

Investigation name:	DC Robert Ferrow
IOPC reference:	2019/123180

> Summary of IOPC conclusions

A summary of our conclusions and our rationale is set out below.

Detective Constable (DC) Robert Ferrow, Hampshire Constabulary

> Allegations

It is alleged that DC Ferrow may have breached the standards of professional behaviour of honesty and integrity, duties and responsibilities, and conduct.

1. It is alleged that DC Ferrow requested and obtained signed blank statement pages to complete the statement on behalf of a witness while not in their presence.

We determined a case to answer for gross misconduct

2. It is further alleged that DC Ferrow forged the signature of the witness on more than one occasion within the statement.

We determined a case to answer for gross misconduct

3. It is further alleged that DC Ferrow did not provide the witness the opportunity to view and/or endorse the statement as a true representation of his account before submitting it as evidence into the murder investigation.

We determined a case to answer for gross misconduct

> Summary of rationale

Having considered all available evidence and the officer's account, we concluded that a reasonable tribunal, properly directed, could find a case to answer for a breach of the standards of professional behaviour in relation to honesty and integrity, duties and responsibly and conduct, at the level of gross misconduct.

In making these decisions, we considered the College of Policing 'Guidance on outcomes in police misconduct proceedings'. We assessed the seriousness of the proven conduct by reference to the officer's culpability, the harm caused by the

misconduct, the existence of any aggravating factors and the existence of any mitigating factors. We also consulted key evidence and analysis from our investigation report. We shared our rationale and conclusions with Hampshire Constabulary.

Referral to the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS)

We determined there was an indication that a criminal offence may have been committed and referred a file of evidence to the CPS.

CPS made the decision to charge the officer with making a false instrument with intent for it to be accepted as genuine, under the Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981. The detective was found guilty and sentenced to eight months in jail.

At a special case misconduct hearing in October 2021, Hampshire Constabulary ruled the former detective would have been dismissed if still a serving officer.

The detective was placed on the police barred list.

Organisational Learning

We did not identify any organisational learning from this investigation.