

News Release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PUBLIC VIEWS WELCOMED ON POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER PROPOSALS

The Association of Police Authorities has welcomed an invitation by the Public Bill Committee for people to submit their views on the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. One of the proposals of the Bill is that police authorities would be scrapped from 2012 and replaced by Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) who would hold the police to account on behalf of the public.

Association of Police Authorities (APA) Chair Rob Garnham said: "It is very important that the public take this opportunity to tell Parliament what they think of plans to introduce locally elected Police and Crime Commissioners. This is a significant opportunity for the public to have their say on the government's new governance proposals.

"The APA and others has expressed concern at introducing PCCs. These concerns are around the significant costs of holding elections for PCCs, the politicisation of policing, and the timings of elections

"This consultation will now provide an opportunity for a cross-party group of MPs to listen to public views on the government plans."

The public can respond to the consultation by sending their views to scrutiny@parliament.uk. The views expressed will be considered by the Public Bill Committee - a cross-party group of 20 MPs. For further details of police authority concerns about the proposals please go to www.apa.police.uk.

ENDS

Notes to Editors

- For further information, including media facilities with APA Chair Rob Garnham, please contact APA Communications Manager Chris Cairns on 020 7664 3174, mobile 07798 50 40 77

continues

- The Association of Police Authorities (APA) represents all police authorities in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, as well as the British Transport Police Authority, the Civil Nuclear Police Authority, and the Ministry of Defence Police Committee.
- Local police authorities, along with the Home Secretary and chief officers of police, make up the tripartite relationship which is responsible for the governance of policing in England and Wales.
- Police authorities are currently made up of local people: a mix of local councillors and independent members (selected from the community) of which one must be a magistrate.
- The tripartite partners are the Home Office, the Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities.
- The job of police authorities is to:
 - consult with local communities to find out what they want the local police to do
 - set the budget for their police force, and decide how much local people should pay for policing in the local council tax
 - set the strategic direction for policing locally and decide what the police should focus attention on locally based on their consultations with local communities
 - appoint (and, if necessary, dismiss) chief constables and senior police officers
 - make sure the police force is continuing to do a better job