



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicestershire,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

POLICE APPEALS TRIBUNALS CONDITIONS OF ATTENDANCE

Introduction

The Police Appeals Tribunals Rules 2020 make provision for appeals in relation to disciplinary matters to be held in public subject to the discretion of the Chairperson to exclude persons from all or part of the hearing.

Any member of the public or press wishing to attend a Police Appeals Tribunal (PAT) may do so but due to limitations on space and capacity, attendance at the hearing will be administered and booked by application through the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (OPCC) for Leicestershire.

The regulations state that the Chair may also impose further conditions of entry in addition to those set out in this document. If this arises the further conditions will be published on the website prior to the hearing.

Procedures and Purpose of the PAT

PATs hear appeals against the findings of gross (serious) misconduct brought by police officers or special constables. The purpose of a PAT is to show that the police disciplinary system is open and honest, fair and effective.

The PAT is likely to be convened to hear appeals against the findings and/or outcome of the most serious cases of misconduct. Such cases would almost always have resulted in the most serious outcome, namely dismissal from Leicestershire Police.

The PAT will comprise of three people appointed by the OPCC, namely, the Chairperson, a senior police officer and an Independent Panel Member.

All PATs are held in public, subject to any representations made by the officer and or witnesses, and considerations made by the Chairperson. Notice of a PAT will be made not less than 5 working days prior to the hearing.

Should the PAT, or part of the PAT, be in private then reasons will be given and published.

Please note:

- If you are a witness to a listed PAT, you will not be eligible for a public seat.
- There may be occasions when a PAT is cancelled at short notice.



Members of the public

Please bring supporting photographic identification (such as a passport or driver's licence) and proof of address (such as a recent utility bill). As a condition of entry, OPCC staff will check your identification documents against those provided in your application to attend.

Members of the press

Please bring with you your accredited Press Pass and/or photographic identification (such as a passport or driver's licence). As a condition of entry, OPCC staff will check your identification documents against those provided in your application to attend.

The Venue

A range of venues within Leicestershire are used by the OPCC for PAT hearings. Confirmation will be given of the venue for each hearing once an application to attend is received.

Cameras

The taking of pictures is forbidden within the public hearing rooms and pictures should not be taken of any persons entering or leaving the tribunal.

Disabled access

Wherever possible, our venues will have access and facilities for the disabled but this can't be guaranteed. Let us know in advance what your requirements are and we'll try to make arrangements for you, or let you know if we can't.

Timings

Please arrive 15 minutes prior to the stipulated start time of the PAT, details of which can be found on the OPCC website. Entry will not be permitted once the hearing is in session.

The PAT will stop for lunch at a convenient point in proceedings for approximately one hour. A return time to re-commence proceedings will be announced by the Chairperson.

The PAT will normally finish at around 5.00 pm or at a convenient point in proceedings.

Conduct within the PAT room

Members of the public and press are requested to remain silent at all times whilst the PAT is in session.

All mobile phones, pagers, recording machines or other electronic items must be switched off in the public hearing rooms (exception for Media).



Only accredited members of the press will be allowed to use text-based communications for the purposes of simultaneous reporting of proceedings if the person Chairing or conducting the proceedings is satisfied that it does not interfere with the orderly conduct of the PAT.

The use of recording or photographic equipment is strictly forbidden in the public hearing rooms. Any person found to be using such equipment will be asked to leave by OPCC staff.

No person is permitted to make, or attempt to make a sketch of the hearing room of any person, being a panel member, or witness or other interested party to the PAT.

Laptops, tablets and mobile phones may be used by accredited members of the press for the purpose of writing.

Tweeting and posting on social media is only allowed by accredited members of the press using laptops or tablets.

No-one attending the public hearing rooms shall either intervene in or interrupt the running of the PAT. If anyone behaves in a disorderly or abusive manner or otherwise acts inappropriately in the view of the Chairperson, they will be excluded from the remainder of the PAT. Should anyone breach these conditions of attendance and refuse to leave, they will be ejected.

If exceptional circumstances make it necessary to leave the public hearing room, it is requested that individuals do so as quietly as possible and during a natural lull in proceedings, such as a change-over in witnesses. Re-entry to the public hearing room will be facilitated at the next adjournment.

The OPCC reserves the right to decline attendance where numbers are restricted due to venue capacity. The OPCC may also offer places to members of the public who have not previously attended a hearing in favour of those who have already done so

Refreshments

Members of the public and press will be required to make their own arrangements for lunch. It is not permitted to eat or drink during the hearings

Restrictions

With the exception of guide dogs/assistance dogs, pets or children under the age of 18 will not be permitted.