

13th May 2025

OPCC 49 - 2024

Date request received : 14th March 2025

Request

You asked us:

Please confirm the number of complaints report against Chief Constable Richard Lewis specifically identifying the number of complaints of corruption – serious corruption, or what amounted to corruption – serious corruption within the meaning of ‘serious corruption’ as defined within the IOPC’s guidelines and statutory guidance.

Together with the number of complaints reported against Chief Constable Richard Lewis complaints that were referred to Dyfed-Powys OPCC and or IOPC in accordance with the mandatory criteria prescribed within the required guidelines Statutory guidance.

I would like the requested information to cover years 2023, 2024 and 2025.

This request is for information on all complaints, those which were and were not recorded.

Our response

Section 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 places two duties on public authorities. Unless exemptions apply, the first duty at Section 1(1)(a) is to confirm or deny whether the information specified in a request is held. The second duty at Section 1(1)(b) is to disclose information that has been confirmed as being held.

Where exemptions are relied upon Section 17 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 requires Dyfed-Powys Police and Crime Commissioner, when refusing to provide such information (because the information is exempt) to provide you the applicant with a notice which:

(a) states that fact,

(b) specifies the exemption in question and

(c) states (if that would not otherwise be apparent) why the exemption applies

I can confirm that the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner does hold the information requested however, the following exemption has been applied to the whole of the information you have requested:

Section 21: Information reasonably accessible by other means:

"(1) Information which is reasonably accessible to the applicant otherwise than under section 1 is exempt information.

(2) For the purposes of subsection (1)—

(a) information may be reasonably accessible to the applicant even though it is accessible only on payment, and

(b) information is to be taken to be reasonably accessible to the applicant if it is information which the public authority or any other person is obliged by or under any enactment to communicate (otherwise than by making the information available for inspection) to members of the public on request, whether free of charge or on payment.

(3) For the purposes of subsection (1), information which is held by a public authority and does not fall within subsection (2)(b) is not to be regarded as reasonably accessible to the applicant merely because the information is available from the public authority itself on request, unless the information is made available in accordance with the authority's publication scheme and any payment required is specified in, or determined in accordance with, the scheme."

Q1. Please confirm the number of complaints report against Chief Constable Richard Lewis specifically identifying the number of complaints of corruption – serious corruption, or what amounted to corruption – serious corruption within the meaning of 'serious corruption' as defined within the IOPC's guidelines and statutory guidance.

In accordance with the legislative requirements, the OPCC will publish an annual report to demonstrate how the PCC holds the Chief Constable to account in respect of complains performance. Additionally, the PCC will provide an assessment of their own performance in carrying out other complaint handling functions.

You can access the complaints data information by accessing the following link:
[Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner](#)

In addition, section 70 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act (PRSRA) 2011 requires the Secretary of State to issue a Police Protocol, which applies to every Chief Constable and Police and Crime Commissioner. The protocol sets out the roles and responsibilities involved in the quadripartite relationship, namely Police and Crime Commissioner Chief Constable, Police and Crime Panel and Home Secretary.

In order to demonstrate compliance with the Policing Protocol Order 2023, the OPCC have developed a health check which covers all the areas in the protocol which the Police and Crime Commissioner has legal power and duty over. Reports are completed on a quarterly basis to show continuous progress, and these are reported to the Police and Crime Panel for Dyfed-Powys.

Within the report is a section in relation to the "Handling of complaints against the Chief Constable". Access to the reports can be done by following the link here:

[Dyfed-Powys Police & Crime Commissioner](#)

Q2. Together with the number of complaints reported against Chief Constable Richard Lewis complaints that were referred to Dyfed-Powys OPCC and or IOPC in accordance with the mandatory criteria prescribed within the required guidelines Statutory guidance.

The information you require for question 2 can be accessed by following the links provided above.

Next steps

You can ask us to review our response. If you want us to carry out a review, please let us know within 40 working days. You can request a review by writing to the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer at opcc@dyfed-powys.police.uk.

If you are still dissatisfied after our internal review, you can complain to the [Information Commissioner's Office](#) (ICO). You should make complaints to the ICO within six weeks of receiving the outcome of an internal review. The easiest way to lodge a complaint is through their website: www.ico.org.uk/foicomplaints.

