

Ian Belchamber

By email only: ian@belchamber.net

20 September 2019

Dear Mr Belchamber,

ROAD SAFETY COMPLAINTS

I am writing in response to your email of 21 August 2019 to Dorset Police, raising a complaint against Chief Constable James Vaughan (the Chief), and your completion of the online form on 2 September 2019 to the Dorset Police and Crime Panel (the Panel), raising a complaint against Police and Crime Commissioner Martyn Underhill (the PCC).

As you may know, complaints against Chief Constables are a matter for Police and Crime Commissioners. The PCC delegates the initial handling of these to me as the Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer for the Office of the PCC (the Chief Executive).

Complaints regarding the conduct of the PCC are the responsibility of the Panel. In accordance with the Police and Crime Panels (Application of Local Authority Enactments) Regulations 2012, the Panel has also delegated authority for the initial managing of these to the Chief Executive. The Panel has agreed that I should write to you with a formal response to your complaint.

To be clear, as the substantial matter of these two complaints is the same, this response therefore covers both.

The previous Chief Constable, Debbie Simpson, and the PCC wrote you a joint letter, dated 8 December 2014, highlighting your correspondence on the use of speed cameras. Attached at Appendix A, this letter makes it clear that you have exhausted all of the options available to you to pursue this matter, and that Dorset Police will no longer respond to any communication from you that raises the same issues.

I must reiterate that the letter of 8 December 2014 still applies, and therefore it would be appropriate for me to not respond to you on this matter, at this time.

However, recognising that some time has passed since this letter, and it would be appropriate to review whether the 2014 decision still stands, the PCC asked me to consider the material you have provided. I conclude the following:

Mr Belchamber quotes the Ipsos MORI report in his email and website, helpfully providing a link. I am familiar with this report, but was uncertain with the conclusion he has attributed to it. Having now reviewed the report in light of Mr Belchamber's email, I can confirm that the report does not make the conclusion that he claims.

I have also reviewed the various statistics and whilst he raises some interesting points, these are interspersed with opinions that are clearly unfounded in fact. Major ones being that these courses are in some way a method of money making, and that the PCC, Chief, and other senior officers within Dorset Police have falsified the results of road safety activities.

Driver awareness schemes are utilised for operational not financial reasons. Whilst the schemes do allow for cost recovery this simply means that the DAS fees must only be spent on the provision of the course (admin, venue, utilities, staff) and, insofar as it can be calculated, the specific cost of detection for the individual in attendance.

All this means that no police force makes money from its driver awareness scheme. By way of comparison, this is set against the cost to society of a single road traffic fatality of close to £2million.

Having considered my review, both the PCC and the Chief are content that the decision as per the letter of 8 December 2014 still stands.

This means that both Dorset Police and the Dorset Office of the PCC will continue to refrain from responding to any communication from you that in any way attempts to raise the same issues, or discuss these matters any further.

Both the PCC and the Chief have countersigned this letter for confirmation.

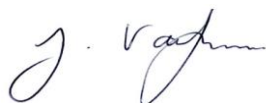
Yours sincerely,



Simon Bullock
Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer



Martyn Underhill
Police and Crime Commissioner



James Vaughan
Chief Constable

Copy:

Mike Short, Chair, Dorset Police and Crime Panel
Ian McVie, Chair, Dorset Police and Crime Panel Complaints Sub-Committee
Jonathan Mair, Monitoring Officer, Dorset Council
Marc Eyre, Lead Officer for Police and Crime Panel, Dorset Council