

## PCC DECISION NOTICE – Police Officer Pension Forfeiture

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### Executive Summary

This decision relates to the pension forfeiture meeting in respect of ex-police officer Mr Lewis Wood.

On the 19<sup>th</sup> April 2024 former Avon and Somerset Police officer Lewis Wood was sentenced to 28 months in prison after pleading guilty to three counts of misconduct in public office.

Between 2018 and 2020, Wood shared sensitive images and videos from crime scenes—including footage of a homicide victim—with family and friends via WhatsApp, breaching public trust and causing significant distress to victims' families. Although the material was initially captured lawfully for evidential purposes, Wood later used his personal phone to distribute it illegally. The court acknowledged his remorse and mental health struggles but emphasised the repeated nature of the misconduct.

Former PC Lewis Wood was dismissed following an Accelerated Misconduct Hearing on matters unrelated to his criminal conviction on 10/02/2021

On the 27<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the PCC, supported by the Chief of Staff, concluded that the offences were committed in connection with service as a police officer, and amounted to a betrayal of trust, likely to lead to a serious loss of public confidence in policing

The PCC applied for a Certificate of Forfeiture under Stage 1 of the OPCC Policy.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2025, the Home Office confirmed that the application under Stage 1 had been successful and provided a Certificate of Forfeiture.

The pension forfeiture committee met on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2025 to consider:

- Whether they believed a forfeiture was required
- And if so, to what extent

Mr Wood provided a written submission which was considered in full.

### Decision

After careful consideration of the circumstances Mr Wood's case, pursuant to the 2006 and 2015 Police Pensions Regulations and internal policies, it is my decision to apply a full and permanent forfeiture to the total sum of the public pension contributions (unsecured) awarded to Mr Wood. This decision was not taken lightly and reflects the seriousness of the conduct in question.

The key factors that led to this outcome include:

- The nature and gravity of the misconduct, which was found to be incompatible with the standards expected of someone in public service.
- The breach of trust and the impact on public confidence in the integrity of the organisation.
- The duration of service comparatively with the duration and volume of offences.
- The legal framework which permits full forfeiture in cases where the actions of an individual are deemed to be fundamentally inconsistent with continued entitlement to public pension benefits.



**Clare Moody**  
**Police and Crime Commissioner for Avon and Somerset**

18<sup>th</sup> September 2025