

POLICE AND CRIME COMMISSIONERS

HAVE YOU GOT WHAT IT TAKES?



DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES TO...



- Play a leading role in how crime is tackled in your area?
- Bring the voice of the people into policing and bring the community together to tackle crime?
- Hold the Chief Constable and police force to account for reducing crime?

IF YOU ANSWERED YES, THEN READ ON...

Policing has always relied on the co-operation and consent of the people. That was true of Robert Peel's time – when the first public minded citizens formed themselves into groups to protect society – and it remains true today.

Police and Crime Commissioners (PCCs) will reinvigorate those democratic principles, ensuring that the public have an elected representative with a duty to the citizen and the welfare of the communities they represent.

The police provide a vital and impartial service to individuals, communities and society as a whole. Men and women of the police put their lives on

the line every day to protect life and property. As well as the many inspirational stories of bravery that make the headlines, thousands of dedicated professionals work hard every day to serve the public and cut crime.

GREATER POLICE ACCOUNTABILITY

On 15 November 2012, for the first time ever, the public will elect a PCC who will be accountable for how crime is tackled in their police force area.

To provide stronger and more transparent accountability of the police, PCCs will be elected by the public to hold Chief Constables and their forces to account, effectively making the police answerable to the communities they serve. PCCs will be responsible for setting the police force's strategic priorities, cutting crime, appointing and, if necessary, dismissing the Chief Constable, and ensuring that policing is efficient and effective.

“The police are the public and the public are the police; the police being only members of the public who are paid to give full time attention to duties which are incumbent on every citizen in the interests of community welfare and existence.”

Sir Robert Peel, Home Secretary who laid the foundations of modern policing, 1829



“I’d like to have a bit more of a say in how the police do things. I mean, they are more visible than they used to be, but I’ve never really been sure about how I can get involved.”

IS THIS FOR ME?

The PCCs will be important figures in the communities they represent, but you don’t have to be a politician to stand. In fact, you can be independent of political parties.

If you have a commitment to public service and the skills to be a good leader, then this could be right for you. You could have experience in the private, voluntary or public sector and come from any background.

Women, people from ethnic minorities and disabled people are under-represented in elected office. This is an opportunity for people from all walks of life to stand and make a difference. This is your chance to put yourself forward to help protect the public and help support the police to cut crime. This is your chance to stand for election as a PCC.

CAN I STAND FOR ELECTION AS A PCC?

The duty of a PCC is to ensure that your police force is providing an efficient and effective service on behalf of the public. Anyone can stand for election to this post, as long as you meet the eligibility criteria.

Candidates must be:

- British, Commonwealth or EU citizens
- 18 or over
- resident in the police force area in which they wish to stand.

You cannot stand for election as a PCC if:

- you have ever been convicted of an imprisonable offence
- you are a public servant, including: civil servants, judges, police officers, members of the regular armed forces, employees of councils within the force area, employees of a police related agency, employees of other government agencies, politically restricted post-holders, members of police staff (including Police Community Support Officers) or members of a police authority.

Members of the House of Commons, the Scottish and European parliaments and the National Assembly for Wales may stand, but will need to resign their seats before being able to accept the post of PCC.

PCC elections will be held in all police force areas in England and Wales, except in London, where the City of London will continue to have a police authority and the Mayor of London will take on the powers of a PCC in relation to the Metropolitan Police.



“By replacing invisible police authorities with directly elected police and crime commissioners, we can forge a direct link between the police and the public, ensuring that the public have a voice in setting police priorities and have the power to hold the police to account for keeping our streets safe and secure.”

Prime Minister David Cameron

DELIVERING FOR THE PUBLIC

As a PCC your role will involve working with the public, the police and local partners to ensure effective policing, as well as contributing to national requirements.

Setting the strategic direction and accountability for policing

Being accountable to the electorate.

Setting strategic policing priorities.

Holding the force to account through the Chief Constable, and consulting and involving the public.

Working with partners to prevent and tackle crime

Ensuring that the police respond effectively to public concerns and threats to public safety.

Promoting and enabling joined-up working on community safety.

Increasing public confidence in how crime is cut and policing delivered.

Invoking the voice of the public, the vulnerable and victims

Ensuring that public priorities are acted upon and that the most vulnerable individuals are not overlooked. Complying with the general equality duty under the Equality Act 2010.

Contributing to resourcing of policing response to regional and national threats

Ensuring an effective policing contribution, alongside other partners, to national arrangements to protect the public from other cross-boundary threats in line with the Strategic Policing Requirement.

Ensuring value for money

Being responsible for the distribution of policing grants from central government and setting the police precept raised through Council Tax.

Commissioning services from partners that will contribute to cutting crime.



