

## **Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley – Ethical Framework**

As Police and Crime Commissioner for Thames Valley I have agreed to abide by the seven standards of conduct recognised as the Nolan Principles. The Ethical Framework allows transparency in all areas of my work as a Police and Crime Commissioner. These principles encompass my work locally and whilst representing my communities in national forums. The codes are listed below with relevant case studies attached. I wish to demonstrate how I am working to provide a public voice to Policing in Thames Valley.

### **Selflessness**

Police and Crime Commissioners should take decisions solely in terms of the public interest. They should not do so in order to gain financial or other material benefits for themselves, their family, or their friends.

Gifts and hospitality that are accepted as well as declined are fully noted on my website in a clear spreadsheet so that the public are fully aware of any gifts and engagements I attend. This makes the process open and transparent and avoids any misrepresentation. This is currently updated by my office, and scrutinised by the monitoring officer.

- [Register of Gifts and Hospitality](https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/lists-and-registers/gifts-and-hospitality/)

### **Integrity**

Police and Crime Commissioners should not place themselves under any financial or other obligation to outside individuals or organisations that might influence them in the performance of their official duties. On my appointment 20 November 2012 I pledged my oath to represent ‘all sections of the public without fear or favour’.

In the eventuality where the interests of exercising the functions of my office might conflict with any disclosable or other interest, which has become known to me I shall, as soon as possible, declare such conflict and take necessary action.

- [Commissioner’s Oath](https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/about-us/police-and-crime-commissioner/the-oath/)

### **Objectivity**

Police and Crime Commissioners carrying out public business, including making public appointments, awarding contracts or recommending individuals for rewards and benefits, holders of public office should make choices on merit. I have agreed a Joint Corporate Governance Framework with the Chief Constable which has recently been updated to reflect the transfer of staff, assets and liabilities from the Police and Crime Commissioner to the Chief Constable with effect from 1 April 2014

- [Joint Corporate Governance Framework](https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/opcc-policies/)

The Police and Crime Panel approved the appointment of my Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Barber, at its meeting on 16<sup>th</sup> December 2016. All other appointments to the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner have been made following an open and transparent recruitment process.

The people of Thames Valley play a key role in how my 2017-21 Police and Crime Plan is put into practice. My plan lays out how I and the Chief Constable aim to make the communities of Thames Valley Police safer

- 2017-21 Police and Crime Plan  
<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/police-and-crime-plan>

## **Accountability**

Police and Crime Commissioners are accountable for their decisions and actions to the public and must submit themselves to whatever scrutiny is appropriate to their office.

The strategic decisions I make are published in the form of decision logs on my website. Decision logs are a concurrent record of the development of policing services and the award of contracts and tenders, including the reasons for those decisions made. In every decision I make, I confirm that I have considered whether I have any personal or prejudicial interest in the matter and take the decision in compliance with the Nolan Principles for conduct in Public Life.

I am required to hold the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the people of Thames Valley. In that regard I have agreed a decision making framework with the Chief Constable which allows both the Chief Constable and I to exercise our respective roles in a transparent manner. This includes holding meetings in public, on a quarterly basis, and publishing all reports and minutes on my website. This promotes transparency and allows the public to be aware of the developments within the force.

- Commissioner's Decisions  
<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/decision-making>
- Decision making framework  
<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/opcc-policies/>
- Policy, planning and performance meetings with the Chief Constable  
<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/agendas-and-minutes/>

## **Openness**

Police and Crime Commissioners should be as open as possible about all the decisions and actions that they take. They should give reasons for their decisions and restrict information only when the wider public interest clearly demands. My website is compliant with the Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information Order) 2011.

I keep my communities informed through social media as well as through public engagements. My office issues regular proactive press releases about the work I conduct and responds rapidly to other public and media enquiries.

- Latest news  
<https://www.thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/news-and-events/thamesvalley-pcc-news/>

## **Honesty**

Police and Crime Commissioners have a duty to declare any private interests relating to their public duties and to take steps to resolve any conflicts arising in a way that protects the public interest.

I act solely in the public interest whilst exercising the functions of my office. My website is accessible to members of the public and I openly publish a register of disclosable interests. I have no outside interests as shown in that document.

- Notification of Disclosable Interests  
<https://thamesvalley-pcc.gov.uk/information-hub/lists-and-registers/>

## **Leadership**

Police and Crime Commissioners should promote leadership and support the Nolan Principles by leadership and example. By reviewing my staffing structure and other costs, I have reduced the running costs of my office. I ensure full public accountability, so people can check on my progress and that of my office.

Review date: October 2019