

Dear [individual]

*As the published statement makes clear, the Chief has announced that she'll retire on 31 March 2024, well in advance of that date. No vacancy arises for the time being, so no decision about succession arrangements is necessary or appropriate at this early stage. My responsibilities are governed by detailed legal provisions. In any case, as I'm sure you will understand, as the holder of the public office of PFCC I can only discuss the topic of succession arrangements with those who advise me professionally.*

*IF A DECLARED CANDIDATE USE THIS BIT IN YELLOW AS WELL*

*[I do, though, of course understand why you might have felt it appropriate to contact me. The fact remains though. even if I could depart from the above approach and have a chat with you about this, which I can't, if I was to discuss the topic with one prospective candidate for Mayor I would have to discuss it with all.]*

*As today's published statement makes clear, an announcement about the arrangements for appointing Chief Constable Winward's successor will be made in due course.*

*Best wishes*

*(sign off ZM)*