LOCAL POLICING

You will be required to set a Police and Crime Plan in close consultation with your Chief Constable that sets out the priorities for your police force and how they will be delivered. As well as listening to people's views, you must ensure that the public understand how their area is being policed. This means publishing information clearly, reporting progress regularly and helping the public to hold you and the police force to account. The more informed the public feel, the more interest they will take in policing work.

NATIONAL POLICING

As well as ensuring that the Chief Constable responds to local priorities, you will also need to help contribute to dealing with threats which require a national policing response. It is vital that you work with other forces on national policing issues – including work on counter-terrorism and organised crime, as required by the Home Secretary.

POLICE FUNDING

As a PCC, you will be responsible for all police funding, including central government funding and the police precept component of Council Tax. You will decide the budget, allocate funding and assets to the Chief Constable and set the level of precept from Council Tax for the police force area. Budgets vary according to the size of the force but they will involve tens, and in some case hundreds of millions, of pounds.

THE TEAM

You will need to appoint a chief executive, who will employ administrative staff and will have a monitoring role to ensure that standards are upheld. You will also appoint a chief finance officer to advise on financial matters and the impact of spending decisions.

You will have the power to appoint or dismiss the Chief Constable with agreement, but the Chief Constable will continue to appoint all police officers. Police forces range from a few thousand up to around 10,000 people.

“You hear about the police smashing international drug rings. It’s stuff like that which stops it getting to our streets. I’ve never really thought of it but I suppose you need them out there doing the big things because at the end of the day it helps keep us all safer.”



“The police deal with a range of duties, from simply walking down my high street, to people who are drunk creating loads of trouble, and even terrorist threats... I hope that if I need them they'll be there for me.”

INDEPENDENCE OF THE POLICE

Chief Constables will remain accountable to the law for the exercise of police powers. They will be accountable to you for the delivery of efficient and effective policing, management of resources and expenditure, and ultimately the delivery of policing in your area.

While the Chief Constable, their constables and staff will be operationally independent, you will be able to require a report from the Chief Constable at any time about the execution of their functions.

WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP

A huge role like this cannot be done in isolation. Partners from across the community safety and criminal justice sectors will play a vital part. You will need to work with the right organisations to deliver against your Police and Crime Plan. There will be a reciprocal duty on you and relevant local agencies (including local authorities, the fire service, probation and health) to co-operate. You will be able to bring together Community Safety Partnerships to discuss key issues and require reports from partnerships if you have a significant concern. You will need to reach

agreements with a range of public, private and voluntary partners working in criminal justice, community safety and public protection. This could be done using a mix of grants, contracts or other forms of commissioning.

SCRUTINY AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Being directly elected by the public means that you will be held to account on election day. Police and Crime Panels are being set up in each force area to help ensure that local authorities support you. They will also be scrutinising your work on behalf of the public on a regular basis. They will help to ensure transparency. You will need to discuss your plans with them and take their views into account.

Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary will also have the power to inspect forces and report back to the public with objective and robust information on which to make informed judgements about the effectiveness of the force and your work as the PCC.

FIND OUT MORE

If you think you have what it takes, you can start by visiting the following websites:

Police and Crime Commissioner pages
www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners

Police and Crime Commissioners: Questions and Answers www.homeoffice.gov.uk/police/police-crime-commissioners/questions

Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011
www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2011/13/contents/enacted

Report on the pay of Police and Crime Commissioners by the Review Body on Senior Salaries www.ome.uk.com/Police_and_Crime_Commissioners.aspx

The Protocol: The Home Secretary has laid in Parliament The Protocol, which sets out how the new policing governance arrangements will work. It clarifies the roles and responsibilities of PCCs, the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime, Chief Constables, Police and Crime Panels and the London Assembly Police and Crime Panel. It outlines what these bodies are expected to do and how they are expected to work together to fight crime and improve policing.
www.parliament.uk

The Strategic Policing Requirement: The Home Secretary has issued a shadow Strategic Policing Requirement which is a statement of the collective capabilities that police forces across England and Wales will be expected to have in place in order to protect the public from

cross-boundary threats such as terrorism, civil emergencies, public disorder, cyber incidents and organised crime. www.homeoffice.gov.uk/publications/police/pcc/shadow-spr

OTHER USEFUL INFORMATION

Electoral Commission www.electoralcommission.org.uk

Access to elected office: Support to tackle the particular obstacles faced by disabled people who want to stand for election as MPs, councillors or other elected officials
<http://homeoffice.gov.uk/equalities/equality-public-political>

Association of Chief Police Officers
www.acpo.police.uk

Association of Police Authorities
www.apa.police.uk

HMIC Crime and Policing Comparator www.hmic.gov.uk/crime-and-policing-comparator

Independent Police Complaints Commission
www.ipcc.gov.uk

National Policing Improvement Agency
www.npia.police.uk

Street Level Crime Data www.police.uk

Any more questions? You can email your question to pccinfo@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk



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