

## Police and Crime Panel

3<sup>rd</sup> March 2016  
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## New Policing and Crime Bill

### Report of the Police and Crime Commissioner

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#### Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this report is to inform members of the Police and Crime Panel of the proposals within the Policing and Crime Bill which has been recently introduced into the House of Commons.
2. This report provides a summary of the Policing and Crime bill, outlining the key policies and what they entail.

#### Background

3. The Bill was announced in outline in the Queen's Speech in May 2015, and introduced to the House of Commons and given its First Reading on Wednesday 10 February 2016.
4. The Bill has a number of proposals affecting PCCs, the police and partners.

#### Policing and Crime Bill: Summary

5. The proposed legislation includes:
  - a. Placing a duty on the police, fire and ambulance services to work together and enable police and crime commissioners to take on responsibility for fire and rescue services where a local case is made.
  - b. Reforming the police complaints and disciplinary systems to ensure that the public have confidence in their ability to hold the police to account, and that police officers will uphold the highest standards of integrity
  - c. Increasing support for the independence of HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC) and ensure that it is able to undertake the end-to-end inspections of the police.
  - d. Enabling Chief Officers to make the most of efficient and effective use of their workforce by giving them the flexibility to confer a wider range of powers on police staff and volunteers (while for the first time specifying a core list of powers that may only be exercised by warranted police officers).

- e. Increasing the accountability and transparency of the Police Federation for England and Wales by extending its core purpose to cover the public interest and making it subject to the Freedom of Information Act 2000.
  - f. Reforming pre-charge bail to stop people remaining on bail for lengthy periods without independent judicial scrutiny of its continued necessity.
  - g. Stopping the detention of children and young people under 18 in police cells who are experiencing a mental health crisis (and restrict the circumstances when adults can be taken to police stations) by reforming police powers under sections 135 and 136 of the Mental Health Act 1983.
  - h. Amending the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984, including ensuring that 17-year-olds who are detained in police custody are treated as children for all purposes, and to increase the use of video link technology.
  - i. Amending the Firearms Acts, including to better protect the public by closing loopholes that can be exploited by criminals and terrorists.
  - j. Better protecting children and young people from sexual exploitation by ensuring that relevant offences in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 cover the live streaming of images of child sex abuse.
6. A more detailed factsheet, published by the Home Office, is attached at Appendix 1.

**Recommendations**

- 7. The panel members are asked to note the contents of the report and provide any comments and/or questions for the PCC

Ron Hogg  
**Police and Crime Commissioner**

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