

Consultation on police powers to promote and maintain public order

1. The attached document has been circulated by the Home Office to seek input on suggested changes to the Public Order Act 1986 and the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994.
2. The consultation is seeking views on three areas of police powers which the Government is committed to reviewing:
 - a) the use of the word 'insulting' in section 5 of the Public Order Act 1986
 - b) new powers to request the removal of face coverings which would be an extension of 60AA of the Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994
 - c) new and wider powers to impose curfews
3. We are invited to submit a response to any or all of the questions posed in the consultation document. The closing date for responses is 13th January 2012.
4. Perhaps the least contentious of the proposals is point b which suggests new powers to request the removal of face coverings and we are suggesting that we should submit a response confirming support for this measure.
5. Following discussion at the meeting it is proposed that members send any views that they would like to be included in the consultation response to Steven Hume the Community Safety Manager no later than 30th November and these along with comments recorded at the meeting on the 8th November will be added to the document. A completed copy will be brought to the meeting on the 23rd December for endorsement prior to being submitted to the Home Office.

Marilyn Davies
Community Safety Manager
27th October 2011