

POLICE REFORM WHITE PAPER

Chapter 1

An introductory chapter **which summarises what the Government wants to achieve in terms of further reform**; what it believes the core role of the police service should be; and what reform should mean for the citizen, for the police service itself and those working with and within it.

2. We are clear that this is reform for a purpose - reducing crime and anti-social behaviour; building safety, security and stability in our communities; and protecting law-abiding citizens and families.

3. We are clear that the police play the key role in ensuring community safety - and that this should be a broad role. But we are equally clear that the police cannot do this alone. Partnership working is vital - as is the engagement and involvement of communities themselves.

Chapter 2

4. This chapter explores **progress of the reform process to date and the reasons why further reform is needed**. We think that the case for further change rests on a number of planks:

- Crime is falling but is still too high; people's concern about crime remains too high;
- There are new crime threats;
- Public satisfaction with the police though high, is declining; we need a more representative service
- The Bichard Report has highlighted shortcomings; level 2 gap;
- Accountability of policing is unclear;
- Efficiency pressures and the need to make the best use of record resources.

Chapter 3

5. This chapter deals with **policing at the neighbourhood level** - majoring on:

- the development of neighbourhood policing - including the Neighbourhood Policing Fund;
- a more responsive, citizen-focused service - improving call handling standards; introduction of a 3 digit number for non-emergency calls; a mechanism to trigger action by the police and other responsible agencies; national minimum standards for the quality of service each citizen should expect to receive; performance targets which measure public satisfaction;
- accountability - setting out minimum standards for the kind of information about policing which each household should receive; a clearer role in helping set local priorities for local groups who can show that they really represent local people.

RESTRICTED - POLICY

Chapter 4

6. This chapter deals with **policing at the District level** - highlighting the importance of Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships and Basic Command Units.

7. We will review the partnership elements of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 - to report in January. The key objective for the review will be to look at ways of strengthening the visibility, effectiveness and accountability of CDRPs with local councils playing an increased role. The review will cover a number of related issues including s.17 sanctions, whether there is a case for some CDRPs merging and data sharing.

8. This chapter also deals with the further empowerment of BCU Commanders.

Chapter 5

9. This chapter deals with **policing at the force and national level**.

10. It sets out to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the tripartite partners. It will propose changes to the present police authority structure - a strengthened role in terms of holding chief constables to account; a clearer responsibility for ensuring that forces deliver a good performance in tackling crime and disorder; a duty to ensure that engagement with communities happens at the neighbourhood and BCU level; a changed membership to strengthen the calibre of authority member and increase their democratic legitimacy.

11. The chapter covers the role which Government plays: giving freedom to the best performers; providing support where performance concerns merit it; and intervening in cases of force and authority failure.

12. The chapter also covers the modernisation of police powers; the role science and technology has in supporting effective policing; and the role of the new National Policing Improvement Agency.

Chapter 6

13. This chapter deals with the **further modernisation of the police workforce** - developing a more representative, unified service, with a better mix of skills - and a change in culture.

14. We do not intend to diminish the legal status of the office of constable. But we propose a package of measures for further change including the introduction of multiple points of entry; removing barriers to police staff becoming officers; developing national standards for pay, recruitment and training of CSOs and incorporating, in regulations, ACPOs ban on membership of organisations whose aims contravene our commitment to race equality.

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