



Independent Advisory Groups



Code of Conduct

Owners - Executive IAG
Last Review – October 2009
Next Review – October 2010

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Confidentiality

In order to fulfil their primary purpose of providing independent advice, IAG's must have access to relevant, up-to-date information. Access to some information may be prohibited by law, for example Official Secrets Act and Data Protection Act.

Members of IAG's must not disclose or discuss information obtained in the course of their work for West Mercia Police inappropriately.

This might include confidential matters relating specifically to individuals, specific intelligence in relation to a proposed, sensitive policing operation, or intelligence which might compromise the safety of individuals or the police or public at large.

Nevertheless the general principle will be an assumption of trust and open access. Where access has to be denied the reasons for such a denial will be fully explained.

Communication

The express agreement of the IAG must be gained prior to the release of information obtained through membership of an IAG. This does not preclude IAG members speaking in public on police subjects nor stating they are a member of an IAG, however any comment made must be restricted to personal opinion.

Nolan Principles for Public Life

Based on the Nolan Principles for Public Life, Independent Advisors are asked to use the following to guide their actions:

Selflessness

Members 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.

Integrity

Members 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.

Members should remain aware of the significance of their role as an IAG member and at no time use this position inappropriately.

Objectivity

All decisions made by IAG's should be based solely on merit.

Accountability

As stated in the IAG Terms and Conditions, neither the Independent Advisor nor the IAG are responsible or liable for any actions taken by the police. Members are, however, accountable for the manner in which they carry out their role.

Openness

Members 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.

Honesty

Members should not place themselves in any situation where their integrity may be questioned. Members have a duty to declare where a subject is of direct relevance to a members' personal or financial interest (IAG Terms and Conditions).

Members should treat with caution any offer of gift, favour or hospitality that is made to them in the knowledge of their IAG membership. The person or organisation making the offer may be doing so to obtain information or trying to influence a decision. Any such gift should be declared to the IAG Chair or nominated Tactical Equality and Diversity Advisor.