

Have you got what it takes?

To be transparent



Have you got what it takes?

To be transparent

Important facts

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) are required to publish certain information to allow the public to hold them to account. Section 11(1) and (2) of the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 requires an elected local policing body to publish any information specified by the Secretary of State by Order (secondary legislation). The Secretary of State may also specify by that Order the time and manner of publication. The Act itself is clear that a PCC must publish a Policing Plan and their Annual Reports, and the Order specifies in more detail what information PCCs must publish.

The Elected Local Policing Bodies (Specified Information) Order 2011 can be found here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2011/3050/contents/made> and the amendments to it here: <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2012/2479/made> and <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2013/1816/contents/made>.

The requirements of the Order apply to Elected Local Policing Bodies, namely Police and Crime Commissioners and the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC).

The Order ensures that PCCs will make available to the public information on:

- Who they are and what they do
- What they spend and how they spend it
- What their priorities are and how they are doing
- How they make decisions
- What policies and procedures govern the operation of the office of the PCC
- Lists & registers

However, it is for the PCC to decide how to publish this information.

Background

The PCC is elected by the public and will be held to account by the public during their term of office. The Order requires minimum information about the PCC to be published which the public can use when holding PCCs to account. A consistent set of published basic information will also allow the public to compare across police force areas.

We do encourage PCCs to publish more than the minimum; transparency is at the heart of the government's agenda, and, to make certain that the public are in a position to hold them to account, PCC's may, as specified in the Act (s11, (5)), make available any additional information they wish to "regarding the exercise of the body's functions, and the exercise of the functions of the relevant chief officer of police".

This Government is committed to promoting transparency, and these transparency requirements confirm that commitment. These requirements make sure that the priorities and workings of the Elected Local Policing Bodies and their offices are clear to the public. This covers not only their decision-making and financial dealings but also who they are and what they do.

More detailed guidance on the transparency requirements, together with a simplified list of the required information, is available here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/publishing-information-in-a-transparent-way>

More information

What kind of information is covered by the Information Order?

The Information Order makes sure that PCCs make available to the public information on:

- who they are and what they do;
- what they spend and how they spend it;
- what their priorities are and how they are doing;
- how they make, record and publish their decisions;
- what policies and procedures govern the office of PCC; and
- public access to a register of interests.

Why is the Order necessary?

It is necessary because the public need independent, consistent and clear information on the performance and activities of their PCC. Transparency is essential to promote confidence in the elected PCC. A consistent minimum amount of evidence also allows the public to compare the performance of their PCC with PCCs elsewhere. The Information Order is there to help PCCs to act in line with the expected behaviour of public-office holders.

How will the information be made available to the public?

The Government fully expects PCCs to be able to meet the requirement in most, if not all, cases by publishing information on their website. The Government has not tied the hands of the PCC or MOPAC by saying exactly how the information should be published.