

Warwickshire Police

Misconduct Hearing in Public

Guidance for attendees from the public and media

Information

A Warwickshire Police misconduct hearing in public into the claim that two police officers breached the Police Code of Conduct will begin on Monday 5 November 2007 at: -

***The Brownsover Hall Hotel
Brownsover Lane
Old Brownsover
Rugby
Warwickshire
CV21 1HU***

The hearing is due to last 5 days but may end sooner.

The hearing is the result of an Independent Police Complaint Commission (IPCC) independent investigation into the circumstances surrounding the death of Ms Colette Lynch. Ms Lynch was killed by Mr Percy Wright following contact with Warwickshire Police officers on 1 & 2 February 2005. The IPCC have directed under Regulation 30, of The Police (Conduct) Regulations 2004, that the hearing will be held in public.

The hearing will be conducted by a panel of three people, chaired by a Chief Officer from another force, who has had no previous contact with the case. He is referred to as the Presiding Officer and will be joined by a Police Officer of Superintendent rank, also from another force and with no previous contact with the case, and an independent person who has been selected by the Warwickshire Police Authority from an approved list.

Purpose and conduct of hearing

This type of hearing is held to present the facts of the case and allow the officers to give their explanation of the circumstances surrounding the events and their conduct. The officers can be questioned together with other witnesses who may be called. The officers will be legally represented.

Hearings are conducted in two parts. The first part considers the facts of the matter alleged against the officers and will end with a decision taken as to whether their conduct fell below the standards of the Police Code of Conduct. If the alleged misconduct is not admitted by the officers it is likely that witnesses will be called.

If it is established to the panel's satisfaction that the officers' conduct did fail to meet the required standards, the second part of the hearing will determine the outcome. In considering the outcome, the panel take into account any aggravating or mitigating factors and consider evidence of the officers' character and record of service.

Guidance notes for observers – Public & Press

- Anyone wishing to attend the hearing as observers may attend the venue with a view to do so, however, space is limited, so seats in the hearing room will be allocated on a first come first served basis to members of the public.
- There will be limited places available to the media. Please contact the Warwickshire Police Newsdesk on 01926 415065 or email media.pr@warwickshire.police.uk to register your interest. Pooling arrangements may be put in place.
- The hearing is due to start at 10am each day but this is subject to change.
- To avoid disruption in the hall after the session has begun attendees should arrive at least 10 minutes before the start time of the hearing, and may be subject to security searches and requested to sign in and out when entering or leaving the hearing. Entry will not be permitted without the permission of the presiding officer once the hearing is in session. Attendees are requested to leave the hearing room during adjournments only. If it is necessary to leave during a session, they should do so as quietly as possible during a lull in the proceedings.
- Attendees should refrain from making unnecessary noise in the immediate area of the hearing.
- Smoking is not allowed inside the buildings.
- Attendees are not allowed to intervene in, comment upon or otherwise interrupt the hearing. If an attendee is disorderly or behaves inappropriately, the presiding officer can exclude them.
- If the presiding officer decides that in the public interest the evidence a witness will give, should not to be disclosed in public, he will request that members of the public and media leave the hall while this evidence is given.
- Attendees should remain silent at all times during the hearing. Mobile telephones and pagers must be switched off.
- It is strictly forbidden to use recording or photographic equipment in the hearing room whilst the hearing is in session.
- Attendees should stand when the officials conducting the hearing enter or leave the room.
- Attendees should not approach any of the officials conducting the hearing.
- It may be necessary for the hearing to be adjourned. The presiding officer will announce the adjournment, and if possible, the time at which the hearing will recommence.

- The hearing will stop for lunch for approximately 1 hour. Attendees are required to make their own arrangements for lunch and return promptly.