

Have you got what it takes?

The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC)

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Important facts

Today police authorities are represented at the national level by the Association of Police Authorities (APA). The APA's function is to represent the interests of police authorities when working with the Government and other partners on national policing matters.

Ministers have agreed that the APA is best placed to create a national representative body dedicated to supporting and representing police and crime commissioners (PCCs) when they are elected in November. The Association of Police and Crime Commissioners (APCC) will provide the following services to all PCCs. They will:

- **provide advice to candidates from June 2012;**
- **help deliver a national programme of transition and induction for all PCCs;**
- **make sure PCCs have a strong and positive national profile;**
- **provide information on national policing policy issues, and important changes to the law;**
- **consult PCCs on national issues to help develop policy and influence change;**
- **make it easier for PCCs to take a lead on national governance structures such as the National Crime Agency, the new police ICT company and the Police Professional Body; and**
- **help PCCs share practice, pay for services, and identify ways to achieve efficiencies by working together effectively.**

Background

Policing in England and Wales has been delivered through a partnership involving the Home Office, the police service led by chief constables and senior police officers, and police authorities. This arrangement was designed to make sure that the experience of local policing was considered when making decisions and plans that affected national policy. It gave an insight based on experience within police force areas and our communities.

Replacing police authorities with PCCs is meant to strengthen the voice of local people and the accountability of the police service. However, for this to happen, PCCs must be represented effectively at the national level.

The need for local forces to help the Government make decisions has perhaps never been greater. Soon after PCCs are elected, agreements must be made on a range of important national policing matters including the future of police leadership, recruitment, policing to tackle terrorism and the National Crime Agency.

At first, the APCC will represent PCCs' views to the Home Office and we will consult PCCs on these matters between November 2012

and March 2013. The Home Office has also recognised the APCC as the organisation responsible for helping to involve PCCs on various government boards, so that the experience of local policing influences national policy.

Why is a national body to represent PCCs needed?

It is by coming together that PCCs will be best able to influence change. A national body will help PCCs make the most of their ability to influence at a national level, which will help them deliver their manifesto.

PCCs will have an important contribution to make to how national policing services are governed, such as the National Crime Agency, the new police ICT company, and the Police Professional Body. The APCC will support PCCs in providing this leadership at a national level.

By sharing best practice and identifying opportunities to work together or pay for services jointly, the APCC will help PCCs be more efficient.

If PCCs identify barriers to delivering their local plans, the APCC will take co-ordinated action that can deliver change nationally.

More information

Who will be the members of APCC?

All elected PCCs will automatically be members of APCC, free of charge, until the end of March 2013. The governing bodies which oversee the non-geographic police forces (British Transport Police, Civil Nuclear Constabulary, and the Ministry of Defence Police), the City of London Police and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (overseeing the Metropolitan Police) will also be members of the APCC. They will provide considerable strength in numbers.

How are services provided by the APCC?

The APCC is supported by a small, focused team of policing policy professionals with a wide range of experience of representing the interests of local police governance bodies (currently police authorities) at a national level. The team is already heavily involved nationally and is well placed to brief PCCs, listen to their views, and represent them effectively from day one.

How is the APCC paid for?

The APCC will be paid for using existing APA resources, which will be aided from November 2012 to March 2013 by a one-off grant from the Home Office. The aim is to make sure a structure is in place to represent and support PCCs from the time they are elected, but give them flexibility and freedom to decide on their own requirements for a national organisation in the longer term.

Can PCCs decide the future of the national organisation that will represent them?

Yes. In January 2013 PCCs will be given the option of whether they need a national organisation to represent and support them from April 2013, and if so, what services they need, which organisation they want to provide those services and how much they want to pay through subscriptions.

What will the APCC provide?

Website and enquiry service

www.apccs.police.uk will provide links to all of the information that candidates may need, including policing policy briefings and information on how forces are performing. The site will also include a daily digest of 'need to know' stories about policing and PCCs and a store of useful background information.

The APCC will also provide a telephone enquiry service for all candidates and their staff, and the APCC's twitter feed @AssocPCCs will provide the latest updates and links to 'must see' stories.

National briefing events

In June and September, the APCC will provide briefing and networking events for anyone with an interest in their work. They will also hold a national induction for PCCs. These events will bring together the main policing and other relevant agencies to give candidates and their staff essential information about wider policing issues in England and Wales.

The APCC will also host events at the national party conferences (Labour, Conservative and Liberal Democrat) this autumn. You can find more information at www.apccs.police.uk.

For more information

Website: www.apccs.police.uk

Twitter: @AssocPCCs

APCC Programme Manager: Tania Eagle
(Phone: 020 7202 0080 | Email: Tania.eagle@apa.police.uk)