

# POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR LEICESTERSHIRE

## ETHICS AND TRANSPARENCY PANEL

PAPER MARKED

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Report of	CHIEF CONSTABLE
Subject	ETHICAL DILEMMAS
Date	TUESDAY 28 MARCH 2023 10:00 – 12:00
Author	CHRIS KEALEY, HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS AND ENGAGEMENT

### **Purpose of Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek members' views on ethical scenarios outlined within the Appendices.

### **Recommendations**

2. It is recommended that members discuss and consider the ethical scenarios and provide their views.

### **Commentary**

3. The Terms of Reference make provision for the Panel to debate and make recommendations on ethical issues and/or dilemmas faced by the force. Ethical dilemmas will remain a standing item on future agendas and will be opened up for submission by all roles across the force to allow inclusivity and access.

### **Implications**

Financial:	None
Legal:	None
Equality Impact Assessment:	None
Risks and Impact:	The dilemmas provided are anonymised to ensure that no individual can be identified. Public perception and reputation issues for the force.

Link to Police and Crime Plan: Proposal is in line with the Nolan Principles and Code of Ethics.

Communications: Communications Plan to be approved by the Panel

### **List of Appendices**

Appendix A – Social Media

### **Background papers**

None.

### **Person to Contact**

Chris Kealey – Head of Communications and Engagement

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## **Ethics and Transparency Panel**

### **Dilemmas for discussion – Police use of social media**

1. An officer attends a report of a missing person, a teenager. They have left home saying they are not coming back as they don't want to get into trouble. The young person is not answering calls but is online on WhatsApp and reading messages from their mum, but she does not know what to say. The mum asks if the officer will tell her what to put in the message to encourage the teenager to return home. What should the officer do?
2. There is a critical incident in Loughborough town. Hundreds of members of the public nearby are sharing messages including videos and photos about what has happened via Twitter, some of which the force's communications team is monitoring. Information and opinions are being shared which the police know to be factually wrong. How should the police respond?
3. A neighbourhood officer is invited onto a Neighbourhood Watch WhatsApp group for one of the estates on their beat. They have used a work phone to access the group. Not everyone is aware that they are the local police officer. One evening while the officer is off-duty and about to go on annual leave, the officer sees a racist message in the group from one member about another resident. What should they do?
4. A member of the public reports a very concerning Instagram post they have seen from someone they follow. They do not know the person's name, only their username, which they pass on to police in the report. This is the only identifying information the police have. The police would like to contact the username to speak further about the contents of the post. Should police use the corporate 'Leicestershire Police' account to try to make contact?
5. A group of officers from the same station are in a WhatsApp group on their personal phones. They find it useful to coordinate things like covering each other's shifts and vehicle handovers. Local management are not aware of the group until they overhear it mentioned in the break room. What should management do?
6. A violent sex offender has been convicted at Leicester Crown Court and has received a six-year custodial sentence. The media have requested his image, which the police hold. The victim's family want people to know who he is and want his image in the media and on Facebook. The perpetrator's young family still live at the same address in a Rutland village. What should the police do?