

POLICE AND CRIME PANEL
PANEL HEDDLU A THROSEDD



NORTH WALES POLICE AND CRIME PANEL

REPORT ON THE POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER'S PROPOSED APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF CONSTABLE FOR NORTH WALES POLICE

Background

This report is made in accordance with the Police and Crime Panel's (PCP) statutory duty contained in Schedule 8, Part 1, Paragraph 4(3) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 (Act).

Review of Appointment

The North Wales PCP was notified of the Police and Crime Commissioner's (PCC) intention to appoint Amanda Blakeman as Chief Constable of North Wales Police on 06 September 2022.

The PCP held a public confirmation hearing to review the proposed appointment on 26 September 2022 at Conwy County Borough Council, Bodlondeb, Conwy.

The following members of the PCP were present:

Pat Astbury (Independent Co-opted Member) – Vice Chair in the Chair
Councillor Chris Bithell
Councillor Steve Copple
Councillor Non Dafydd
Sioned Wyn Davies (Independent Co-opted Member)
Councillor Louise Emery
Councillor Alan Hunter
Councillor Marc Jones
Councillor John Pughe
Councillor Nigel Williams

The PCC outlined the reasons for his proposed appointment and why the candidate had been selected for consideration by the PCP.

The Independent Member of the Appointments Panel (Gill Lewis) presented her report that provided an assessment of the extent to which the appointment's process in North Wales had been conducted fairly, openly and based on merit. The Independent Member concluded that:

- The PCC had fulfilled his responsibility to ensure the selection process was put in place in accordance with the responsibilities set out in national guidance;
- That the decision-making process was demonstrably open and fair, with particularly good efforts applied to seek the best available field of candidates. It was clearly based on merit, with decisions taken on careful analysis of evidence, and adherence to the highest standards throughout was taken seriously;
- Therefore, based on her assessment, the Independent Member was able to assure the PCP that the selection of the preferred candidate to be Chief Constable of North Wales had met the principles of fairness, openness and merit.

Members of the PCP questioned Amanda Blakeman in relation to her proposed appointment and then excluded the press and public from the meeting to consider its report and conclusions.

The PCP considered the candidate's responses to their questions; information supplied by the PCC; and the report of the Independent Member of the Appointments Panel and unanimously agreed that Amanda Blakeman should be appointed as Chief Constable of North Wales Police.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- (a) That the appointment of Amanda Blakeman as Chief Constable of North Wales Police be confirmed on the terms and conditions, as set out in the Police and Crime Commissioner's report.**
- (b) That the Police and Crime Panel acknowledge that the appointment's process has been conducted in line with the principles of fairness, openness and merit.**

27 September 2022