



# Home Office

**Stephen Rimmer**  
**Director General**  
**Crime and Policing Group**  
3rd Floor Peel, 2 Marsham Street, London SW1P 4DF  
Tel 020 7035 1440

To: CSP Chairs in England  
LCJB Chairs in England

Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> July 2010

Dear Colleague,

## **Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Reconnecting Police and the People**

I am writing to inform you of the publication yesterday of a new Home Office consultation document entitled 'Policing in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Reconnecting Police and the People'.

2. This document outlines the Government's intention to put in place a new deal for the public and a new deal for the police service. A deal where the public are in control and where the police can focus on cutting crime and making people feel safe. This is in line with wider Government policy to swap bureaucratic accountability for democratic accountability. It provides detail on how the Government will:

- Introduce directly elected Police and Crime Commissioners which will focus the police on what local people want, strengthening the bond between the public and the police through greater accountability and transparency so that people have more confidence and trust in the police. This includes the intention to enable Commissioners to play a role in wider questions of community safety and to reduce some of the bureaucracy for Community Safety Partnerships;
- Protect absolutely the operational independence of the police: Police and Crime Commissioners will not cut across this, giving Chief Constables greater professional freedom to take operational decisions to meet the priorities set for them by their local community - via their Police and Crime Commissioner;
- Transfer power away from Whitehall, removing central targets, removing frontline bureaucracy and central guidance freeing up frontline officers and Police Community Support Officers to get on with their jobs;

- Create a new National Crime Agency to be led by a senior Chief Constable and that will, in particular, lead the fight against organised crime, enhance the security of our borders and provide services best delivered at national level. This powerful new body will harness and exploit the intelligence, analytical and enforcement capabilities of the existing Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and the Child Exploitation & Online Protection Centre and better connect these capabilities to those within the police service, HM Revenue and Customs, the UK Border Agency and a range of other criminal justice partners. Having played a key role in the first stage of rationalising different agencies, the Government intends to phase out the National Policing Improvement Agency;
  - Make the police more efficient at force, regional and national levels so that frontline local policing can be sustained and make the police effective at dealing with serious crimes that cross force boundaries or national borders. The Government is also publishing a more technical consultation Obtaining Better Value for Money from Police Procurement; and
  - Make sure everyone plays their full part in cutting crime in a Big Society; including wider criminal justice and community safety partners, the voluntary and community sector and individuals themselves.
3. Where these proposals impact on devolved responsibilities the Government will work with the relevant administrations to ensure any changes reflect and respect devolved responsibilities.
  4. This consultation represents an opportunity for you and your partners to shape the future of policing. Over the next eight weeks, the Government would welcome your views about how the reforms set out in the document should be taken forward. The responses to this consultation will inform legislation that will be contained in the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill that will be introduced in the Autumn.
  5. The document is available on the Home Office website at <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/policing-21st-century/>.
  6. I am also writing in similar terms to CSP and LCJB colleagues in Wales.

Yours



**Stephen Rimmer**