
Police, Fire & Crime Panel – Public Question

Questions Posed:

- 1) Given the public concern about rogue companies committing serious Environmental Crime in Staffordshire. Why do we have a Chief Constable in Christopher Noble who is National Lead for Protest Policing and not the National Lead for Environmental Crime Policing - What was the thinking behind that appointment please

Panel Member: Public Question

Question Date: 10/11/22

Follow-up Question

Received: 25/01/2023

- 2) Are Staffordshire Police Impartial
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Commissioner Response:

1) Given the public concern about rogue companies committing serious Environmental Crime in Staffordshire. Why do we have a Chief Constable in Christopher Noble who is National Lead for Protest Policing and not the National Lead for Environmental Crime Policing - What was the thinking behind that appointment please?

Chris Noble was chosen to be Chief Constable of Staffordshire by Commissioner, Ben Adams, following a rigorous recruitment process which included police and partner interviews in which he demonstrated a wide variety of experience and an insightful understanding of the challenges faced by Staffordshire Police.

He was the Commissioner's preferred candidate and his appointment was approved following a Confirmation Hearing with the Police, Fire & Crime Panel on 12th October 2021.

Chris Noble applied for and was appointed by the National Police Chiefs' Council as the national lead for protest, prior to joining Staffordshire Police as Chief Constable.

The Commissioner's view is. 'The National Police Chiefs' Council, the country, and Staffordshire benefit greatly from Chris Noble acting as their lead for protest but I have no doubt that if he was to be asked to lead on any other area of police focus, including environmental crime, then he would bring the same balanced and informed oversight to that too. Our Chief Constable maintains a day to day focus on the needs of Staffordshire residents while contributing nationally which benefits everyone'.

2) Are Staffordshire Police Impartial?

All police forces are subject to the Policing Protocol Order of 2011, as set out in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011:

Section 30 states: The operational independence of the police is a fundamental principle of British policing. It is expected by the Home Secretary that the professional discretion of the police service and oath of office give surety to the public that this shall not be compromised.

All police officers swear the oath of office on joining the service, which includes impartiality:

"I do solemnly and sincerely declare and affirm that I will well and truly service the King in the office of constable, with fairness, integrity, diligence and impartiality, upholding fundamental human rights and according equal respect to all people; and that I will, to the best of my power, cause the peace to be kept and preserved and prevent all offences against people and property; and that while I continue to hold the said office I will to the best of my skill and knowledge discharge all the duties thereof faithfully according to law."

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