

## Local policing - leadership, ethics and accountability - Inquiry update - 10 Feb 2015

The independent Committee on Standards in Public Life (CSPL) provide an update of their inquiry "Local policing - leadership, ethics and accountability". The Committee will produce a report and recommendations to the Prime Minister in June 2015.

### Background to inquiry

The CSPL launched their inquiry into local policing - leadership, ethics and accountability in October 2014, with the publication of an issues and questions paper seeking views on local police accountability.

The inquiry set out to explore issues relating to ethical standards and governance structures, applied to key roles such as Police and Crime Panels, Police and Crime Commissioners and Chief Constables in response to a number of concerns and criticism.

### Public consultation

A public consultation was launched with an issues and questions paper. The consultation ran from 6 October until 30 November 2014. The issues and questions paper can be viewed [here](#). The consultation asked twelve questions on existing accountability structures.

Questions 1-7 explore the roles of elected Police and Crime Commissioners, Chief Constables and Police and Crime Panels. Questions 8-12 focussed on ethical leadership, embedding the College of Policing's new Code of Ethics and how Police and Crime Commissioners approach transparency and conflicts of interest.

The Committee received over ninety responses from individuals and organisations, covering a wide range of stakeholders including: Police and Crime Commissioners, Police and Crime Panels, police forces, national charities, the public, local government representatives, academics and professional bodies.

The consultation responses highlighted common themes, identifying both strengths of the current models of accountability and suggested areas for improvement. Today the Committee has published all consultation responses, these can be accessed [here](#).

### Police area visits

The Committee is also visiting to five police areas to gather evidence and views.

The visits provide an opportunity to explore the issues further with Police and Crime Commissioners, Police and Crime Panel members, representatives from local constabularies and other stakeholders such academics. The visits also incorporate an open session for any members of the public or interested parties to share their views on the inquiry.

Visits to Essex, the West Midlands and Manchester have already taken place. Two remaining visits to Warwickshire and Northumbria policing areas will take place in February.

Committee members have also met with Police and Crime Commissioner and chair of the Police and Crime Panel for Avon and Somerset and also representatives from Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime to understand the approach to policing accountability within London.

### Next steps

Further research will continue in February and March 2015, with the support of researchers from IPSOS Mori and the University of Leicester.

The report and recommendations will be published after the election in late June 2015.

If you would like to be added to the Committee's mailing lists please contact [public@public-standards.gov.uk](mailto:public@public-standards.gov.uk) or follow the Committee on Twitter [@PublicStandards](https://twitter.com/PublicStandards) for updates on the inquiry.

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