



SUSSEX POLICE & CRIME PANEL

Councillor Christian Mitchell
Chairman
Sussex Police and Crime Panel

County Hall
West Street
Chichester
West Sussex
PO19 1RQ

Switchboard: 033 022 22542

ninesh.edwards@westsussex.gov.uk

Date: 8 March 2022

Dear Commissioner Bourne,

The Panel has received a complaint from XXXXX

Under delegated powers, the Clerk to the Panel has looked at the complaint. While in the main concerned with operational policing matters outside the Panel's remit, XXXXX raises the issue of the backlog in processing Right of Access requests, having himself so far waited 23 weeks for a response, to date.

Information published on the Sussex Police website indicates a statutory maximum processing time of one calendar month. The Panel also notes that the 21/22 precept increase was predicated in part on a commitment to increase capacity to deal with Freedom of Information requests. While distinct from Freedom of Access requests, both types of requests may be processed by the same team, and residents might therefore have expected to see some improvement in waiting times by now.

The Panel would be grateful to hear your view on this issue. It would be also helpful to learn of any action you are aware that the Chief Constable has taken to address this matter following the 21/22 funding increase, and the timeline for improvement that residents should expect as a result.

Best wishes,
Christian Mitchell

Cllr Christian Mitchell
Chairman
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