

ROLE PROFILE: INDEPENDENT SCRUTINY VOLUNTEER

The Role of the Police and Crime Commissioner

The role of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) is to be the voice of the people and hold the police to account. They are responsible for the totality of policing.

PCCs aim to cut crime and deliver an effective and efficient police service within their police force area. They are elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and the force to account, making the police answerable to the communities they serve.

The PCC has a responsibility to openly and transparently govern and scrutinise policing and crime issues in Cleveland. Further information about the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Cleveland (OPCC) can be found here: <https://www.cleveland.pcc.police.uk/>.

Confidence in Policing Scrutiny Panel

Purpose	<p>The purpose of the Confidence in Policing Scrutiny Panel is to review public interactions with Cleveland Police, which are of interest to the local community and where feedback from the Panel will help achieve improvements within local policing.</p> <p>Through the scrutiny of police powers and conduct, the Panel's work will help improve transparency, accountability and better understanding of local policing.</p> <p>The Panel will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • access records and footage of public interactions with the police; • review the use of police powers to make sure they are carried out fairly and respectfully; • be informed of and analyse records according to local crime and policing trends; and • help to restore trust and confidence between the police and the community they serve. <p>The areas of focus for the Panel will include (but will not be limited to) the following topics:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The use of stop and search powers, including intrusive powers e.g. strip searches 2. Incidents involving use of force 3. The use of Body Worn Video (BWV) 4. Police detention and custody procedures 5. The use of Out of Court Disposals (OCCD) 6. Complaints regarding public-police interactions (e.g. stop and search encounters, treatment of a detained person)
Hours	Meetings will take place at least 6 times a year, usually during office hours (9am to 5pm) and optional ad hoc meetings may be held throughout the year.

Ethics Committee

Purpose	<p>The Ethics Committee has been established to provide support and challenge Cleveland Police. Through this role, the Ethics Committee enhances the trust and confidence of the public in the ethical governance and actions of the Force. It discharges its responsibilities by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring the actions of each organisation against its values and the National Code of Police Ethics. • Analysing issues and providing advice on ethical considerations raised by either or both Services. • Raising and investigating issues of local and national public interest. • Promoting the highest standards of ethical conduct. • Providing a focus for training in ethical issues. • Providing a source of support to Senior Leaders. <p>To support Cleveland Police, the Committee scrutinises, challenges and advises on policies, procedures, decision-making, leadership, culture and conduct.</p>
Hours	Meetings usually take place on a quarterly basis at 4.00pm, with the flexibility to review and to call additional meetings as and when required.

Independent Custody Visitors Scheme

Purpose	The ICVs: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• carry out random and unannounced visits to police stations to check on the welfare of people in custody; and• ensure the rights, entitlements and wellbeing of detainees are being met.
Hours	At the convenience of the Independent Custody Visitors, visits to police stations in the Cleveland area will be planned accordingly. Volunteers are expected to make a minimum of six visits per year.

Person Specification:

Independent Scrutiny Volunteers must:

- be willing to work constructively with others, respecting differing values and diverse backgrounds;
- have knowledge and/or interest in the criminal justice system;
- have an inquisitive mind with the ability to analyse information, identify key issues of concern and report back as necessary; and
- be committed to equality and diversity and an understanding of the effects of discrimination.

Tenure:

Independent Scrutiny Volunteers will be expected to commit for an initial period of two years, subject to a review after 12 months.

Payment:

Reasonable travel expenses will be paid and refreshments will be provided at meetings.

Location:

For the Confidence in Policing Scrutiny Panel and the Ethics Committee, meetings will usually be held at Cleveland Police Central Headquarters, 1 Cliffland Way, Middlesbrough TS8 9LB.

For the Independent Custody Visiting Scheme, visits will take place to police stations located in the Cleveland area.

Eligibility Criteria

1. You **must** be aged 18 years or over and reside in the Cleveland Police area.
2. You **must** be willing to undertake security vetting to an appropriate level for certain roles and must disclose in your application form whether you have ever been convicted of any offences punishable with imprisonment within the last five years, or have any criminal convictions. This information is a requirement in all applications but may not necessarily affect your application.
3. You **must** be willing to serve for a minimum of two years (extendable to three years before re-application).
4. Depending on the role you are interested in, you **must** be willing to attend regular meetings throughout each year (Confidence in Policing Scrutiny Panel/Ethics Committee) OR undertake regular visits (Independent Custody Visitors Scheme).
5. You **must** be willing to undertake training as required.
6. You **must** be willing to sign confidentiality agreements and must adhere to relevant legislation.
7. You **must not** be a current serving Councillor within the Cleveland Police area, a current police officer/member of police staff, a member of the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, a magistrate or an appropriate adult (please note, this is not an exhaustive list and other restrictions could apply depending on circumstances).

Commitment from the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC)

The OPCC will support Independent Scrutiny Volunteers in their role as community representatives, to scrutinise and challenge when necessary, in order to effect positive change.

For an informal discussion about the role, please contact the following officers:

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