

Dear West Midlands Police,

Questions under FOI

FOI Q1. Mr Sims has apparently announced, in a public press release dated 18th June 2015, he is to `step down early next year and, obviously, he would have had to confirm his intentions in writing to various key agents such as the Police and Crime Commissioner, David Jamieson and the Home Office.

Under FOI please disclose all the key agents who legally must be informed regarding the `stepping down of Mr Sims, and confirm the dates of the written communications from Mr Sims advising each of the key agents.

Under FOI please disclose a copy of the actual written communication to PCC David Jamieson which confirms Mr Sims wish to `step down and which should define a more accurate date of anticipated departure.

No recorded information – Chief Constable Sims is yet to provide written confirmation.

To assist, we can advise that Chief Constable intends to step down early next year, the date is unknown. A handover period from Mr Sims to the new Chief will need to be made, therefore until this appointment is made and the necessary notice period provided, a date is not known.

You may find the following links useful

<http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/news/news-2015/police-and-crime-commissioner-advertises-chief-constable-post/>

<http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/your-commissioner/working-for-the-police-and-crime-commissioner/chief-constable-of-west-midlands-police/>

<http://www.westmidlands-pcc.gov.uk/news/news-2015/police-and-crime-commissioner-pays-tribute-to-chris-sims-as>

FOI Q2. The previous Chief Constable, Sir Paul Scott-Lee, left on a pension of £77,000 per year, please disclose if Mr Sims has a similar predicted pension entitlement and the quantum, and if his pension will be an ongoing drain on West Midlands taxpayers or is totally funded via a private scheme.

No recorded information – WMP do not currently pay any employers contributions to Mr Sims pension. Mr Sims is not a current active member of the Police Pension Scheme and as such, upon leaving, is not entitled to an immediate payment of a pension.

Any pension would be fully rechargeable direct from the Home Office (Treasury) so in effect there is no local cost liability.

FOI Q3. In early 2015 there were interviews conducted to fill a vacancy for a replacement Assistant Chief Constable, and the position was given to Michele Larmour in June 2015, who was apparently the best candidate despite having no experience of working in a multiethnic urban environment, having spent her entire career in Northern Ireland.

Please note that The Freedom of Information Act applies to recorded information and therefore we are unable to supply opinions or to comment on situations / events unless those opinions or comments are already recorded.

To read more about ACC Larmour's skills and experience, please see the link below

<http://www.west-midlands.police.uk/latest-news/news.aspx?id=2809>

Under FOI please disclose the names and geographical locations of all the candidates who were interviewed for the position of ACC so that the competitiveness and transparency for the appointment can be appreciated.

2 candidates were interviewed for the position of Assistant Chief Constable

1 internal candidate interviewed who was unsuccessful however to reveal the name of the candidate would be exempt under Section 40(2) Personal Data

ACC Michele Larmour – Northern Ireland

Please also confirm the names of the individuals who sat on the interview panel.

Chief Constable, DCC Thompson and Grace Ononiwu, Chief Crown Prosecutor at CPS.

FOI Q4. In the recent police recruitment campaign there were apparently many Asian candidates but only one black candidate appointed. Subsequent to the recent recruitment campaign please disclose the numbers of recruits accepted in terms of gender and ethnic description, and please confirm the age of the one black recruit accepted.

237 candidates now appointed as police officers:
87 female / 150 male

204 White
5 White & Black Caribbean
1 Black British / African British / Caribbean British
6 Any other mixed background
14 Asian British
2 Asian
5 prefer not to say

The age of the recruit you mentioned is exempt under Section 40(2) Personal Data

FOI Q5. Many police forces leave press releases on display for many months but West Midlands Police remove them after a few days, resulting in dead links. Please advise what is the current policy for removing articles from the police website and the date when the existing policy was commenced.

We don't have a policy in relation to press releases on web, If there is nothing on there that is time sensitive then they will be left on there indefinitely. Each case is considered on an individual basis.