



# THAMES VALLEY POLICE COUNTER CORRUPTION UNIT

“ABUSE OF POSITION”

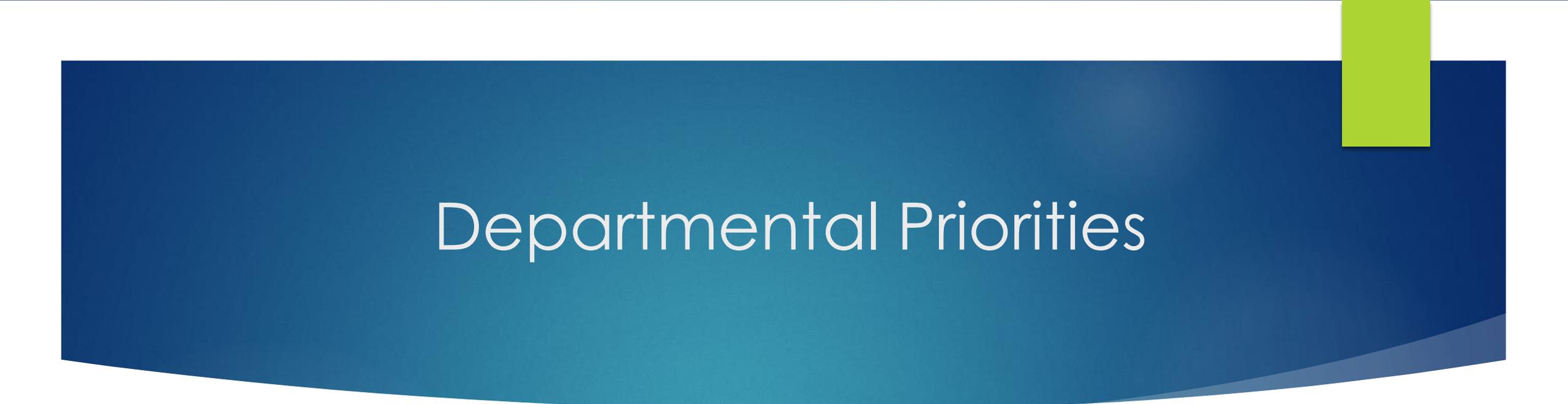
DETECTIVE INSPECTOR PETER SEMCZYSZYN

# Who are we ?

- ▶ • A team of Detectives who covertly and overtly investigate allegations against those representing Thames Valley Police. This covers the whole Force area
- ▶ • We process around 350 intelligence reports per year covering all aspects of concern across the organisation
- ▶ • Conduct our own intelligence development through to all aspects of evidential criminal or conduct investigations

# Departmental Objectives

- To Investigate allegations of criminal behaviour by members of TVP.
- Maintain public confidence and protect policing reputation
- Prevent/identify corruption and protect the public
- Maintain standards of professional behaviour within the organisation



# Departmental Priorities

- Abuse of Position for Sexual Purpose
- Unlawful Information Disclosure/Systems Misuse
- Inappropriate/Undisclosed associations
- Substance Misuse

# Abuse of Position for a Sexual Purpose

‘Any behaviour by a police officer or police staff member, whether on or off duty, that takes advantage of their position, authority or powers in order to pursue a sexual or improper emotional relationship with any member of the public’

# Signs to be aware of

- ▶ The service user having personal contact details of members of TVP
- ▶ Contact with TVP/officers staff via social media
- ▶ Service user requesting specific attendance of officer or staff member
- ▶ Use of inappropriate language/comments from member of TVP
- ▶ Unscheduled visits by officers or staff member specifically if alone
- ▶ Providing of gifts to those service users including being taken for meals

# Case Study: DS domestic abuse unit

- ▶ Domestic Abuse Detective Sergeant supervising a team in 2011
- ▶ He had been subject two years earlier to an investigation where computer misuse had been identified but not acted on as not deemed serious at that time
- ▶ Reports from a women's refuge that the Detective Sergeant was attending the refuge and taking females out for meals and providing them with gifts
- ▶ Research showed sustained computer misuse around various vulnerable females including contact details and locations they were being housed
- ▶ Officer resigned in 2012 prior to a misconduct hearing around his behaviour

# Case Study PC Russell

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### Thames Valley Police PC 'abused position for sex'

🕒 13 February 2019

**A "predatory" police officer accused of sexual activity with a suspect has been found guilty of gross misconduct.**

A disciplinary panel at Thames Valley Police's Kidlington headquarters said Alan Russell abused his position to target a "vulnerable" woman.

The panel also found the PC had sex with another officer while on duty.

It said he had not shown remorse and would have been sacked if he had not resigned the day before the hearing.

# Case Study: PC Russell

- ▶ Concerns raised in 2018 to the CCU that the officer was underperforming at work and there were concerns that he had been engaging in sexual activity with a colleague during night shifts.
- ▶ Investigation into the officer identified large volumes of contact with a vulnerable female he had dealt with as a suspect for a burglary.
- ▶ Research showed the officer contacting the female then attending the location she lived during shifts.
- ▶ Engagement with the female instigated by the CCU and evidence of offending identified.
- ▶ Officer arrested and dealt with for computer misuse/breach of data protection. Officer cautioned and dismissed at a hearing in his absence.

