



OFFICE OF
Police & Crime
Commissioner
for Cheshire

Peter Astley MBE

Office of the Police and Crime
Commissioner
Stockton Heath Police Station
Grappenhall Road
Stockton Heath
Warrington
WA4 2AF

Sent via e-mail

Date: 17 March 2021

Dear editor / reporter,

Re: Pre-Election period for the Police & Crime Commissioner Elections

As you know, the elections for the Police & Crime Commissioners (PCCs) take place on Thursday 6th May 2021.

The formal pre-election period (often referred to as Purdah) begins on 18 March 2021 and from that time, there will be restrictions on the media activities of the current Police & Crime Commissioner. I thought it would be helpful to set out the position of the Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner for Cheshire (OPCC) on these matters.

The OPCC is politically neutral and is responsible for providing support to the elected PCC, whoever they are.

The Office will not provide support for any of the candidates during the pre-election period and indeed staff within the OPCC are restricted by statute from doing so in a personal as well as professional capacity.

The formal position is that the current PCC will remain in post as PCC throughout the pre-election period until close on 12 May 2021. The new term for a PCC will begin on 13 May 2021.

During the pre-election period, the OPCC will continue to support the incumbent PCC with regard to their functions and management of business as usual. The OPCC will also respond to requests for information from candidates and publish the results online.

The OPCC will not be making any announcement or releasing any press releases to promote the work of the PCC that are in any way novel or contentious after the 18 March 2021 upon the start of the pre-election period.

Depending upon specific circumstances, we are potentially likely to put factual material into the public domain using neutral OPCC branding during the election period.

A selection of approved policing images has been made available to candidates for use in campaign material. The use of such photos explicitly does not reflect any endorsement by the Police of the candidate in question.

I hope this is helpful in setting out the role of the OPCC during this pre-election period and our relationship with the democratic process.

Further information, including our detailed protocol are available on <https://www.cheshire-pcc.gov.uk/pcc-elections/>

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any issue you wish to discuss.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Peter Astley', written in a cursive style with some overlapping lines.

Peter Astley MBE
Chief of Staff