

Fol ref: 2013 - 01433

Request received: 12 December 2013

Response sent: 16 January 2014

Thank you for your request for information, received on 12 December 2013:

“Since taking up office how many meetings have you and/or one of the Deputy Commissioners had with the Chief Constable of the West Midlands and/or one of his Deputies or Assistants in which Andrew Mitchell MP, the Police Federation representatives and the media entitled "Plebgate" has been discussed, prior the release of a statement from the IPCC on Tuesday 15th October.”

The information held by the Office for Policing and Crime which falls within the terms of your request is as follows:

The Police and Crime Commissioner and the Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner regularly meet with the Chief Constable. The matter was specifically referred to at two of these meetings which were held on 20 December 2012 and 2 April 2013.

- **On the 20 December 2012 there was a discussion which related to Andrew Mitchell MP in which the Commissioner and Chief Constable discussed recent revelations and subsequent national press publicity and impact on Federation. Noted that Mr Mitchell had covertly recorded all discussions with the Federation. Also noted that Mr Mitchell had to date made no complaint to the Force or the Met.**
- **On the 2 April 2013 the Chief Constable confirmed to the PCC that one officer from West Midlands had been referred to the IPCC on a very narrow issue concerning ‘plebgate’.**

The matter has not been raised at the Strategic Policing and Crime Board at which both the Commissioner and Chief Constable attend, within the timescales that you have referred to, but it was discussed at the following meetings.

- **Public meeting of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board (SPCB) held on 5 November 2013. The note from the meeting reads as follows:**

100/13 Chief Constable Update

The Deputy Chief Constable gave an oral update on significant operational matters including: The recent Home Affairs Select Committee inquiry into what was commonly referred to as ‘Plebgate’ and the outcome of the Independent Police Complaints Commission (IPCC’s) supervised investigation into the conduct of the three Police Federation representatives during and after their meeting with Andrew Mitchell MP. The Deputy Chief Constable acknowledged that the matter had been very damaging to the Force and to policing in general. The Chief Constable had apologised personally to Mr Mitchell. The Deputy Chief Constable wished to make it clear that the Force had not carried out an investigation into the conduct of the three Police Federation representatives; it had received a report produced by West Mercia Police who had carried out the investigation for the IPCC. The IPCC had seen the report which the Force had

received. The Force welcomed the forthcoming new independent investigation into the matter.

- **Private meeting of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board held on 5 November 2013. The note from the meeting reads as follows:
C019/13 Chief Constable Briefing
The Deputy Chief Constable provided an update on the Force position in relation to the Home Affairs Committee enquiry into 'Plebgate' and the IPCC investigation.**
- **Private meeting of the Strategic Policing and Crime Board held on 3 December 2013. The note from the meeting reads as follows:
C022/13 Chief Constable Briefing
The Chief Constable provided an update on the recent activity in relation to 'Plebgate' and the new IPCC investigation into the conduct of the three Police Federation representatives in their meeting with Andrew Mitchell MP.**

The agendas, minutes and reports of the private and public Strategic Policing and Crime Board meetings are published on the West Midlands Police and Crime Commissioner's website <http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/strategic-policing-and-crime-board/spcbdates-of-meetings-and-reports/spcb-agendas,-minutes-and-reports>