In the afternoon, there were four working groups to discuss scenarios around typical issues arising from IPCC involvement. These were also very useful and discussed issues around the following four matters:
    - When, how and who should be informed of IPCC findings and recommendations? How such recommendations should be implemented and monitored and how should the IPCC satisfy itself that the Force had understand and responded to its findings.

- Question on community unrest and upheld allegations of police racism. Panels were asked to consider the roles of police authorities and the IPCC in community confidence and where they might wish to share information.
- Scenario around information given by the IPCC which suggested that a Force had the highest rate of upheld appeals against local resolution. Panels were asked to consider whether they would expect such information from the IPCC and who was responsible for taking such things forward.
- The general question about the management of files, quality of files and DIP sampling and whether trends are actually being revealed. This particular question got me thinking very much about our role and whether we are actually following the APA guidance on the level of detail we should be getting about complaints. We both agreed to review this particular aspect of Audit and Strategy Committee's work.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

17. It is recommended that the Committee:

- i. Note the contents of this report

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Background Documents: