

Warwickshire Joint Audit and Standards Committee Report Summary

Meeting Date: 18th January 2023

Subject: Gifts Gratuities and Hospitality – Warwickshire Police

Contact details: D/Supt Jill Fowler Professional Standards Dept

Purpose of the report:

Audit of Register of Gifts and Hospitality held by Warwickshire Police from April 2022-Dec 2022

Background:

It is the position of Warwickshire Police that no officer or staff member will accept any gift, gratuity or hospitality which could cause their judgement or integrity to be compromised, either in fact or by reasonable implication and thereby damage the reputation of Warwickshire Police. Officers and staff are required to declare any gift or hospitality (whether accepted or declined) and that this will be recorded in the Gift and Hospitality Register which will be subject to audit.

Recommendation:

Restrictions on the receipt of gifts gratuities and hospitality are necessary to ensure that Warwickshire Police remains effective, protects it's reputation, maintains high standards of conduct and probity from it's officers and staff and avoids any conflict of interest within their duty as a police officer or member of police staff. It is recommended that this policy is promoted and adhered to and the register continues to be subject of audit.

Executive summary:

27 entries were made on the gift, gratuity and hospitality register from April 2022 – December 2022 ranging from low value items from members of the public such as dog treats left by a lady in an area where Police dogs are exercised (to thank the Police for keeping the public safe) and a handmade bracelet for an officer who had supported a family for four and a half years through to a court hearing where the victim is dying of cancer.

Internal gifts from officers who have rewarded colleagues for their support are also included on the register.

All meals and gifts offered to Chief Constable Tedds are declared on the register (n=5).

The majority of gifts are valued under £100 (n= 23).

There is one gift valued at £230 (10 horse headcollars, 10 pony headcollars, 10 buckets) gifted by the British Horse Society and another gifted by the widow of a retired officer (herself a serving officer) valued at £1,000 - a set of wooden Garden benches, chairs, and tables for officers and staff to use at Greys Mallory.

All gifts, gratuities and hospitality are required to be declared to the Head of Professional Standards Dept for scrutiny and a decision on whether the gift can be retained.

5 gifts were not approved for retention and 2 were approved with conditions. An example of a gift not approved was a dining chair offered to officers attending a concern incident, where a member of the public stated he would only attend hospital if the officers accepted the chair.

Where alcohol is offered or gifted it is not usually approved for acceptance – even when it is gifted to the Chief Constable.

The register is available for audit purposes, but is not reproduced as part of this report.