



**HUMBERSIDE**  
**POLICE AUTHORITY**

# PRESS INFORMATION

Ref: Standards  
Date: 19 December 2008

## COMPLAINTS PROCESS UPHOLDS HIGH STANDARDS

Earlier this year the process to be followed by people wishing to make a complaint against a Member of Humberside Police Authority changed. To give members of the public confidence that the highest standards of professional conduct are followed, the Authority is pro-actively raising awareness of the new procedure should anyone wish to make a complaint against a Member of the Police Authority.

It should be made clear that no complaints have been made against a Member of the Police Authority.

Humberside Police Authority is an independent organisation with seventeen members, of which nine are local councillors and eight are independent members of the public. Its role is to ensure the delivery of an efficient and effective police service in the Humberside area on behalf of the public.

On joining the Authority, Members agree to abide by a Code of Conduct which provides the guidelines for the maintenance of appropriate professional behaviour for someone in public office. The Code of Conduct is available on the Authority's website.

If a complaint reveals that a potential breach of this Code has taken place, then the Authority may refer the allegations for investigation or decide to take other action.

The responsibility for considering any complaints against Members lies with the Authority's Standards Committee.

Alene Branton MBE, Chair of the Police Authority, explained more: "The Standards Committee, which has two totally independent members who do not sit on the full Police Authority, can only deal with complaints about Humberside Police Authority members and is purely concerned about matters covered by the Members' Code of Conduct. If people do want to complain, they must explain why they feel a Member has breached this Code.

"As the body responsible for scrutinising the local police force, we feel that it is important that people know our Members are expected to uphold high standards of conduct and that they can complain if they feel that a member has contravened the Code."

Once cases have been investigated, the independently-chaired Standards Committee will decide what, if any, action should be taken against the member. On rare occasions this responsibility will be given to the Adjudication Panel for England, an independent judicial tribunal.

The seventeen Members of the Authority are: Alene Branton MBE (Chair); Cllr David Rudd (Vice-Chair); Councillors John Black, Stephen Hull, Yvonne Uzzell, Chris Matthews,

John Parsons, Jawaid Ishaq, Andrew De Freitas, Keith Brookes; and independent members Clive Palmerley JP, Andrew Smith JP, Ros Taylor MBE, Gabriel Doherty, Helen Groves, John Shipley and George Southern.

Further details are available on the Authority's website and anyone wishing to submit a complaint about the conduct of a Member of Humberside Police Authority should contact:

The Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer  
Humberside Police Authority  
Pacific Exchange  
40 High Street  
Hull  
HU1 1PS

There is a standard complaint form, which can be downloaded from the Authority's website, [www.humberside-pa.org.uk](http://www.humberside-pa.org.uk) or alternatively, people can contact the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer on 01482 334880 or email: [kevin.sharp@humberside.pnn.police.uk](mailto:kevin.sharp@humberside.pnn.police.uk)

Previously complaints issues were considered by the Standards Board for England, which would decide whether or not a breach has occurred and whether to investigate. The Standards Board has moved to a regulatory and advisory role except in cases where there is a clear conflict of interest or where the matter is considered more serious.

ENDS

Media Enquiries: Sallie Blair, Better Times 01283 821012