

Report on Vetting Appeals Panel

I have attended the Panel meetings on a regular monthly basis. The Panel is chaired by the DCC West Mercia, and in attendance is the Head of PSD, an HR officer, the Supervisor of the Vetting Dept, a vetting caseworker, and myself.

On average some 5-10 appeals are reviewed at each meeting. Each case is summarised in a written brief produced by the caseworker which is presented to Panel members at the meeting. The brief may also include a written statement in support of the appeal from the applicant. It is of interest to note that one of the main reasons for the appeal to be rejected is non-declaration of previous misdemeanours, or offences committed by partners, family members, or close associates. The application form is quite clear in it's request for such information to be declared.

The Alliance is the only Force with a commercial contract for vetting, in addition to in-Force vetting of officers, potential officers, and staff members. It is worthy of note that the commercial contract has just been signed off and the new terms of the contract have been agreed. It is also of interest that officers who change Forces are obliged to undergo vetting from the new Force.

Members of the Panel are requested to determine whether the appeal is supported or rejected, or in some instances deferred for further information to be obtained. Appellants also have the opportunity to have a face to face presentation with the Panel when the appeal has been rejected.

Subsequent to the last meeting I was invited to attend a debrief meeting of all caseworkers from Stratford and Defford to go through the 10 decisions that were arrived at the Panel meeting. It was pleasing to note that because of the excellent work undertaken by the caseworkers there was unanimous agreement with the decisions arrived at by the Panel.

In sum I am persuaded, totally, that the Vetting Dept has a well earned high reputation with it's commercial contractors and is assiduous in the vetting of in Force applicants.

Colonel Tony Ward OBE,
TIE Committee Member