



Statement to the Sussex Police and Crime Panel 13th March 2026

Following the decision on 30th January 2026 by the Sussex Police and Crime Panel to censure the Sussex Police and Crime Commissioner, the Sussex PCC instructed lawyers to write to the Clerk to the Panel challenging that decision by way of a proposed claim for judicial review.

The grounds for this action are that:

1. The Panel's decision to pass a motion censuring the PCC was unlawful through a breach of procedure, in failing to follow the process for dealing with complaints against a PCC as set out in the Elected Local Policing Bodies Regulations 2012.
2. The Panel's decision to pass a motion censuring the PCC was beyond the powers conferred in the Panel under the provisions of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
3. The Panel failed to adopt the common law principles of procedural fairness in dealing with the allegations made against the PCC and breaching natural justice.
4. The panel acted in a way that interfered with the PCCs rights under Article 10 (freedom of expression) and Article 11 (freedom of assembly) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The PCC respects the right of each member of the Panel to express their views on her performance however we maintain that on 30th January, the Panel acted unlawfully, beyond the scope of its powers and did not follow the process set out in statute.

Consequently, the PCC is seeking the Panel:

- To formally withdraw the Panels censure
- To issue a public apology

The Sussex PCC has over the 14 years she has been in office, conducted herself with the utmost professionalism and integrity and in accordance with her oath of office. She has always and will continue to co-operate and support the Panel in the discharge of its responsibilities.