

Policing and Crime Bill

Amending References to ACPO in Legislation

Background

1. The National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) was formed on 1 April 2015. It took on some of functions of the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO), which previously provided national police coordination and leadership.
2. A body bringing together chief officers to share ideas and drive improvements in policing has existed since the origins of policing. ACPO was formed in 1948 and its structure and work developed in response to national policing needs.
3. In 2010, the Government announced a series of police reforms including local accountability through Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs), the creation of the National Crime Agency (NCA); and the creation of the College of Policing, a new professional body which took on responsibility for developing professional standards, guidance and training in policing.
4. In 2013, PCCs commissioned General Sir Nick Parker to review the service that ACPO provided and to make recommendations about the requirements of a national policing body following the fundamental changes in policing and police governance.
5. In 2014, a group of chief officers and PCCs worked together to implement the Parker review's recommendations and develop a modernised and simplified national body. Chief officers voted in support of the proposals developed by this group in July 2014. ACPO was formally closed down on 31 March 2015.
6. Unlike ACPO, the NPCC is not a legal entity but a collaboration of police forces, hosted by the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS). Membership is held by forces as opposed to individual chief officers. Non-territorial forces such as British Transport Police and Ministry of Defence Police are represented on the NPCC as well as the National Crime Agency and the College of Policing.
7. The role of the NPCC is to drive implementation of professional standards as set by the College of Policing and Government. The NPCC has command of counter-terrorism policing through the national network.
8. The new body also co-ordinates national operations including defining, monitoring and testing force contributions to the Strategic Policing Requirement as well as the police response to national emergencies. A full list of the NPCC's functions are set out below:
 - Co-ordination of national operations including defining, monitoring and testing force contributions to the Strategic Policing Requirement working with the National Crime Agency where appropriate;

- Command of counter-terrorism operations and delivery of counter-terrorist policing through the national network as set out in the s22A agreement;
- Co-ordination of the national police response to national emergencies and the mobilisation of resources across force borders and internationally;
- National operational implementation of standards and policy as set by the College of Policing and Government;
- Working with the College, development of joint national approaches on criminal justice, value for money, service transformation, information management, performance management and technology;
- Working with the College (where appropriate), development of joint national approaches to staff and human resources issues (including misconduct and discipline) in line with chief constables' responsibilities as employers.

Policy Intention

9. Until the establishment of the NPCC, ACPO were considered to be the definitive collective of chief officers, and as such the Government legislated on a number of occasions to provide a duty to consult with ACPO before making certain directions, regulations, or before issuing certain codes of practice. In addition, the Government on occasion legislated to provide that an ACPO representative be included on a number of relevant Boards or Committees (e.g. the Criminal Procedure Rule Committee).
10. Given that the NPCC has now taken on some of the functions of ACPO as the national police co-ordinating body it is important that we reflect its views where appropriate. Therefore we intend to replace the references to ACPO in legislation with references to the NPCC.

Home Office
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