

## Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner elections 2020: Contact from candidates

### **Guidance for police and fire officers, staff and volunteers**

13 February 2020

You may be aware that elections will be taking place to elect a new Police Fire and Crime Commissioner on 7 May 2020.

A number of candidates, either selected or independent, have begun working towards their election campaigns.

Some candidates and potential candidates have already made contact with the Office of the Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner (OPFCC) and North Yorkshire Police for information.

Formal candidacy is not known until declarations are completed in April 2020. However, the candidates who have publically indicated an intention to stand are Philip Allott, Mark Christie, Keith Tordoff.

The OPFCC maintain a record of potential candidates and colleagues are welcome to contact the OPFCC for access to that information if required.

The OPFCC has a neutral role during this period to ensure that candidates' needs and requirements for information about the role of Police Fire & Crime Commissioner, are met fairly, thoroughly and objectively.

### **Candidates or potential candidates may contact you for information, visits, meetings etc.**

Working closely with the Force and the Fire & Rescue Service, the OPFCC are keen to ensure that candidates' needs and requirements for information in respect of policing and crime, are met. With that in mind, officers and staff are encouraged to ensure that a record is made of contact with candidates; advice and guidance on candidate contact is available from Chief Executive and Assistant Chief Executive in the OPFCC. If any candidates approach you for information or meetings, please ensure you advise the OPFCC by using this dedicated email address:

[pfcelections@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk](mailto:pfcelections@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk)

The OPFCC have also developed an information page for prospective candidates that can be viewed [here](#). If you receive any enquiries about the process from members of the public, please direct them to the website.

It's important that North Yorkshire Police, North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and those representing the operational services remain impartial and are not seen to directly or indirectly support any candidate. National guidance is currently in development but at this stage, to assist colleagues, the following brief guidance has been issued in respect of social media and traditional media.

## Social Media

Anyone who receives contact from a candidate or a candidate's representative via social media should do the following:

Respond to the message with the following – adapt if necessary. ***Thank you for your message. In order to fully respond to your enquiry in the most appropriate way, please email or telephone us with your query and we will reply in due course. Our email is [info@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk](mailto:info@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk) and our telephone number is 01423 569 562.***

Log the contact with the OPFCC's office using the email [pfcc elections@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk](mailto:pfcc elections@northyorkshire-pfcc.gov.uk)

Official NYP and NYFRS social media account operators or anyone whose personal account clearly identifies them as a member of NYP/NYFRS should avoid posting messages, liking, sharing, retweeting or getting involved in conversations involving candidates, their parties, or representatives.

Messages and images that deal with operational policing “business as usual” are fine as long there is no reference to candidates, their parties or representatives.

Please avoid posting photographs on your identifiable NYP/NYFRS accounts of you with candidates, their parties or representatives.

## Traditional Media (newspapers, broadcast, online journalists)

Candidates may approach you for photograph, filming or interview opportunities to support their campaign. The aim is to avoid officers and staff being perceived to be aligned with any particular candidate, so please seek advice from the OPFCC who will be pleased to assist you with giving an appropriate response to such requests.

In addition, please be cautious when arranging any meetings and always establish if a photographer or reporter will be present.

Corporate Communications are playing a key role as part of the Elections Working Group and will also be pleased to advise and assist on any aspect of good practice in relation to communications and media, as the election approaches.

If in any doubt, please contact Corporate Communications for advice.

- For the police, call x37521 or email [newsdesk@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk](mailto:newsdesk@northyorkshire.pnn.police.uk)
- For the fire service email [sarah.woodcock@northyorkshirefire.gov.uk](mailto:sarah.woodcock@northyorkshirefire.gov.uk)