

Under the legislation, the Police and Crime Panel have to hold a confirmatory hearing for the appointment of a new chief executive for the Commissioner's Office. Paul Trott, currently Head of Legal Services for Gloucestershire Constabulary which was a position he would continue to hold, was the preferred candidate. The Panel had some misgivings about operational independence and possible conflict of interest, although they had no concerns regarding Mr Trott's professional competence.

They therefore issued the following statement:

"The Gloucestershire Police and Crime Panel note the appointment of Paul Trott as Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer of the Commissioner's Office, recognising that the candidate fulfils the assessment criteria.

Members have, however, expressed concern regarding the dual role with the Head of Legal for the Constabulary, identifying a potential significant conflict of interest. The Panel have requested further clarification on this point which the Commissioner has agreed to supply.

In these turbulent times, it is important that the Commissioner's ability to do his job effectively is unimpaired. The Panel sought assurances from the Commissioner that the appointment would not represent a fundamental weakness in the independence of his office.

In making this appointment, the Commissioner regards the arrangements in place as being appropriate and assures the Panel that this appointment does not compromise his ability to hold the Chief Constable and the force to account.