# Case Study DC Jeffcoate

# Oxford Mail

## News

1st May

Police officer fired after flirty texts to domestic abuse victim

**A THAMES Valley Police officer has been fired on the spot for sending flirty and sexual text messages to a victim of domestic abuse.**

Richard Jeffcoate was accused of chatting to the victim for two months last year over texts, Whatsapp, and calls, and then gave an 'incomplete and inaccurate' account of their relationship when he was asked by his supervisor.

# Case Study DC Jeffcoate

- ▶ Experience Detective posted to Domestic Abuse Investigation Unit
- ▶ Dealing with a high risk victim of Domestic Abuse. Conducting a thorough investigation safeguarding the female involved
- ▶ DC Jeffcoate highlighted to supervisors the vulnerability of the female including requesting to be double crewed when dealing with her due to her flirtatious behaviour.
- ▶ In November 2019 a female reported to police that DC Jeffcoate was involved in an inappropriate relationship with her. Initially, she would not engage with police, though did when visited by the CCU.
- ▶ The detective was dismissed at a hearing in May 2020 for forming the relationship with the female.

# Case Study PCSO Billingham



**PCSO Michael Billingham has been jailed after missing a 999 call because he was having sex with a victim of domestic violence** Credit: Solent News

# Case Study PCSO Billingham

- ▶ Neighbourhood team in Milton Keynes area policing the area he lived/grew up in
- ▶ Misused the Police information systems to view domestic incidents on his police area
- ▶ Identified a number of females reporting domestic incidents that he knew from his time at school/living in the local area
- ▶ Paid visits to females on and off duty engaging in sexual activity
- ▶ Found Guilty Misconduct in public office and sentenced to 12 months in prison

# Case Study

## PC Martin



**Cop, 36, had sex with boy, 17, in his police car while on duty after driving him to secluded car park outside a country mansion**

AN on-duty cop enjoyed a gay romp in his patrol cop with a 17-year-old before driving home, a court heard.

PC Mark Martin, 36, appeared before a judge on Monday and admitted misconduct

The ex-Thames Valley officer was charged with the offence after details of his x-rated encounter spread to colleagues and he was suspended from duty.

Martin appeared before at Reading Crown Court on Monday where he admitted being the holder of a public office who wilfully neglected to perform duty/wilfully misconducted himself.

# Case Study PC Martin

- ▶ PC Martin was arrested in November 2018 following a concern raised by an education establishment around a relationship between an officer and a student
- ▶ An allegation was made about the officer's on duty conduct after meeting a 17 year old male on the Grinder App
- ▶ The officer used his position by telling the male that he could trust him because he was a police officer
- ▶ The male involved was reluctant to support proceedings, but he was supported throughout the process
- ▶ There had been previous concerns about PC Martin's behaviour on public transport centred around young males, but no offences were identified.

# Potential Criminal Offences

- ▶ • Allegations of those abusing their position for sexual purpose are treated as serious corruption and will result in a mandatory referral to the IOPC. They will inevitably be initially investigated as a potential crime of:
- ▶ • Misconduct in public office
- ▶ • Police Corruption under section 26 of the Criminal Justice and Courts Act 2015.
- ▶ • Computer misuse / Data protection offences.

# Information Sharing – Legal Pathways

- ▶ Prevention and Detection of Crime – DPA 2018
- ▶ Data Protection Act 2018, SCHEDULE 2, PART 1, Paragraph 2
- ▶ 2(1) The listed GDPR provisions and Article 34(1) and (4) of the GDPR (communication of personal data breach to the data subject) do not apply to personal data processed for any of the following purposes—
- ▶ **(a) the prevention or detection of crime,**
- ▶ (b) the apprehension or prosecution of offenders, or
- ▶ (c) the assessment or collection of a tax or duty or an imposition of a similar nature, to the extent that the application of those provisions would be likely to prejudice any of the matters mentioned in paragraphs (a) to (c).

# What things should I report?

- ▶ • Anything that you feel just isn't right about a member of TVP.
- ▶ • The officer/staff members identity.
- ▶ • The service users identity and whether they are willing to engage. Do they know of the concerns you have?
- ▶ • Any further information or support you can offer us to help assess the concerns.

# Working together

- ▶ During these kinds of investigations engagement with the individuals affected is key. We will do this in conjunction with your support if you have referred individuals to us.
- ▶ We have a skilled team of Detectives that can provide full support/guidance to yourselves and to those that may be connected to any subsequent investigation.
- ▶ In order to promote greater awareness amongst service users that any reports of inappropriateness by members of Thames Valley Police will be taken seriously.

# Our Commitment

- ▶ To establish and maintain regular communication with partners.
- ▶ Ensure that those providing a service to the most vulnerable are aware of potential warning signs and how they can report any concerns.
- ▶ We will provide advice around this topic to any areas of your business that you feel would benefit in order to protect those we seek to help.
- ▶ Any reports made will be thoroughly investigated to either prove or disprove the concerns.
- ▶ All matters referred to the TVP CCU are initially dealt with confidentially. The team are fully experienced in the handling of sensitive cases.

# Who to contact



Thames Valley Police Counter Corruption Unit has an allocated email which is reviewed daily. Any enquiry can be sent to the following:

[Counter.corruption@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Counter.corruption@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)



Detective Inspector Peter Semczyszyn on 07976932001 or via e-mail

[peter.Semczyszyn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:peter.Semczyszyn@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)



Detective Sergeant Seb Wilson for advice on 07813780649 or

via e-mail [Sebastian.Wilson@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk](mailto:Sebastian.Wilson@thamesvalley.pnn.police.uk)



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Any Questions?

