

OFFICE OF POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTABLE

TITLE: Gifts and Hospitality

DATE: 29th June 2017

TIMING: Annual

PURPOSE: For Consideration

1.	<u>RECOMMENDATION</u>
1.1	The recommendation is to consider the content of this report.
2.	<u>INTRODUCTION & BACKGROUND</u>
2.1	<p>In April 2012 the Association of Chief Police Officers published guidance on gifts, gratuities and hospitality which provided police officers and staff with an ethical framework in which to determine the boundaries of acceptability concerning gifts and hospitality. The Gwent Police procedure has been developed in accordance with this guidance to ensure police officers and staff understand how the acceptance of gifts or hospitality can undermine personal and professional integrity and to reinforce the importance of preventing allegations of corrupt practices or improper relationships with any member of the public or corporate body arising from the offer or acceptance of any gift, gratuity or hospitality.</p> <p>All police officers and members of police staff are required to notify the Chief Constable of all offers of gifts, gratuities and hospitality and await authorisation for acceptance. This includes all chief officers.</p>
3.	<u>ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION</u>
3.1	<p>The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the number and type of gifts, gratuities and hospitality offered to and accepted by Gwent police officers and staff in the last 12 months. The register is subject to audit by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary.</p> <p>The register of all gifts and hospitality is maintained by the Professional Standards Department and the overview summary of the register for April 1st 2016 to March 31st 2017 is provided at Annex 1 with those specific to current Chief Officers provided at Annex 2.</p> <p>It will be clear that the majority of gifts consistently fall into the categories of low value consumable goods such as confectionary and small quantities of alcohol and such information suggests that there is minimal risk of corruption or bribery to the organisation by these means. The less tangible benefits such as hospitality are further evidence of the low risk of corruption at all ranks, including chief officer for whom this category of gratuity is the most common type.</p>

4.	<u>NEXT STEPS</u>
4.1	The registers are maintained as normal business practice, reviewed by the Head of Professional Standards and monitored by the Risk Assessment and Joint Tasking forum. Furthermore, analysis of the register is reviewed by the Police and Crime Commissioner and the Chief Constable on an annual basis.
5.	<u>FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
5.1	There are no financial considerations.
6.	<u>PERSONNEL CONSIDERATIONS</u>
6.1	There are no personnel considerations.
7.	<u>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</u>
7.1	There are no legal implications.
8.	<u>EQUALITIES AND HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS</u>
8.1	<p>The Gifts and Hospitality Policy and the accompanying Procedures have been created and reviewed against the general duty to promote equality, as stipulated under the Strategic Equality Plan and has been assessed not to discriminate against any particular group.</p> <p>Consideration has been given to requirements of the Articles contained in the European Convention on Human Rights and the Human Rights Act 1998 in preparing this report.</p>
9.	<u>RISK</u>
9.1	<p>A Risk Management and Joint Tasking Forum operates with representation from the Professional Standards Department, Information Security, People Services, Corporate Communications, Procurement, Data Management and Legal Services to monitor a number of areas with the potential to expose officers and staff to the risk of corruption, one of which is the offer and acceptance of gratuities and gifts.</p> <p>Officers or staff who come to the notice of the Professional Standards Department where there is reason to question their integrity are checked against the Gifts and Hospitalities Register for any corroboration or information of relevance.</p> <p>There have been no relevant findings and cross-referencing the register with Business Interests and procurement information for the year has not identified any risks.</p>
10.	<u>PUBLIC INTEREST</u>
10.1	This is not a public document. The Gifts and Hospitality Register is published in an anonymised format on the Gwent Police website and is therefore available for public scrutiny.
11.	<u>CONTACT OFFICER</u>
11.1	Detective Superintendent Ruth Price, Head of Professional Standards.
12.	<u>ANNEXES</u>
12.1	Annex 1 – Gifts & Hospitality (Force Overview) 2016/17
12.2	Annex 2 – Gifts & Hospitality (Current Chief Officers) 2016/17