

National Policing Board

Terms of Reference

Purpose

The National Policing Board is the Home Office's most senior level policing Board. Its responsibilities are to:

- Set the long-term strategic vision and direction across the law enforcement system, while also respecting existing strategies, with a focus on outcomes and decisions, including around strategic investment.
- Provide strategic oversight of the outcomes to be achieved in delivering the Government's priorities including maintaining officer numbers, against which the relevant statutory bodies can collectively, and separately, hold the sector to account.
- Provide a mechanism to respond rapidly to any emerging cross-cutting issues or to commission work from sector leaders on issues as required, whilst respecting the statutory powers of members.
- Establish a new rhythm for collective engagement - meeting quarterly with the Home Secretary in the Chair, to show visible and strategic leadership to the public and frontline officers and staff.
- Engage with the wider law enforcement system and cross-Whitehall structures, including the involvement of additional stakeholders when required, and as defined by the agreed programme of work.

Programme of Work

A clear cross-cutting programme of work will be discussed and agreed by members in order to avoid duplication of work or traversing existing governance structures.

At the discretion of the Chair, and providing reasonable notice is given, the programme of work will be open to further submissions from attendees, ahead of each Board meeting to ensure the Board can address emerging priorities.

Accountability

The Board does not affect the statutory responsibilities or powers of individual members.

Geographical scope

The geographical scope of the Board refers to matters covering the 43 forces of England and Wales (including national collaborations between forces). The Chief of the Police Service of Northern Ireland and the Chief of Police Scotland will be invited to attend (on an annual basis) to provide an opportunity to engage on cross-cutting issues, while respecting that territorial policing is a devolved matter in both Scotland and Northern Ireland.

Membership

The standing attendees of the Board are as follows:

- Home Secretary (Chair)
- Minister of State for Crime, Policing and Fire
- Minister of State for Security
- Minister for Victims and Safeguarding
- Home Office Permanent Secretary
- Chair of National Police Chiefs' Council
- Chair of Association of Police and Crime Commissioners
- An additional Police and Crime Commissioner to support specific agenda items
- Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police Service
- Director General, National Crime Agency
- Chief Executive Officer of the College of Policing
- His Majesty's Chief Inspector of Constabulary
- Head of UK Counter Terrorism Policing
- Director General, Independent Office for Police Conduct
- Director General, Public Safety Group

- Director General, Homeland Security Group
- Policing Policy Director, Public Safety Group
- National Policing Board Secretariat, Public Safety Group

The National Chair of the Police Federation and the President of the Superintendents' Association will be invited to attend sessions on frontline issues. Additional representatives and specialists (e.g. discussion/policing leads) will be invited to attend, as required, in line with the agreed programme of work. Delegates to the Board are permitted should a standing attendee be unavailable, subject to prior agreement with the Secretariat.

Frequency

The Board will meet every quarter at the Home Office, 2 Marsham Street, London. On agreement with the Secretariat, extraordinary meetings may take place, if the need arises and meetings may be hosted by other members.

Meeting agenda and transparency

The agenda will include relevant items from the agreed programme of work. It will routinely include, but not be limited to, the following items:

- Minutes of previous meetings
- Updates on actions previously agreed
- Progress against agreed outcomes/measures

Following each meeting, minutes and actions will be circulated by the Secretariat within 14 days of the Board. Actions will be clearly assigned to the appropriate member(s), who will be expected to provide an update on progress at the next Board meeting.

The National Policing Board will comply with Cabinet Office requirements on transparency and be as open as possible about the decisions and actions it takes. The Board should give reasons for its decisions where appropriate and restrict information only when the public interest clearly demands.

The Board will publish information online via gov.uk:

- The National Policing Board Terms of Reference

- A list of members' names, organisation and rank (where appropriate)
- Copies of agenda and meeting minutes
- Annual reports and correspondence with external bodies (e.g. HASC)

Board members should not disclose any information relating to the work of the Board which is confidential in nature, or which has been provided in confidence, without authority from the Chair. This duty continues to apply after members have left the Board.

Any Board member receiving a request from the press to comment on matters which relate to the Board's programme of work should in the first instance contact the Chair and Secretariat for advice. The Chair and Secretariat will determine whether a response is necessary, and if so, whether it should be handled in the first instance by Government officials. The Board arrangements and Terms of Reference will be reviewed on behalf of the Chair by the Secretariat each year.

Version	Date	Change
1	8 October 2019	
1.1	13 May 2021	Minor, factual updates to titles of members and timeframes.
1.2	6 December 2021	Minor, factual updates to titles of members.
1.3	4 April 2023	Addition of NPB members and update relevant to Police Uplift Programme (PUP).
1.4	8 April 2024	Minor, factual update to title of member.