

RSPCA Prosecution Oversight Panel

Following the recommendation made by Stephen Wooler CB in his independent review of the RSPCA prosecution function, we are pleased to announce that an independent Prosecution Oversight Panel has been established. The panel intends to report on their findings.

The purpose and responsibilities of the Panel

Purpose:

The Prosecution Oversight Panel serves in an expert advisory capacity and provides independent expert advice on the RSPCA's prosecution function to the Chief Executive and to the Trustees (the RSPCA Council) to fulfil their governance responsibilities. This will include ensuring the effectiveness of the function's internal control systems, its risk management, decision making and governance processes.

Responsibilities:

- To assist and advise the Chief Executive and the Board of Trustees in ensuring that the procedures and practice of the prosecution function is in line with that of a modern and fair minded prosecutor.
- To ensure the independence of the prosecution decisions.
- To review and audit any prosecutions that have been referred to the CPS, any prosecutions that have not been successful and a sample of other prosecution decisions and consider their rightfulness and appropriateness – in particular against the two tests applied by the Director of Public Prosecutions when considering whether to undertake a prosecution.

The panel members are:

- *Gerallt Evans, Traffic Commissioner*
- *Mathew Hardcastle, Associate Solicitor with Kingsley Napley LLP.*
- *Carter Brod, Solicitor and Partner with Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP.*
- *Sue Morris, Executive Board member, Sussex Partnership NHS Foundation Trust, Retired.*
- *Paula Boyden, Veterinary Director, Dogs Trust.*

RSPCA, Wilberforce Way, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex RH13 9RS Tel: 0300 123 0100

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