

Civic Affairs Committee – Monday 13 May 2024

Public Question

Under section 5 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989, an authority's monitoring officer is required to make a report to the authority if any committee, sub-committee, or joint committee of the authority makes any decision which is contrary to any enactment or rule of law. The Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel is a joint committees of this authority.

In advance of its meeting scheduled for 13 March of this year, the Cambridgeshire Police and Crime Panel engaged in the unlawful censorship of questions submitted by a member of the public. The censorship was unlawful because it violated the provisions of Article 10, Schedule 1, of the Human Rights Act 1998.

The censorship in question was particularly harmful as it was intended to prevent, and did prevent, matters of public importance being raised publicly in front of the panel in advance of the recent local election.

The monitoring officer has already been provided with copies of the relevant documentary evidence for consideration.

Will the chair of the committee please confirm that this council supports the right to freedom of expression as codified by the Human Rights Act 1998?