



**POLICE & CRIME
COMMISSIONER**
for Leicester,
Leicestershire & Rutland
Your Communities - Your Commissioner

Cllr Phillimore
cllr.les.phillimore@blaby.gov.uk

Sent by email

OPEN LETTER

19th March 2026

Dear Councillor Phillimore,

I am writing to express my concern regarding the decision to cancel the upcoming meeting of the Police and Crime Panel due to the pre-election period for the county councillor by-election, for which I understand you are running.

While I recognise the need for appropriate sensitivity during the pre-election period, I do not believe that the cancellation of the meeting is either necessary or in the public interest. I am therefore placing my objection on record for the following reasons.

First, the Panel performs an important statutory function on behalf of the public in scrutinising the work of the Police and Crime Commissioner. This scrutiny is essential to the transparency and accountability of policing governance, and postponing such activity without clear justification undermines that purpose.

Second, the Panel provides a vital platform for the PCC to place key information, reports, and performance data into the public domain. Cancelling the meeting delays the release of information that would otherwise be available to the public as part of my normal reporting duties.

Third, rescheduling significant business for several weeks is not in the public interest. It is inevitable that the agenda for the next meeting will now become considerably heavier, potentially resulting in an unnecessarily long and less effective meeting. This does not support the efficient or timely conduct of Panel business.

Fourth, the Panel has a Vice Chair who is fully capable of chairing the meeting in circumstances where the Chair is unavailable. The existence of this role is specifically intended to ensure continuity and prevent precisely this type of disruption.

Finally, I must note that there is clear precedent for proceeding with meetings during an election period. For example, in 2025 the Panel met on the first day of the pre-election period for the county council elections, and that meeting was chaired, by a Councillor that



was also running for office, without issue. On previous occasions, similar circumstances have been treated as “business as usual”.

Given these factors, I believe it is neither necessary nor appropriate for important public business to be postponed because the Chair is engaged in campaigning activities for a different elected position. Public duties already held should not be set aside for this reason.

I appreciate that the decision may already have been taken, but it is important to place my concerns formally on record. I trust that future decisions will take into account the Panel’s responsibility to maintain consistent, transparent, and uninterrupted public scrutiny.

Yours sincerely

Rupert Matthews
Police and Crime Commissioner for Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland

CC: All members of the Police and Crime Panel