

## CabinetOffice



### Crime & Communities Review

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Mr George Garlick  
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Dear colleague,

### Crime and Communities Review

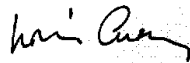
I'm writing to let you know that, as per the attached press notice, the Prime Minister has commissioned a Crime and Communities Review. This is, I believe, an extremely important piece of work and one that I am honoured to have been asked to lead. The experience I've had as Government Co-ordinator for Respect has prepared me well for this new challenge – those of you who know me will attest to my strong interest in how best local agencies can communicate with the public around the action being taken to tackle anti-social behaviour and build a culture of respect.

You can rest assured that the momentum which has been built up under the Respect programme at both a national and local level will not be slowed down by the structural changes recently announced. The new Youth Task Force, located in the Department for Children, Schools and Families and now headed up by Anne Weinstock, will continue the drive forward the Respect programme. It will also, however, take the work on a further stage by helping local areas link their Respect work more closely with the government's new Public Service Agreement to "ensure that more young people are on the path to success." Much has been achieved over the past few years and I'm particularly proud of the impact your work has been having on the public – the 2006 local government user satisfaction survey showed that perception of anti-social behaviour has dropped in 94% of local authorities since the previous survey in 2003.

The quest for effective and comprehensive community engagement is not a new challenge and there's a huge amount of good practice out there that I'm keen to learn

more about, perhaps to capture and promote but without replicating or duplicating the efforts of others at national or local level who are reviewing similar ground. Helping people not only to be safer, but to feel safer and have greater confidence in their local services is a huge prize. We'll be in touch in the weeks and months ahead to find out your views, possibly to ask you if we can come and visit and definitely to keep you updated on the progress of the review. I'd be really grateful if you could copy this letter to members of your community safety/crime and disorder reduction partnership.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louise Casey". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping tail on the last letter.

LOUISE CASEY  
Crime and Communities Review

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## Connecting Communities with the Fight Against Crime

5 October 2007  
CAB/080/07

The Cabinet Office announced today that the Prime Minister has commissioned a cross-departmental review on how front line agencies can get their communities better engaged in the fight against crime.

The review, to be led by Louise Casey, will report its findings to a new Ministerial Group, comprising the Home Secretary (Chair), the Secretary of State for Justice, the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families, the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, the Attorney General, and the Minister for the Cabinet Office.

Home Secretary Jacqui Smith said:

"Record levels of funding, new powers and new partnerships have helped to drive down crime by a third over the last decade. I am determined to accelerate this work by freeing local partners to be more responsive to the crime issues that matter most to the communities they serve.

"It is only when local people stand up against crime and anti-social behaviour in their neighbourhoods that an area can be turned around. I want to make sure that the public know how to work with the police and other agencies to make this happen, and that is why I am delighted that Louise Casey will be undertaking this review and recommending how to achieve this on a national scale.

"Louise Casey brings from the Respect programme formidable experience of transforming places and delivering tangible improvements for both victims of crime and the general public."

The review, to be staffed jointly from departments and based in the Cabinet Office, will look at how local communities, the police, local criminal justice agencies and other local partners can best work together to:

- Reduce crime in their areas
- Raise community confidence in local agencies
- Lower the fear of crime

The review will build upon the work already underway as part of Sir Ronnie Flanagan's review of policing, which is looking at strengthening neighbourhood policing and local accountability. It reflects the high priority the Government places on tackling the fear of crime, and involving local communities in setting priorities and designing local solutions. The review will report to Ministers in June 2008.

### Notes to editors

1. Louise Casey has previously led for the government on rough sleeping, anti-social behaviour and the Respect Task Force.

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