



Bedford Borough Council and Central
Bedfordshire and Luton Borough Council

Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel

Festus Akinbusoye
Police and Crime Commissioner
for Bedfordshire

by email

Please ask for: Lesley Blue

E-mail: Lesley.blue@bedford.gov.uk

Fax no:

Your ref:

Our ref:

Date: 4 November 2022

Dear Commissioner Akinbusoye

Re: Appointment of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire

On behalf of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel I would like to thank Mr Ian Dalgarno for attending the confirmation hearing held on 3 November 2022 to consider his proposed appointment to the role of Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire.

Enclosed with this letter is the Panel's report which recommends that Mr Ian Dalgarno be appointed to the post.

In submitting its report the Panel would like to congratulate him on his appointment.

The Panel now look forward to seeing how the new Deputy Police & Crime Commissioner supports you and your Officer to implement your Police and Crime Plan and other priorities for the benefit of all Bedfordshire residents.

Yours sincerely

Laura Church
Clerk to Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel

Lesley Blue – Acting Chief Officer for Democratic Services
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BEDFORDSHIRE POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER FOR BEDFORDSHIRE

**ON THE APPOINTMENT OF MR IAN DALGARNO
AS DEPUTY POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER OF BEDFORDSHIRE**

3 NOVEMBER 2022

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This document constitutes the report and recommendations of the Bedfordshire Police and Crime Panel in respect of the proposed appointment of Mr Ian Dalgarno to the post of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner of Bedfordshire and is submitted to the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011.
- 1.2 The report recommends that Mr Ian Dalgarno be appointed as Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner of Bedfordshire. The Panel made further comments regarding this appointment and these are listed in Section 3 below.
- 1.3 In submitting its report, the Panel would like to thank Mr Dalgarno for his attendance at the Confirmation Hearing on 3 November 2022 and to congratulate him on his appointment.

2 CONFIRMATION HEARING

- 2.1 On 26 October 2022 the Panel's Host Authority (Bedford Borough Council) received formal notification from the Commissioner's Office of Mr Dalgarno's proposed appointment. By law the Panel is required to hold a Confirmation Hearing (a meeting of the Panel held in public at which the candidate for appointment is requested to appear for the purpose of answering questions relating to that appointment) in sufficient time to enable it to submit its report and recommendations in respect of the proposed appointment to the Commissioner within three weeks of the day on which it received notification.
- 2.2 The Confirmation Hearing for this appointment was held at 10.00am on 3 November 2022 at Luton Borough Council, Council Chamber, Town Hall, George Street, Luton LU1 2BQ. The following Panel Members were present:

PRESENT

Cllr J Weir, Bedford Borough Council - Chair
Cllr G Mackey, Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr N Bunyan, Central Bedfordshire Council
Cllr S Moore, Luton Borough Council

The following officers of the Panel's Host Authority were also present to support the Panel in conducting the hearing:

Lesley Blue, Acting Chief Officer for Democratic Services and Democratic & Electoral Services Manager

2.3 Members of the Panel questioned Mr Ian Dalgarno and the Police and Crime Commissioner in relation to the proposed appointment and considered their responses to their questions and other information supplied to the Panel by the Commissioner in accordance with the requirements of Schedule 1 of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011. This information comprised:

- the criteria used to assess the suitability of the candidate for the appointment;
- why the candidate satisfies those criteria;
- the terms and conditions on which the candidate is to be appointed.

2.4 During the hearing the Panel sought clarification on the following:

- Potential conflict with current role as a Central Bedfordshire Executive member
- Potential conflict with current role as Chair of Police & Crime Panel
- Cost of Deputy appointment and role
- Public perception of the Deputy role

2.5 The Panel considered the responses from Mr Dalgarno and the Commissioner and offered its caution around issues of sensitivity of the role and potential conflicts of interest that might arise. The Panel received clarification that Mr Dalgarno would be stepping down from his role as Chair of the Bedfordshire Police & Crime Panel; and that the Leader of Central Bedfordshire Council was reallocating areas of responsibility for Mr Dalgarno in his role as an Executive Member at Central Bedfordshire Council to avoid any potential issues of conflict.

3 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That Commissioner Akinbusoye be recommended to proceed with the appointment of Mr Ian Dalgarno to the post of Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner for Bedfordshire; and
- 3.2 That the Commissioner acknowledges the caution offered by the Panel at the confirmation hearing, around issues of sensitivity of the role and potential conflicts of interest that might arise.

4 REPORT PUBLICATION ARRANGEMENTS

- 4.1 The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires the Panel to publish this report in such manner as the Panel determines.
- 4.2 The Panel wishes to allow the Commissioner time to receive and consider this report, convey its contents to the candidate and consider the response he wishes to make to the report, before it is published. This reflects the guidance on Confirmation Hearings provided by the Local Government Association, which envisages a time lapse between a Hearing and the release of information about the Panel's recommendations.
- 4.3 In recognition of this, the Panel will not publish this report or provide any comment on the outcome of the Hearing until noon on Friday 11 November 2022, following which a press release may be issued and the report will be published on the Panel's webpages at: www.bedford.gov.uk/bedspcp

Cllr Jim Weir
Chair, Bedfordshire Police
and Crime Panel

Laura Church
Clerk, Bedfordshire Police
and Crime Panel