

6 December 2013

CONSULTATION ON PROPOSALS FOR EXPANDING THE ROLE AND POWERS OF COMMUNITY SUPPORT OFFICERS (PCSOs)

Background

The accompanying paper sets out proposals to ensure that PCSOs continue to have the necessary powers to protect the public and serve their community.

The proposals on which we are seeking views are as follows:

1. We are interested in introducing additional discretionary powers that will enhance the current list of PCSO powers to ensure that PCSOs can continue to deliver effectively key areas of neighbourhood policing such as community engagement, crime prevention and tackling anti-social behaviour.
2. We propose to remove legislative barriers to enable the Secretary of State to make amendments to the list of available powers by order (subject to the affirmative procedure).
3. We propose to introduce a duty for Chief Constables to consult Police and Crime Commissioners regarding the designation of PCSO powers.

Consultation

This consultation invites comments on these proposals. For your views to be considered we invite you to **respond by Friday 20th December**.

Please send responses to the Home Office:

Faye.Ricketts4@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk & Nici.Hosfield@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk

Annex A

Responses: Confidentiality and Disclaimer

The information you send us may be passed to colleagues within the Home Office, the Government or related agencies.

Information provided in response to this consultation, including personal information, may be subject to publication or disclosure in accordance with the access to information regimes (these are primarily the Freedom of Information Act 2000 (FOIA), the Data Protection Act 1998 (DPA) and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004).

If you want other information that you provide to be treated as confidential, please be aware that, under the FOIA, there is a statutory Code of Practice with which public authorities must comply and which deals, amongst other things, with obligations of confidence.

In view of this it would be helpful if you could explain to us why you regard the information you have provided as confidential. If we receive a request for disclosure of the information we will take full account of your explanation, but we cannot give an assurance that confidentiality can be maintained in all circumstances. An automatic confidentiality disclaimer generated by your IT system will not, of itself, be regarded as binding on the Department.

The Department will process your personal data in accordance with the DPA and in the majority of circumstances this will mean that your personal data will not be disclosed to third parties.

Annex B

Distribution List:

Association of Chief Police Officers
Association of Police and Crime Commissioners
Association of Police and Crime Chief Executives
Attorney General's Office
British Transport Police
Chief Police Officers' Staff Association
College of Policing
Crown Prosecution Service
Department for Transport
Independent Police Complaints Commission
Department for Communities and Local Government
Ministry of Justice
Police and Crime Commissioners
Police and Crime Panel members
Police Federation of England and Wales
Police Superintendents Association
National Crime Agency
Special Constabulary
Unison