

Crime and Courts Bill

Fact Sheet 12 of 12 on the National Crime Agency

Abolition of the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA)

1. The NPIA was established by section 1 of the Police and Justice Act 2006. The NPIA operated and managed the development of police forces' most critical national services including the Police National Computer, the National Fingerprint Database and the National DNA database. The Agency oversaw the development and introduction of the Police National Database across police forces to help forces share intelligence more effectively. It also provided specialist operational services (including specialist information, advice and analysis to major crime investigations, uniformed operations, covert operations and cases concerning missing people) to police forces. It helped to improve policing practice (including through the sharing of knowledge and research, by developing doctrine and guidance, and by developing and delivering support programmes to increase the capability and efficiency of police forces) and developed national learning, leadership and people strategy products (including the development of a national curriculum, assessments for promotions, accreditation for specialist roles and delivery of leadership training).

2. In July 2010 the Home Office set out its plans for policing reform in the consultation paper *Policing in the 21st Century*¹, including proposals for streamlining the national policing landscape by, amongst other things, phasing out the NPIA. The NPIA was wound down operationally in December 2012 and clause 15 of the Bill – to be commenced in 2013 – provides for its statutory abolition. The majority of the NPIA's functions have now been transferred to the College of Policing, the Home Office, and the Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) in anticipation of their move to the National Crime Agency (NCA). A small number of NPIA functions have been discontinued.

The College of Policing

3. The creation of a police professional body was announced by the Home Secretary in December 2011. In July 2012, the Home Secretary announced that the police professional body would be known as the College of Policing. The College became operational on 1 December. Chief Constable Alex Marshall has been appointed as the College's Chief Executive.

¹ <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/consultations/policing-21st-century/policing-21st-full-pdf>

4. The College of Policing is now working to safeguard the public and support the fight against crime by ensuring professionalism in policing. To achieve this it will work to:

- **Protect the public interest** by promoting the values of effective policing; learning from and supporting improvement in policing ensuring this work continually evolves; and maintaining ethics and values.
- **Set and enhance first-class national standards of professionalism to ensure excellence in operational policing** by developing a set of nationally agreed standards for officers and staff to attain; providing frameworks for standards to be tested and achievement rewarded; and by supporting national business areas.
- **Identify evidence of what works in policing and sharing best practice** by providing access to a body of knowledge that is informed by evidence-based research and best practice that is shared nationally and internationally; and by being at the forefront of understanding the evolving threats to public safety and enable police forces to retain the capabilities needed.
- **Support the education and professional development of police officers and staff** by developing and maintaining national policing curriculum, assessment and accreditation frameworks; delivery of leadership and specialist training; accrediting and quality-assuring training providers; and, developing future leaders and expertise through effective talent management.
- **Enable and motivate staff and partners to work together to achieve a shared purpose** by working with partners to make the best use of specialist knowledge; supporting desired behaviours and actions that embody police force's values; and by ensuring interoperability with partners and other sectors.

The Police ICT Company

5. In her speech to the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) on 4 July 2011, the Home Secretary announced the creation of a new police ICT company. The Company was established as a company limited by guarantee in June 2012 under the temporary joint ownership of the Home Office and the Association of PCCs (APCC). Options on the future ownership of the Company are being developed to enable the Company to be owned and controlled by PCCs and funded by police forces and other law enforcement bodies, as its primary customers. It will be for the Company's customers to determine the services it provides.

Purpose of the company

6. The proposed services of the company include:

- **contract management** of existing critical national services, such as the Police National Database, and support in delivering new local priority projects;
- **advice and guidance** on best in class solutions: providing architecture, strategy, standards and accreditation expertise;
- **commercial management**: enabling PCCs/Police forces to push down on costs, leveraging national relationships with suppliers and supporting forces accelerate the delivery of shared services; and
- **management of the implementation of complex solutions**: delivery of new and existing projects.

7. Critical national services continue to be delivered under the management of a newly formed directorate in the Home Office. In its advisory capacity, the board of directors has oversight of the work of this team. Functions and contracts potentially in scope for the operational company transferred into the directorate together with appropriate resources, including 172 NPIA staff.

Other NPIA functions

8. The remaining NPIA functions have been transferred as follows:

- To the **Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA)** – on 1 April 2012 SOCA took over responsibility for the Central Witness Bureau, the Crime Operational Support Unit, the Serious Crime Analysis section, the Specialist Operations Centre and the National Missing Persons Bureau. These functions, along with the rest of SOCA, will transfer to the National Crime Agency when it is established in 2013. The NPIA's Proceeds of Crime Centre, together with its statutory responsibilities under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 to train, accredit and monitor Financial Investigators, will also transfer to the NCA when it is established.
- To the **Home Office** – on 1 October 2012 the Home Office took responsibility for the 101 non-emergency phone service; crime mapping; pathology services; knowledge and information management; forensic and other non-ICT procurement; the programme for implementing Schengen Information System (II); police science and forensics services; policy for Police Special Constables; the Automotive Equipment Section; the Airwave radio system and its replacement; some policy responsibility for Police Workforce Strategy (though some will also sit with the College of Policing, who will have an important role to play in relation to the workforce); the secretariat for the Reducing Bureaucracy programme; the National Police Air Service project team. The Hendon Data Centre

Services (HDS) has also moved to the Home Office as an interim measure.

- To a **lead force** - the National Police Air Service was launched on 1 October 2012. The Service is managed on behalf of all forces in England and Wales by West Yorkshire Police.

9. The **College of Policing** – will continue the NPIA’s relationship with the Office for Security and Counter Terrorism and the Home Office funded Police National Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) Centre. The work of the NPIA advising on value for money in police forces ended in November 2012. In its place, PCCs will drive value for money in forces, with further support where necessary.

Home Office
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