



## 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/>.

Ethics Committee	
<b>Purpose</b>	<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"><li>• monitoring the actions of each organisation against its values and the National Code of Police Ethics;</li><li>• analysing issues and providing advice on ethical considerations raised by either or both Services;</li><li>• raising and investigating issues of local and national public interest;</li><li>• promoting the highest standards of ethical conduct;</li><li>• providing a focus for training in ethical issues; and</li><li>• providing a source of support to Senior Leaders.</li></ul> <p>To support Cleveland Police, the committee scrutinises, challenges and advises on policies, procedures, decision-making, leadership, culture and conduct.</p>
<b>Hours</b>	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	
<b>Purpose</b>	<p>The Independent Custody Visitors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• carry out random and unannounced visits to police stations to check on the welfare of people in custody; and</li><li>• ensure the rights, entitlements and wellbeing of detainees are being met.</li></ul>
<b>Hours</b>	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.

Animal Welfare Scheme	
<b>Purpose</b>	Independent Animal Welfare Volunteers provide scrutiny of the care and treatment of police dogs ensuring that procedures are ethical, humane and transparent in accordance with the Animal Welfare Act 2006.
<b>Hours</b>	At the convenience of the Independent Animal Welfare Volunteers, visits to police dog units, kennels and police vehicles 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 have 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 of the Ethics Committee.

## Location:

For 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.

For the Animal Welfare Scheme, visits will take place to police dog units, kennels and police vehicles 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 (Ethics Committee) OR undertake regular visits (Independent Custody Visitors Scheme/Animal Welfare 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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