

## CSPL local police inquiry - inquiry update - 12 March 2015

The Committee on Standards in Public Life recently held two roundtable meetings to collect further evidence for its inquiry into [local policing - leadership, ethics and accountability](#). The roundtables were set up to discuss preliminary findings and gather further thoughts on important themes.

### Chief Executives roundtable

The first of the roundtables took place on 24 February with Chief Executives, who lead the Offices of Police and Crime Commissioners. Here is an overview of the key themes that were discussed:

- **Chief Executive role:** the key role and responsibilities of the Chief Executive of an Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, including the decisions needed to be made daily.
- **Monitoring Officer role:** the Monitoring Officer responsibility of the Chief Executive, and the dynamic of this responsibility in relation to other functions they fulfil and interactions with other members of staff.
- **Appointments process:** the appointment process for Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner staff.
- **Relationships:** the interaction and relationship between the Chief Executive, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Deputy Police and Crime Commissioner, their roles and responsibilities.
- **Complaints handling:** attendees shared their thoughts on the handling of complaints both against police and how this may change in the future and the management of complaints against the Police and Crime Commissioner.
- **Conduct and ethics:** codes of conduct, ethical risks and the applicability of the College of Policing Code of Ethics.
- **Transparency, decisions and best practice:** levels of transparency, the process of decision making and the sharing of good practice.

### Academics roundtable

The second roundtable took place last week on 3 March with academics with research expertise relevant to the inquiry. Here is an overview of the key themes that were discussed:

- **Current model of accountability:** the strengths, challenges and suggested improvements for the current model of accountability. Differences associated with the model of policing in London were also discussed.
- **Police and Crime Commissioners:** the roles and responsibilities, strengths and challenges they associated with a corporation sole Police and Crime Commissioner.
- **Police and Crime Panel:** the membership, diversity, representation and levels of powers (hard and soft) of Police and Crime Panels.
- **The public:** attendees shared their thoughts on the public's perception and misperception of the current model of policing accountability.
- **Legitimacy:** the legitimacy of policing and its relationship with accountability was a theme highlighted by a number of attendees.

A concluding roundtable will take place on 18 March with representatives of the Association of Police and Crime Commissioners, Local Government Association, College of Policing, Home Office, Mayor's Office for Police and Crime, Association of Chief Police Officers, Bath Spa University and the University of Birmingham. A recording of the roundtable will be available on the Committee's website after the event.