

23rd January 2013

Sent by Email

CONSULTATION ON THE DRAFT STRATEGIC POLICE PLAN

The 1st April 2013 sees the start of a new era in policing with the establishment of a single service for Scotland. The Police and Fire Reform (Scotland) Act 2012 sets out the framework in which this new service will operate and creates the Scottish Police Authority (the Authority) and the Police Service of Scotland (Police Scotland). The Authority will maintain the police service and hold the Chief Constable to account on behalf of the Scottish people.

The Authority's main functions are to:

- maintain the Police Service;
- promote the policing principles;
- promote and support continuous improvement in the policing of Scotland;
- keep under review the policing of Scotland;
- hold the Chief Constable to account for the policing of Scotland.

The Strategic Police Plan must provide a clear strategic direction to policing in Scotland which will form the basis for the Chief Constable to develop specific activities to deliver the outcomes described in the Strategic Police Priorities. Alongside the development of the plan, the Authority will also undertake an Equality Impact Assessment (EQIA) to ensure that the implementation of our objectives positively contributes to a more equal society through advancing equality and good relations in all that we do.

As an Authority we are committed to stakeholder and community engagement. We view this consultation process as just one of a number of ways in which we will fulfil that commitment – but an important one.

The objectives this draft Strategic Police Plan describes are firmly anchored to the Strategic Police Priorities which are being set by the Scottish Government and for which consultation concluded on 10th January. They also aim to ensure that the three benefits of police reform are realised through the creation of a more efficient and effective service, strengthening engagement with communities and ensuring that local priorities are delivered while increasing access to national services and expertise.

Scottish Police Authority

The Authority has worked closely with Police Scotland during the development of the Strategic Police Plan to ensure that there is consistency and alignment at each stage in the planning process. It is also important that all of our stakeholders, both at national and local levels, have an opportunity to engage in the development process and we, therefore, encourage you to share your thoughts on the draft plan. In particular:

1. Is there anything which you think is missing from the plan? If so, please give details.
2. Is there anything which you think should be removed from the plan? If so, please give details.
3. Do you have any other comments on the plan? If so, please give details.

Comments on the draft Strategic Police Plan should be submitted **no later than Friday 22 February 2013** to StrategicPolicePlan@spsa.pnn.police.uk or to:

Strategic Police Plan Consultation
Scottish Police Authority
Elphinstone House
65 West Regent Street
GLASGOW
G2 2AF


The final draft of the Strategic Police Plan will be submitted to Scottish Ministers for approval, published, together with the EQIA, and then laid before Parliament by the end of March 2013.

The Act states that the Authority must review the Strategic Police Plan at least once every three years. However, the Authority has made a commitment to review this first Strategic Police Plan within 12 months. This will ensure that focus is maintained on the priorities and objectives within the Plan and any necessary adjustments made, and that both the Authority and Police Scotland are engaged in activities that will achieve the intended outcomes. This also reflects the fact that both the Authority and the Police Service are new organisations, making an early review of strategy particularly appropriate.

Scottish Police Authority

We are very keen to hear your views and appreciative of your taking the time to share them with us. Please feel free to pass this letter and draft Strategic Police Plan onto any other people who you believe would be interested in taking part in the consultation.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vic Emery', with a large, stylized flourish at the end.

Vic Emery OBE
Chair, Scottish Police Authority

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